

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, businesses and community organizations provides the food that stocks our pantry's shelves and feeds our hungry neighbors. 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 an eight member Board of Directors. We have no paid staff. All activities are carried out by volunteers. Our only expenses are food, agency fees, office supplies and utilities. We make deliveries Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week. During 2024, F.I.S.H. made 3673 deliveries to more than 14,850 hungry folks (40% children), thanks to the hard work of our corps of 100+ volunteers who take calls from clients, pack the groceries, deliver to families, re-pack bulk items, shop, maintain the pantry, and manage our SignUpGenius account. That is nearly 135,000 meals!

To provide those meals last year, F.I.S.H. expended more than \$100,000 for direct food purchases. That is an increase of nearly \$25,000 over prior years and double our pre-COVID expenditures! We make good use of donations from churches, businesses, and community food drives. F.I.S.H. is truly blessed by our partnership with **Food Bank of Alaska (FBA)**. FBA not only provides free food and supplies, they also provide opportunity to take advantage of their bulk buying power.

FISH is very grateful to our long-term supporters and generous donors. Since we don't receive any government funding, we rely on our local fundraising efforts, grants, and many individuals to help us fight hunger. As some of our long-time supporters pass on, we have received several generous bequests from their families. In 2024, FISH was chosen as the **100+ Women Who Care Anchorage** first quarter charity. We received \$12,000 from local women and a matching \$5000 grant from **The Richard Schulze Family Foundation**. F.I.S.H. also received a generous grant from **Fairlife Milk** this year. We appreciate community support from **Alaska Airlines**, and a huge need was met with a grant from **RurALCAP** allowing us to purchase a large shed to double our storage capacity with thanks to **St. Mary's Episcopal Church** for clearing land to add this addition.

F.I.S.H. continues to participate in the **PFD Pick-Click-Give** program, receiving nearly \$5000 each year. We are continuing with community-based fundraising ideas, as well. We are part of the **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** program which brings in nearly \$100 a month. (link your FM Rewards card to FISH and we receive funds every quarter!). The local thrift store, **Fashion Pact**, (now with 2 locations!) is also a FISH partner. Designate FISH both when you donate there and when you shop there and we'll receive \$1 for each item.

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. Businesses organize groups of volunteers (Thank you **Creighton Univ**, and **Fire Explorers, Anchorage Police Department**). Many sports teams, school classes, church groups and individuals spend extra time working to clean and stock the pantry and re-package goods for distribution. We truly appreciate every minute of help.

Many local businesses also support FISH. Three local **McDonald's** restaurants continue to donate overage to FISH. This provides much needed proteins and other food free of charge. **Franz Bakery** and **Fred Meyer** both give us deep discounts and steady supplies of several pantry staples. Through other donations and frugal shopping, we are also providing some basic toiletries like soap, shampoo and toilet paper, along with a 3-day supply of food items and pet food as needed. 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!

F.I.S.H. always welcomes new volunteers. We have 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), take new jobs out of state, or retire. We are constantly recruiting volunteers while cherishing our long-time dedicated staff. It takes a minimum of 5 people to make food distribution a success on each of our service days: a telephone volunteer, 2 packers (or more) to fill the bags, and 2 drivers for deliveries. That's 80 volunteers each month, not counting shoppers, cleaners, our scheduler and re-packers. The need is ever present. Please contact **Raissa D'Antonio, 229-9299**, or visit the website [www.fishcharity.org](http://www.fishcharity.org) to learn more.

Raissa D'Antonio, President

Scan here to donate!

