



# Fish Newsletter

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Summer 2017

**Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area**

*Serving our neighbors since 1970*

PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

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[www.fishdunellenarea.org](http://www.fishdunellenarea.org)

## ***In Memoriam James C. Gildea***



Our long time friend died at home of natural causes this past March at the age of 86. He leaves behind a son and his family, a son-in-law and his family, nephews, nieces, and many friends. Jim had been an active volunteer at Fish for over 25 years, first delivering furniture when the organization did that, then in later years working in the Food Room. His wife Ida was Food Room Chairwoman in the 1990's.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Jim worked as a machine mechanic for many years. He was so good at repairing most anything, that we depended on him at Fish when something needed fixing.

Tragedy struck this kind man early and often. He lost two daughters and a son to different ailments when they were young

adults, and then lost Ida also. Two years ago he took a terrible fall on stairs at home, breaking a great deal of bones. He came to Fish to work that very day, however, and stayed until an ambulance was needed for him. Jim's strong faith kept him going through everything. When he was well he never missed mass at Our Lady of Fatima RC Church, and attended a retreat in Pennsylvania each year.

Too few people like Jim find their way into our lives. Everyone who knew him was greatly saddened by his passing. My wife and I spent time with Jim outside of Fish. He was soft-spoken, gentle, intelligent, eager to help, and was always in a good humor. I am not only happy to have been his friend, but am truly better for having known him.

*Jerry Garguilo*

## ***Clothing Room Schedule Change***

Clothing Room hours have been changed to Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Appointments will be scheduled for those days. Donations may be brought to the Clothing Room during those hours, or left on the porch after hours.

## ***Holiday Closings***

The Food Room and the Clothing Room will be closed for vacation from July 3 to 7. Both will re-open on Monday, July 10, at 9:00 a.m.

## **Outback Steakhouse Dinner at Fishes & Loaves Café**

On Friday, April 21st, Managing Partner Brad Kalthoff and Kitchen Manager Anthony Cipriani of the Outback Steakhouse in Green Brook provided a delicious chopped steak dinner to over 100 guests of the Fishes and Loaves Café in Piscataway. Having been homeless at one point, an Outback employee wanted to pay it forward and sought the help of their employer. Within a month, the menu was set and plans were made for a delicious dinner from salad to dessert. Patrons of the cafe were most appreciative of the meal, and hope Outback will visit again in the future.

The Fishes & Loaves Café monthly supper is a ministry of Fish, Inc. Dunellen Area and Our Lady of Fatima RC Church, to serve those in need who reside in the surrounding communities and those who are homeless.

*Lisa Couch*



*Left to right: Outback employee Luis, Kitchen Manager Anthony Cipriani, Managing Partner Brad Kalthoff and Fish, Inc. President & Cafe Coordinator, Lisa Couch.*

### **Message received on the Answering Machine:**

*“The Food Room and Clothing Room has been a real blessing in my life. I hope God blesses all your volunteers and their families as your services have blessed me”... Then there were tears in her voice as she said, ...“God Bless.” She did not leave a name.*

I thought I would pass this on. Sometimes it might seem like we do not make a difference but we do.

*Peace, Debbie  
Telephone Volunteers Chairperson*

## **TJX Awards Grant to Fish, Inc.**

The TJX Companies, Inc. and the TJX Foundation, Inc. have awarded a Foundation Grant of \$10,000 to Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area. This check is earmarked to support the Food Program, and is awarded on the occasion of the Grand Re-Opening of the Marshall's/Home Goods Store in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The TJX Foundation strategically invests in non-profit organizations that address their mission of helping families most in-need build a valuable future – one where families and children are safe and secure, and have the opportunities they need to thrive.

The Fish Steering Committee greatly appreciates the generosity of TJX, and will endeavor to use these funds toward that end.

## **Coming Up ---**

*July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21: Fishes & Loaves Café I: Free hot lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church Hall, 485 Hoes Lane, Piscataway. Lunch is served every third Thursday of the month. This group serves approximately 40 people each month.*

*Fishes & Loaves Café II: **PLEASE NOTE:** Dinners at Our Lady of Fatima Recreation/Learning Center, Piscataway will **not** be held during July and August while the building is undergoing some renovations. The next dinner is scheduled for September 15, 5 to 7 PM.*

*Third Saturday of each month: The Food Room and Clothing Room will **not** have third Saturday hours during July and August. Third Saturday of the month openings will resume September 16, from 9 to 11 AM.*

## ***Fish, Inc. Annual Meeting***

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area held its 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2017 in the Cafeteria at Our Lady of Fatima Church Recreation/Education Center in Piscataway. President Phil Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the volunteers and committee chairpersons for their service. Annual reports were given and election of officers was held.

