

FISH

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Newsletter

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The Country Store

On December 10, Mrs. Charlotte Wright's fourth grade students turned Piscataway's Arbor School classroom 19 into a small business called The Country Store. They sold a variety of merchandise to other Arbor School students and to their parents.

Mrs. Wright began her Country Store project in 1986 as a way to give her students some practical experience in handling money and dealing with people in a commercial setting. The students shown on this page made the 19th Annual Country Store a huge success.

If you want to operate a successful store you need a good stock of merchandise that will appeal to your customers. Mrs. Wright's students collected donated items in good condition to offer for sale.

They donated toys and games they no longer used. Other students in Arbor School also contributed. In addition to toys, they collected items such as books and picture frames from their parents and neighbors.

In order to make sure that their store would be successful, the class also obtained snack food candy, cookies, and popcorn.

A lot of work is needed before a store can open for business. These 9 and 10 year old students sorted, priced, and displayed their merchandise.

On December 10, the Country Store opened for business. By the end of the day Mrs. Wright's class made \$1,600.

This was more than any of the any previous classes had earned. Congratulations!

Students who participated were:
Najiba Syed, Tanayah Hunter, Megan Sullivan, Stefon Camacho, Elton Holeman Jr., Charles Gratz, Danielle Lopez, Jeffrey Yannetelli; Shaeli Patel, Eliza Candelaria, Sylvester Nguyen, Kendal Polk, Rohan Patel, Jameelah Bangura, Patrick Odiaka; Nagama Patel, Omar Hageb, Juan Rojas-Pena, Danielle Gerald, Ty'Quan Jordan, James Whittaker, and George Nesler.

The class also learned that they can help people in need. By donating their profits to Fish, they made it possible for Fish to help needy families in our area. We sincerely thank these students, Mrs. Wright and everyone who helped.



2005 Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting, held on February 14, was attended by 17 people. This is about half the number attending last year. Perhaps we shouldn't have held it on Saint Valentine's Day. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Ned Halteman. Reports were made on last year's activities and officers were elected to serve two year terms. New steering and nominating committee members were elected. After a discussion period the meeting closed with a prayer by Merkie Chamberlin.



Election Results

The slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee was elected. They are: Phil Cox, President; Lisa Couch, Vice President; Merkie Chamberlin, Recording Secretary; Ilene Doran, Corresponding Secretary; Ned Halteman, Treasurer; and Deb Kataryniak, Assistant Treasurer.

Karl Mueller and Brian Mortensen were elected to serve as at-large members of the Steering Committee. Steve Glowacki, Ed Hearn, and Judy Cox were elected to serve on the new Nominating Committee.



Summary of Reports

Treasurer: Ned Halteman told us that our financial condition was good at the end of 2004. Our fund raising costs were only 0.2% of total expenses while administrative costs were 7.6% of total expenses. The largest part of our income in 2004 was from donations by individuals.

Clothing Programs: Gerry Halteman reported that clothing was provided for about 1500 adults and 3500 children in 2004. She thanked all the volunteers who made it possible to distribute the clothes donated by corporations, scout troops, churches and individuals to about 60 families per week. Gerry told us that Fish supplied about 600 families with blankets and gave out 138 pairs of new sneakers last year.

Camp: Fish provided a week of camping for 11 children at Camp Lebanon in the summer of 2004. Gerry Halteman reported that these children were given clothing and camping equipment as required. The Baptist Church Conference donated eight camperships and three were provided by individuals.

Christmas Programs: Lisa Couch told us that Arlene Sroczyński coordinated the work of volunteers from Our Lady of Fatima church. They distributed toys to more than 300 children. Ed Hearn reported that he and Kathy Kobilis received a request from The Navy League for Christmas gifts for the children of Coast Guard families in this area. Kathy passed the details of what was needed to several organizations whose members then purchased clothing and toys appropriate for each child. Local Coast Guard bases sent trucks to Ed's church pick up these gifts.

Food Program: Bob Mitchell reported that the food program served about 400 families each month during 2004. About 100 more families were served during the three months with the holidays of Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Food donations came from individuals, churches, schools, scouts, corporations, senior citizen groups, civic groups, and the Piscataway postal workers. Their help made it possible for us to meet the needs of our clients. Bob thanked all who donated food and the food room volunteers who made the program successful.

Telephone Volunteers: Ed Hearn reported for Anita Hearn that we lost two phone volunteers last year. Fortunately we have two new volunteers to continue their work. Lisa Couch will train these new volunteers. We still can use additional telephone volunteers.

Fish Hospitality: Emily Mlinarovich presented a report from Fish Hospitality. They provided shelter for 78 guests from 38 families last year. Fatima House at Our Lady of Fatima church was used during the day while a number of other local churches provided overnight accommodations. A Christmas party was held for the children. The program was financed by donations, grants, a yard sale, and an art auction.



**To contact Fish, call our Hot Line:
732-356-0081**