

Fellowship In Serving Humanity (F.I.S.H.) Annual Report 2013

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 and organizations support F.I.S.H. through both volunteers and donations throughout the year.

F.I.S.H. is a non-profit organization (501 (c) (3)), run by a 7-member Board of Directors. 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 and the last 2 Saturdays of each month. During 2013, F.I.S.H. provided more than 123,000 meals to approximately 13,600 hungry folks (nearly 50% children), on 172 delivery days, 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! WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS)**

To provide those meals last year, F.I.S.H. expended about \$52,000 for food. We make good use of donations from churches, organizations 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. This year's tournament will be on May 31. New committee members are always welcome. Chuck Eddy began the tournament in 1992 and is still active in maintaining its success. In 2013, the Golf Tournament earned \$27,000. It takes over 20 volunteers to host the tournament.

The Golf Tournament, as well as other F.I.S.H. events, are highlighted on our website, www.fishcharity.org F.I.S.H. will participate in the PFD Pick-Click-Give program again in 2014. F.I.S.H. also receives funds from the CROP walk each fall and community minded businesses throughout the year, such as Red Apple Market, Construction Machinery, the St. Mary's Holiday Bazaar, and Fred Meyer. This year we also sold virtual gifts at several local craft shows including the Mitvah Mall at Beth Shalom and First Christian.

F.I.S.H. partners with a number of churches in Anchorage who provide food, funds and volunteers. These include St. Mary's Episcopal, Amazing Grace Lutheran, Anchor Park Methodist, Turnagain Methodist, St. John's United Methodist, First Presbyterian, First Congregational Church, St. Innocent's Cathedral and Lutheran Church of Hope. These churches contribute either a staple to the pantry (peanut butter, pasta or tuna fish), hold food and fund drives, and/or recruit volunteers. Social Work Students from UAA often volunteer during the semester. 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 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 Nat'l Association of Letter Carriers; the letter carriers provided 5500 pounds of food for the F.I.S.H. Pantry from their annual Stamp Out Hunger campaign in May. Credit Union 1 volunteers took on the daunting task of organizing this mountain of food for easy retrieval by the FISH packers. St. John United Methodist Church also conducts two large food drives for F.I.S.H. each year. A group from JBER had a much needed food drive in November. Holy Rosary Academy students help to repackage bulk supplies each month and St. John youth recently worked hard to clean organize and stock the pantry. 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 one and all!

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 4 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