

**F.I.S.H.**  
**Fellowship In Serving Humanity**  
**Annual Report for 2008**

In 2008 F.I.S.H. provided 110,070 meals to hungry folks, thanks to the hard work of our corps of 75 regularly scheduled volunteers who take calls from clients, pack the groceries, re-pack bulk items, shop, deliver the food, and manage the pantry. Many other volunteers work on special projects organized by churches and businesses. The number of meals in 2008 was slightly less than in 2007, due to two factors. The increase in food costs and decline in donations required us to decrease the number of deliveries for several weeks in April and May, while we conducted a fund drive. And, then in the fall, the number of calls declined due to the infusion of money into the local economy from the large Permanent Fund Dividend and Energy Rebate. But by December the calls had ballooned, with 10,026 meals provided in that month alone, an 18% increase over November.

Financial donations by individuals, local businesses and churches make it possible for us to keep our pantry stocked. Food drives held by churches and organizations are a vital resource. Several churches donate staples on a regular basis. F.I.S.H. also "shops" regularly at the Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) that is essentially a warehouse/resource for food pantries like F.I.S.H.. With the downturn in the economy in 2008, our local Food Bank has been very short of supplies. As many items at the FBA are free or very low cost, a decline in this resource for F.I.S.H. has a serious impact on our budget. We look for a significant increase in our food expenditures in 2009.

In order to improve its efficiency and response to the community, F.I.S.H. revised and expanded its board in 2008. The six members and its committee chairs now reflect all the volunteer positions and our diverse support community. The committees include Outreach, Development, Food Drives, and Pantry Maintenance. A special committee laid plans for the F.I.S.H web-site.

F.I.S.H. partners with a number of churches and community organizations. These include Amazing Grace Lutheran, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Anchor Park United Methodist, Turnagain United Methodist, St. John United Methodist, First Presbyterian, First Christian, American Baptist, Calvary Chapel, and Muldoon Community Assembly. These churches contribute either a staple to the pantry, such as baby food, powdered milk, pasta, or tuna F.I.S.H., hold food and fund drives, or recruit volunteers. Antique Auto Musers of Alaska provide a number of the volunteers who deliver food. And the St. Mary's PlaySchool staff has helped with fund-raising events. During 2008, St. John UMC initiated a summer Festival for F.I.S.H., a fund-raiser and public awareness success. First Christian Church dedicated a fund-raiser Harp Concert to F.I.S.H. Several volunteers organized food drives at their places of business or local gyms. An Anchorage business, Switchboard Alaska, donates its telephone answering service to help hungry folks get in touch with F.I.S.H. And Beltrami & Associates PC has been our volunteer accounting firm for many years. Many, many thanks to such public-spirited businesses.

Nearly 200 generous individual donors make it possible for F.I.S.H. to meet its expenses each year. In 2008, F.I.S.H. also received substantial grants from Wells Fargo, Conoco Phillips, McKinley Capital Management, and First Presbyterian Church. F.I.S.H. also was a beneficiary of the annual Crop Walk to End Hunger sponsored by Church World Service. Needless to say, F.I.S.H. could not carry out its mission without the support of these wonderful businesses, organizations, and individuals.

The vision of F.I.S.H. is to respond to every call for emergency food aid in Anchorage. It may be many years before we can realize that vision, but our more modest goal for 2009 is to deploy our volunteers so that we can provide food deliveries during the cold winter months for an additional day each week.

**F.I.S.H. Board of Directors**

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