

PRESS RELEASE



Left to right: John Fitzgerald, Lisa Couch, Richard Hoynes, John Reissner Jr.

Generations of Giving: Magyar Bank Donates \$2,500 to Fire-Damaged FISH Food Pantry

PISCATAWAY — Magyar Bank has awarded a \$2,500 grant to FISH, Inc., Dunellen Area, the all-volunteer organization that has provided food, clothing, and hope to local families for more than 55 years. The grant, made possible through the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York's Small Business Recovery Grant Program, arrives at a critical time—nearly two years after a February 2024 fire destroyed FISH's Friendship Hall food pantry and clothing room.

"We are deeply grateful for the support Magyar Bank has given to us and to so many other food pantries in New Jersey," said Lisa Couch, President of FISH, Inc. "This comes at an especially crucial moment as we work to provide meals to our neighbors during this busy holiday season."

The donation carries profound personal meaning. More than 35 years ago, the late mother, Anna Fitzgerald, of Magyar Bank CEO John Fitzgerald volunteered at FISH alongside Anita Hoynes, one of FISH's founders and the mother of current board member Richard Hoynes.

"Because our mothers worked together here decades ago, this donation is deeply personal," said Richard Hoynes. "John Fitzgerald and his family are continuing the very legacy of service our mothers helped create."

When FISH began in 1970, there were fewer than a dozen food pantries in all of New Jersey. Today, there are more than 1,000—a reflection of the growing number of families facing food insecurity across the state.

"Food insecurity can strike any household," said John Reissner Jr., First Vice President, Marketing/CRA Officer at Magyar Bank. "We're proud to support the vital work these local pantries do every day."

In recent months, Magyar Bank has distributed over \$30,000 in hunger-relief grants across Middlesex County, including support for Elijah's Promise, Meals on Wheels of New Brunswick, Hands of Hope, the Franklin Food Bank, and Feeding Middlesex County.

Despite operating without a permanent home since the 2024 fire, FISH's volunteers continue serving hundreds of individuals and families each year. Rising food prices and record demand have stretched resources thin—making gifts like Magyar Bank's an immediate lifeline.

FISH welcomes support from the entire community. Every dollar helps—and every donation directly supports the programs of FISH.

To donate, visit FISHDunellenArea.org or call the FISH Hotline at 732-356-0081.