



Fish Newsletter

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Summer 2016

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Serving our neighbors since 1970

PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

Hotline: 732-356-0081

www.fishdunellenarea.org

Thank You!

Many church congregations, businesses, civic groups, school organizations, and individuals in our communities continue to support the work of Fish with fund-raising activities, food collections, clothing collections, and more. We thank them for their generosity toward the Fish programs.

Some recent contributors are: Allstate Insurance in Middlesex, David Basile Agent; Dunellen High School Class of 1954; Italian American Progressive League of South Plainfield; Knights of Columbus Piscataway Council 1107; St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church in So. Plainfield; Middlesex Presbyterian Church; the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen; Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway; Foley, Inc. in Piscataway; Unity Bank in Middlesex; Curves of Green Brook; and Victoria M. of Linden, NJ.

And a special thank you to Kimberly S., who requested that her friends send monetary donations or non-perishable food items to Fish Inc. in lieu of wedding shower gifts. She was paying it forward, as Fish had helped her family in the past.

How You Can Help –

The food room needs volunteers:

1. Volunteers who can commit to one day per week (Mon, Wed or Fri) 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the receiving area. Duties include receiving donations, date-checking, and sorting food. Volunteers should be able to lift 50+ lbs.
2. Dedicated volunteers who can commit to Mondays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to check dates on dairy products.
3. Volunteers to work in food room office serving clients, third Saturday of each month, (excluding July and August), 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.
4. Van drivers, substitute van drivers and ride-along helpers. Volunteers must be able to lift 50+ lbs. Van drivers must have a clean driving record and be able to commit to one day per week (Mon, Wed, Fri, or Sat).

Drivers must be at least 21 years old. Ride-along helpers and all other volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Call 732-356-0081 and leave a message for Lisa.

Fish, Inc. Annual Meeting

The 46th Annual Meeting of Fish, Inc. was held at The First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen on May 12. Assistant Treasurer Edward Halteman offered the Opening Prayer. President Phil Cox welcomed everyone, and remarked that this had been a very good year without any major incidents or repairs.

Treasurer's Report

Richard Couch reported that we are maintaining the reserve monies for operational costs. There was a sizable increase in monetary donations over the previous year. A copy of his report was made available to the membership.

Clothing Room

Gerry Halteman reported that in 2015 the Clothing Room client list remained at approximately 1,300 families. While the "Hurricane Sandy" clients have thinned out, many of the new clients are immigrants who arrived in this country with very little. Clients are given appointments three or four times a year, depending on their needs. Blankets were given out to 700 families, more than usual, due to several fires. Also, 150 pairs of new sneakers; and 1,000 Bibles in Spanish and English were distributed.

Gerry thanked the many corporations, businesses, scout troops, churches, schools, and individuals who did clothing collections or made monetary donations which were used to purchase new items such as sneakers, socks, and underwear. She also thanked Dave, Greg and Kathy, Claude and Sherley who pick up large collections of clothing from corporations, schools and consignment shops. Gerry thanked all the clothing room workers: Bonnie, Margaret, Kay, Jean C, Panchita, Jean D, Angie, Lucy, Sally, Cecila, Yesenia,

Martha E, Eileen, Martha N, Kiana, Karen, Diane, Victoria, Melissa, Jessica, Evelyn, and Daniel and Po. Special thanks to Karen L. for data entry and Sally V. who shops for new sneakers, socks, and underwear.

Food Room

Lisa Couch reported that in 2015 there were 508 registered households (1,364 individuals) in the program. There were a total of 3,045 client visits to the Food Room. Clients received two bags of groceries at each visit. In addition, 777 holiday bags were distributed for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

In January, the Food Room began participating in the Community Food Bank of NJ Agency Direct Gleaning Program. This allows us to obtain fresher items by picking them up directly from several local participating grocery stores.

A new initiative, conceived by two food room volunteers in 2014, is the *Fishes & Loaves Café*. It is a new spin on an old idea – the soup kitchen. The inaugural *Fishes & Loaves Café I* began in May of 2014 at Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway. This ministry is now run by that church through the Shepherd's Shelves Food Ministry. *Café I* serves a free, home cooked lunch to anyone in need of a good meal and fellowship the third Thursday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The café serves approximately 40 sit down meals and 15 takeouts monthly.

