



Fish Newsletter

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Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

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Hotline: 732-356-0081

Serving our neighbors since 1970

www.fishdunellenarea.org

Annual Meeting of Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

7:30 PM, Monday, May 14, 2012

Dunellen First Presbyterian Church

218 Dunellen Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey



What Is the Purpose and Importance of the Fish, Inc. Annual Meeting?

The membership of Fish, Inc. includes trustees, officers, program chairpersons, steering committee members, and you, the volunteers; as well as those who support Fish with donations of food, clothing, other goods, or money. In other words, anyone with a desire to serve the poor can be a member of Fish.

At the annual meeting, the officers and program chairpersons come together to review and inform Fish members of the past year's activities and developments of each program: the Food Pantry, Clothing Program, Holiday Toy and gift Program, and Telephone Volunteers.

Decisions which affect the over-all direction of Fish, Inc. are also discussed and voted on by the membership. For instance, at last year's meeting, the membership voted to change the date of the annual meeting from the second Monday in February to the second Monday in May; a time when better weather would make it easier for people to attend the meeting

Every two years officers and trustees are elected by the membership. The next election will be held at the 2013 meeting.

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for you, the member, to learn more about Fish, its officers and chairpersons, and to contribute to the decision making process. We encourage you to attend the annual meeting on May 14, 2012, 7:30 PM at Dunellen First Presbyterian Church. Light refreshments will be served



*A Blessed Easter to All
from the Fish Steering Committee*

The President's Corner —



Who is my Neighbor?

In St. Luke's Gospel Jesus gives us two great commandments. The first tells us to love God above all else and the second tells us to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. A lawyer asks Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus replies with a story about a man who has been robbed, beaten, and left by the side of the road. A priest and a Levite pass the man without helping him, but a Samaritan stops and cares for him. Jesus asks the lawyer which of these three was neighbor to the injured man. The lawyer answers, the one who showed him mercy, and Jesus replies, "Go and do thou likewise."

What we try to do as volunteers at Fish is to show mercy on all those who come to us for help. We can't help everyone, but we do what we are able to be good neighbors to our clients.

Let us keep in mind that our clients are not our only neighbors. We should do what we can to help our coworkers as well. If we are good neighbors to all those we come in contact with, we will be following God's command to "Go and do thou likewise."

Phil Cox



What Do We Need?

Volunteers are needed for the Telephone Hotline. We have lost several of our volunteers this past year due to illness, or other reasons. Some folks volunteer one day per month, others take multiple days per month. Even someone who could take a day every other month, or be on call as a substitute would be appreciated. Take a moment to call the Fish Hotline, 732-356-0081, and ask for Lisa. She will provide information about what we need and how the system works.

Experienced van drivers urgently needed, capable of lifting 60 lbs. Drivers must have a clean driving record. Help is needed Monday through Saturday to make morning pick-ups at Costco and any afternoon pickups at the Hillside Food Bank or local supermarkets and

businesses. We need drivers who can commit to a specific day of the week as well as those who can act as substitutes or fill-ins. For more information or to volunteer, call the Fish hotline and leave a message for Lisa.

We also need: “bottled” (no glass) **juices** (just regular, not baby). Disposable diapers.



Webelos I Den of Pack 67, Piscataway Runs Food Drive for Fish

Webelos I Den of Cub Scout Pack 67 in Piscataway participated in a food drive to support Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area. The scouts spent a cold, snowy Sunday, January 22, collecting food at the Stop&Shop Supermarket in Piscataway. The boys also collected over \$340 in monetary donations that day. Two weeks later, these funds, along with coupons collected, were used to purchase additional food items amounting to about \$700. The Webelos also had distributed grocery bags to the entire Pack, which were filled and returned on January 28th, the day of their Pinewood Derby. In total, it is estimated that Cub Scout Pack 67 donated over \$2,000 worth of food to Fish, Inc. A very big THANK YOU!! to all the boys in Webelos Den I and Cub Scout Pack 67 for their fine efforts.



Hurricane Irene

Last August Hurricane Irene caused a lot of problems in the communities Fish serves. A number of families lost their homes and belongings due to flooding. Clothing Room volunteers worked very hard to supply clothing and blankets to flood victims. Supplies were stretched very thin.

The Food Room had scheduled a two-week closing for cleaning and painting at the end of August through Labor Day. In the midst of that, there was suddenly much more to be done. Hurricane Irene caused quite a bit of flooding in the Food Room. With power out for several days, our sump pump could not do its work. Fortunately, Fish has good neighbors. A neighbor in Green Brook was able to bring portable generators and pumps to get the water out. And, thanks to Our Lady of Fatima Church, we were able to store our frozen food in the school building’s freezer until power was restored.

The clean-up progressed slowly as the water receded. Fortunately, no stock was lost to flooding, because the volunteers in the Food Room store food items on shelves above floor level. Some drywall had to be replaced, and leakage along the wall on the parking lot side of the building needed to be stopped. The ground was re-graded and sod was installed to improve drainage in the area surrounding the closed off stairwell on that side of the building. Downspouts were extended. A water-powered back up pump was installed which will function during a power failure. It seems that the issues have been resolved. Fish thanks everyone who worked so hard to get the clean-up finished, the drainage issues resolved, and the grass growing.



Coming Up ---

April 2 – 5: Easter Food Baskets distributed in the Food Room, 9:00 AM.till Noon

April 6, Good Friday: Food Room closed.

April 21: First Baptist Church Food Drive for Fish, Inc., Acme Supermarket, Middlesex, 9:00 AM till 6:00 PM

May 13: Happy Mothers’ Day.

May 14: Fish Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, Dunellen Presbyterian Church, 218 Dunellen Ave., Dunellen



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.