Treasurer Rick Couch reported that total receipts were in excess of expenses for the year.

### ***Annual Reports***

During 2016, the ***Clothing Room*** maintained a client list of about 1,300 families, including short-term clients, immigrant families, and others in need. A special thank you to the many corporations, businesses, scout troops, churches, schools and individuals for doing clothing collections and making monetary donations to purchase new items such as sneakers, socks, and underwear. Thanks also to all the Clothing Room volunteers who help make this program possible.

The ***Computer Committee*** provides technical support for the various computers and office equipment of Fish, Inc. and the Fish Hospitality Program. This committee maintains the Fish, Inc. web page ([www.fishdunellenarea.org](http://www.fishdunellenarea.org)) which provides information about contacting Fish, current activities, history, publications, and services provided.

The ***Food Room*** serves approximately 485 households in Piscataway, Dunellen, Middlesex, South Plainfield, Edison, Highland Park and Green Brook. Clients receive two bags of food once a month, totaling 5,662 bags in 2016. A third bag of food is added for the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals. Chairperson Lisa Couch thanked the many individuals, churches, corporations, schools, civic and fraternal groups for their generosity. She

also thanked the extremely dedicated food room volunteers who give many hours well beyond regular operating times.

The ***Holiday Toy Program*** provided each child with new articles of clothing and new toys/gifts. Gifts were placed in large black bags along with wrapping paper and tape so the parents/guardians could participate in the process. In 2016 the program served approximately 325 children. Thank you to the many individuals who dropped off gifts, as well as the many churches and corporations who purchased gifts for the program.

***Fishes & Loaves Café.*** Café I began at Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway about two years ago with the support of the church's Sheppard's Shelves. This Café, now run independently by the Sheppard's Shelves, serves a free, home cooked lunch to about 40 guests on the third Thursday of each month.

Café II, at Our Lady of Fatima RC Church in Piscataway, serves the demographic area closer to the Food Room. The Café provides a sit-down dinner, restaurant style, to about 80 people each month. Lisa Couch thanked the many individuals and the Knights of Columbus for their monetary support of the café, as well as the many volunteers, Fr. Paul DaSilva, and Fr. Lou Mattina for their constant support and encouragement.

***Telephone Volunteers.*** Chairperson Debbie Turton is responsible for making sure the Fish Hotline has a volunteer assigned to answer calls from clients Mondays through Fridays, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. New volunteers receive hands-on training at Debbie's home. Volunteers can give half days, a full day once a month, or multiple days per month.

Last year the hotline received approximately 250 calls between January and October. From November to the end of December an estimated 350 to 400 calls were received for holiday food and gifts.

Debbie thanked all the volunteers both past and present for the amazing work they do.

**Communications and Publicity.** This committee, new in 2016, is developing an outreach program dedicated to better communication with the churches in the six communities we serve. The committee is also responsible for coordinating and publishing the Fish Newsletter, news releases, flyers and other forms of communication to make the public aware of our activities and what we have to offer those in need in our communities.

### ***Election of Officers***

The membership elected the following officers to serve two-year terms:

- Lisa Couch, President
- Phil Cox, Vice President
- Kelly McHale, Corresponding Secretary
- Connie Sprayberry, Recording Secretary
- Rick Couch, Treasurer
- Ned Halteman, Assistant Treasurer
- Jerry Gargiulo, Trustee
- Judy Cox, Steering Committee
- Harry Schoepp, Steering Committee

We thank of Our Lady of Fatima Parish for allowing us to use the Cafeteria for our annual meeting. The next Annual Meeting of Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area will be held in May of 2018.

### ***Come Join "THE FISHNET"***

If you are interested in hearing from us when we have a specific need, you may subscribe to become a member of *The Fish Net*. We promise to cast our net only when a specific need arises. We will not bombard you with unwanted e-mails. To subscribe, visit us at [www.fishdunellenarea.org](http://www.fishdunellenarea.org) and click on "The Fish Net" tab.



Follow us on Facebook at "Fish, Inc.-Dunellen Area"



### ***The Last Word***

For assistance, or if you would like to contribute or volunteer, call the Fish hotline: **732-356-0081**. For more information about Fish, Inc., please visit our website: [www.fishdunellenarea.org](http://www.fishdunellenarea.org).

*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.*