



Fish Newsletter

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Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Serving our neighbors since 1970

PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

Hotline: 732-356-0081

www.fishdunellenarea.org

Hurricane Sandy

The name Sandy never had any significant meaning to me, but now I associate it with a storm that had us living like pioneers for 12 days. No power, no heat, no telephone, no cable, no internet....no hot showers! The entire state of New Jersey was left reeling after Hurricane Sandy blew through and the aftermath and recovery was more than any one person could handle. But it is situations like these that really pull a community together to work for a better tomorrow.

As has become practice in recent years, when the storm was announced, we prepared for the possibility of flooding by raising everything possible off of the floor. Little did we know that Mother Nature had other plans, plans that didn't include flooding. What is it they say? Man plans and God laughs. Well, Mother Nature had the laugh this time around.

Without electricity, heat or telephone, the Food Room and Clothing Room of Fish were left in the dark with no way to serve our clients. In the weeks leading up to the storm, we had purchased \$3,200 worth of chickens for our food room distribution and had them stored in our freezer. Each day we made our way by flashlight through the pitch black food room to monitor the temperature gage of our walk-in freezer and refrigerator. As the temperature rose near 30° in our freezer, we made a panicked phone call to the manager of the Piscataway ShopRite where we had purchased the chickens. The store manager, Mike Filmore was so understanding and accommodating. Room was made in their freezer to store our chickens until the power returned, averting a \$3,200 loss. What a blessing! We always considered ShopRite to be a friend of Fish, but this has made us realize what a great partnership we have

in fighting the war on hunger. It is a blessing to have such a caring corporation in our community. God also brought us other blessings in the weeks of recovery. Volunteers came from North Carolina, through the Baptist Men's Disaster Relief effort, to help us clean out our freezer and refrigerator. Volunteers from Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway came by to help hand out Thanksgiving food bags to the 309 families we served. Individuals just stopped in to lend a hand or drop off food donations. All of these wonderful people and groups were such a blessing; angels sent by God. And for that, we are grateful.

Lisa Couch, Vice President



What Do We Need?

During the week of December 17-21, Fish needs one or two **extra volunteers in the Food Room** each morning to distribute Holiday food bags. This includes helping clients to their cars with the bags. If you can help, call the Fish Hotline and leave a message for Lisa giving your name, phone number, and the day you would like to help.



Coming Up ---

Christmas Holiday food distribution: week of December 17 through 21, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, in the Food Room.

Food Room closed December 22-January 1. The Food Room will reopen at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, January 2, 2013.

Clothing Room closed December 20-January 1. The Clothing Room will reopen at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, January 2, 2013.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The generosity of our donors is evident by the many items of food and supplies we have received in the Food Room during the past several weeks. They will certainly be used quickly, given the fact that so many folks were affected by the storm. Thank you to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, various churches, civic groups, and individuals who collected for and contributed to Fish.

Many groups have been collecting clothes and blankets for victims of Hurricane Sandy. Several from central Jersey to as far away as Arizona have sent cars, vans, trucks and even a school bus, filled with clothing, blankets, and coats. We are grateful to all those folks who donated to Fish through groups such as the Middlesex Rescue Squad, Spotswood Columbiettes, Martin Luther King Middle School, Immaculata High School, World's Care in Arizona, and to so many other groups and individuals who care for their neighbors in need.

The clothing is being distributed almost as fast as it comes in. The Clothing Room began giving out winter coats back in October. So far, 500-600 coats have been distributed to those in need. We are seeing more people every day who were affected by the storm and are coming to us for blankets and warm clothing.

A special "Thank You" goes to the parishioners of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Piscataway and members of the Knights of Columbus, Council 11017. Parishioners contributed toward the purchase of new children's coats, and the Knights of Columbus recently brought 46 beautiful, brand new coats to the Clothing Room. Over the years, the congregation at St. Frances Cabrini has been a wonderful source of support to Fish, Inc. and Fish Hospitality.

We praise God who provided what we needed by sending us all these wonderful people to help. May He bless them all during this Christmas season for their faithful support of our ministries.



*And the Word was made flesh,
and dwelt among us,
and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten
of the Father,
full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14

On behalf of the Fish officers, committee chairpersons, and steering committee members, I wish all our volunteers, donors and supporters a blessed and joyful Christmas and a new year filled with happiness and peace.

Phil Cox, President



The Last Word

For assistance, or to contribute or volunteer, call the Fish hotline: **732-356-0081**. For more information about Fish, Inc., please visit our website: www.fishdunellenarea.org.

Judy Cox, editor

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. We follow IRS requirements for receipts.