Fishes & Loaves Café II, in conjunction with Our Lady of Fatima Church in Piscataway, began serving dinners every third Friday in the cafeteria of the church's Recreation and Learning Center in December of 2014. In 2015 *Café II* served an average of 77 restaurant style dinners each third Friday of the month. Approximately 35 volunteers help at each meal. Dinner is served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Visitors are greeted at the

door and seated. A server takes the dinner order, serves and eats with the visitors.

The parishioners and priests of Our Lady of Fatima have been so gracious, warm and welcoming and extremely supportive of this much needed ministry. We thank them for their help and dedication. We also thank the many wonderful, giving donors who keep our shelves well stocked so that we may serve those in need.

Lisa thanked all those volunteers who make the Food Room ministry possible, whether they come seasonally, occasionally, or weekly. She also thanked the core group of volunteers who work in the Food Room each week: Harry, Dolores and Ed, Jerry, Joan, Cindy, Joe, Tom, John and Brendan. Plus a special thank you to our van drivers Bob, Bill, Chris, John, Mike, Dan and Bob.

Toy Program

Donations are received throughout the year and distributed at Christmas and Easter to clients' children who are up to twelve years of age.

Telephone Volunteers

Connie Cannata read the report submitted by Debbie Turton.

We welcome Sharon, Margaret, Terri, and Edward as new volunteers. While Valerie is no longer manning the phones, she is a great help to clients. There are 13 phone volunteers working right now.

All of our volunteers are reliable and very willing to jump in and man the hotline when someone is needed. They represent the following churches: Our Lady of Fatima, New Durham Chapel, St. Frances Cabrini, Our Lady of Mount Virgin, and Worship Life.

All volunteers are given a M.C.F.O.O.D.S book to help refer callers to other food pantries when they are out of our service area. We also suggest a web page, foodpantries.org, if they have access to a computer.

I am still running a training program from my home and it is going well.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve God and Fish.

Deborah J. Turton

Fish Hospitality

Emily Mlinarovich reported that Hospitality hosts 24 family units from Middlesex, Union, and Somerset County. The usual stay is 60 days. A 15-passenger van transports children to school and guests to job interviews and medical appointments.

Other Business

President Phil Cox recognized two recently retired Food Room volunteers, Jim Gildea and Steve Glowacki, for their many years of service to Fish. Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to them, individually, by Food Room volunteer Jerry Gargiulo.

The Steering Committee appointed Harry Schoepp and Judy Cox to fill two "at-large" positions on the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Gerry Halteman.

The next Annual Meeting will be held in May of 2017.



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Coming Up ---

Fishes & Loaves Café I — *Thursday, August 18, September 15, and October 20*: Free hot lunch 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church Hall, 485 Hoes Lane, Piscataway.

Fishes & Loaves Café II — *Friday, August 19, September 16, and October 21*: Free hot dinner 5 to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria, Our Lady of Fatima Recreation & Learning Center, 499 New Market Road, Piscataway.

Third Saturday of each month — Note: The Food Room will be closed the 3rd Saturday in August. They will resume their regular third Saturday hours, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in September.

Change in Clothing Room schedule — The Clothing Room will be **open** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on the following days: Monday and Tuesday, August 1 and 2; Monday, Aug. 8 and Wednesday Aug. 10; Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 15, 16, and 17; Monday and Wednesday, August 22 and 24.

The Clothing Room will also be **open** Saturday, August 20, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The Clothing Room will be **closed** Monday, August 29 through Tuesday, September 6.

Now You Can Go Paperless!

If you would like to receive the *Fish Newsletter* via the internet, send an e-mail to: newsletter@fishdunellenarea.org, and new editions will be sent to you as they become available. We publish 3 or 4 issues per year. You may also download the Newsletter by logging onto our website and clicking on the "Newsletter" tab.



The Last Word

For assistance, or if you would like to contribute or volunteer, call the Fish hotline: **732-356-0081**. To learn when Fish has a particular need, subscribe to **The Fish Net** at www.fishdunellenarea.org and click on "The Fish Net" tab. We promise to cast our net only when a specific need arises, and we will not bombard you with unwanted e-mails.

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area qualifies as a nonprofit corporation and is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. We follow IRS requirements for receipts.