

Fellowship In Serving Humanity (F.I.S.H.) Annual Report 2011

The mission of F.I.S.H. is to deliver a three-day emergency food supply to people in need in Anchorage. The generosity of many individuals, churches, and community organizations provides the food that stocks our pantry's shelves and feeds the needy. Many church communities support F.I.S.H. through both volunteers and donations. Additionally, the upstairs of the pantry is now finished as a youth lounge complete with a TV and couches. F.I.S.H. maintains a corner of the upstairs for storage of bulk food donations and purchases.

F.I.S.H. is a non-profit organization (501 (c) (3)), run by a 7-member Board of Directors. (We currently have 2 open seats on the board) We have no paid staff. All activities are carried out by volunteers. Our only expenses are food, agency fees and utilities. We make deliveries Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week; we added one Saturday a month beginning in September 2010 and a second Saturday each month in March 2011. During 2011, F.I.S.H. provided 129,510 meals to 14,930 hungry folks, thanks to the hard work of our corps of 75 volunteers who take calls from clients, pack the groceries, re-pack bulk items, shop, deliver the food, and manage the pantry. **(You, too, can do this!)**

To provide those meals last year, F.I.S.H. expended about \$42,000 for food. We make good use of donations from churches and individuals and we "shop" regularly at the Food Bank of Alaska, which is essentially a warehouse for food pantries like FISH. Our big fund-raiser each year is a Golf Tournament, in its twentieth year in 2012. New committee members are always welcome. Chuck Eddy began the tournament and is still active in maintaining its success. In 2011, the Golf Tournament earned \$19,000.

The Golf Tournament, as well as other F.I.S.H. events, is highlighted on our website, www.fishcharity.org F.I.S.H. participates regularly in the PFD Pick-Click-Give program and received \$4,475 for 2011. F.I.S.H. also receives funds from the CROP walk each fall and community minded businesses throughout the year.

F.I.S.H. partners with a number of churches in Anchorage. These include St. Mary's Episcopal, Amazing Grace Lutheran, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Anchor Park Methodist, Turnagain Methodist, St. John's United Methodist, First Presbyterian, First American Baptist, and Muldoon Community Assembly. We added two new partners in 2011: St. Innocent's Cathedral and First Congregational Church. These churches contribute either a staple to the pantry (baby food, pasta or tuna fish), hold food and fund drives, and/or recruit volunteers. Thankfully, **Switchboard Alaska** continues to donate 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 go out to such public-spirited businesses.

Many individuals also donate substantially to F.I.S.H. Among these community-spirited folks are the members of the National Association of Letter Carriers; the letter carriers provided two tons of food for the F.I.S.H. Pantry from their annual Stamp Out Hunger campaign in May. The St. Mary's Youth Group took on the daunting task of organizing this mountain of food for easy retrieval by the FISH packers (and they also put Christmas surprises in the deliveries the week before that holiday.) Credit Union One employees collected nearly 2000 pounds of food and donated hours to help repack bulk supplies. St. John United Methodist Church also conducts two large food drives for F.I.S.H. each year. Needless to say, F.I.S.H. could not carry out its mission without the support of these wonderful businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals. Thank You!

FISH always NEEDS new volunteers. Our volunteer corps is volatile, as people leave for the winter (or summer), or take new jobs out of state, or retire. We are constantly recruiting new volunteers. It takes four people to make sure a single family receives food on each of our service days; that's 60 volunteers each month, not counting shopping, cleaning, scheduling and repacking. The need is ever present. Please contact **Raissa D'Antonio, 229-9299**, to learn more.

Raissa D'Antonio, President