



Annual Report 2017 - Fellowship In Serving Humanity (F.I.S.H.)

Since 1967, F.I.S.H. has been fulfilling emergency needs for the Anchorage community. Today's 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 2 Saturdays of each month. During 2017, F.I.S.H. provided more than 125,000 meals to approximately 13,950 hungry folks (more than 40% children), on 177 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. In 2018, we're increasing our outreach by adding another Saturday, so will need even more volunteers, food and funding.

To provide those meals last year, F.I.S.H. expended about \$45,000 for direct food purchases from both the Food Bank of Alaska and retail stores. We make good use of donations from churches, organizations and individuals including the city-wide collection Stamp Out Hunger. Our big fund-raiser each year is a Golf Tournament. The 2018 tournament will be on Friday afternoon June 1. (Join the committee!) In 2017, the Golf Tournament earned \$30,000! Special thanks to some of our big sponsors like Lynden, Alaska Airlines, Rebound Sports & Orthopedic Physical Therapy, APL (America), Construction Machinery and Just Kids Dental.

F.I.S.H. continues to participate in the PFD Pick-Click-Give program, and despite the dividend reduction, we still received over \$3200 in 2017. We are continuing with community based fundraising ideas. We are part of the **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** program which brings in over \$150 a month. (link your FM Rewards card to FISH and we receive funds every quarter!). CROP walk Anchorage again chose FISH as a recipient of local funding and that brought in \$1200 this year. FISH also receives a percentage of proceeds from **Amazon** shoppers who designate us as their **smile.amazon.com** recipient.

The new pantry layout is complete and the additional freezer space was put to immediate use. During the month of September (Hunger Action Month), all Food Bank of Alaska products were free of charge to the agencies. We stocked the shelves and freezers with much needed food supplies.

Nearly 15 churches and organizations throughout Anchorage contribute either a staple to the pantry (peanut butter, pasta, tuna fish), hold food and fund drives, and/or recruit volunteers. Holy Rosary Academy students help to repackaging bulk supplies during the school year and St. John youth spend a full day helping to clean organize and stock the pantry. UAA/Creighton OT students spent a summer day repacking food, cleaning and stocking the pantry shelves. East High student government students gave an hour of their time to repackaging bulk items and clean the pantry.

Many local businesses also donate substantially to F.I.S.H. Other community-spirited folks are the members of the Nat'l Association of Letter Carriers; the letter carriers provided 3500 pounds of food for the F.I.S.H. Pantry from their annual Stamp Out Hunger campaign in May. Also, we are lucky that **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. 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, despite many people who have volunteered with us for decades to keep fighting hunger here in Anchorage. 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 while cherishing our long time dedicated staff. 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 shoppers, cleaners, our scheduler and repackers. The need is ever present. Please contact **Raissa D'Antonio, 229-9299**, or visit the website www.fishcharity.org to learn more.

Raissa D'Antonio, President