



336 Victory Drive
 Herndon, VA 20170
 (703) 391-0105
 www.HerndonRestonFISH.org

HERNDON-RESTON FISH, INC.

Providing local residents with Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help since 1969

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011
 July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011**

FY 2011 Highlights

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

During FY 2011, FISH assisted a total of 2,017 families (5,313 people), gave emergency financial assistance to 1,285 families, and helped 152 families by providing them with used furniture and/or other household necessities. This past year, FISH paid out 91 percent more in rent payments compared to FY 2010 and 35 percent more in utility payments. In total over \$427,000 was given to Herndon and Reston residents to meet the following needs:

Rent Assistance	\$222,909	Holiday Food & Gift Baskets	2,925
Utility Assistance	183,931	Miscellaneous (includes gasoline, food)	4,397
Medical Expenses	11,289		

\$134,000 of this assistance money was a one-time grant from the TANF-Emergency Funds which had to be spent by September 30. We were able take on this added work load due to the extraordinary efforts of Judy Duncan at the FISH Information and Referral Service.

In FY 2011 volunteer drivers provided 180 rides for the elderly and other needy individuals for their medical appointments, at no cost to FISH. A number of drivers retired from volunteer service this past year which resulted in fewer requests for rides being met. Efforts are being made to recruit more volunteer drivers.

FISH collected, assembled, and distributed Thanksgiving food baskets to 570 people and December holiday food and gift baskets to 750 people. Over 400 volunteer hours were spent working on these two projects in coordination with other human service providers in Fairfax County. Thanks again to Robyn Kampf for an excellent job in coordinating this program.

FUND RAISING AND EVENTS

The *FISH Fling Gala and Fundraiser* was held April 2 and “netted” FISH \$54,735. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly on the event. FISH also participated in two Alternative Gift Markets sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church and the Giving Circle of Hope. Board members spoke at various community groups and attended many networking events and seminars in the area. FISH continues to be active in the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. FISH participated in the Reston Town Center Holiday Parade again this year. Our acceptance into the Commonwealth of VA’s Neighborhood Assistance Program continues to substantially increase the dollar amount of donations from individuals.

In addition to the emergency funds (TANF-EF) that FISH received this year for families facing imminent eviction, FISH continued to apply for grant funds which included the United Way Community Impact Fund, The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region and the RealNetworks Foundation

Three fundraising events were held by others to benefit FISH. *The Bradley Farm Haunted House* once again donated their proceeds to FISH. *Singles in the Suburbs* held a second “Feed the Fish” social networking event at the Reston Town Center, and Anoop Mitra, along with Carnival Cruise Lines, arranged for a cruise ship luncheon.



CFC – No. 83534



United Way – No. 8359



Fairfax County CCFP

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. is a volunteer, nonsectarian, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.



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INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

The Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. help line, funded by a grant from the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool, received on average over 100 calls a day. The majority of the callers are referred to the appropriate public and private agencies that are able to provide the specific assistance needed. The help line personnel maintain a comprehensive database of such resources. Those callers who meet FISH's eligibility guidelines are referred to the Assistance Volunteer on duty at the time, and the data is entered into the FISH database maintained by the help line personnel. Many of the requests for assistance from FISH are made by Fairfax County social workers on behalf of their clients.

The help line personnel also make the arrangements for the rides to medical appointments given by volunteers and take reservations for FISH's monthly Financial Workshops.

BARGAIN LOFT OPERATION

The Bargain Loft and its many dedicated volunteers continue to work successfully to provide a steady source of income for FISH. Generous amounts of gently used furniture, household goods, art, books, antiques, collectibles, women's clothing, and many other items were donated by the general public. Through Sherri Longhill's excellent managerial skills, the Loft was able to give 15% more in FY2011 to the Family Assistance Program than FY2010.

ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS

Over 25 volunteers—coordinated, oriented, and advised as needed by Assistance Coordinators Helen Sellman and Crawford Fischer—performed as Assistance Volunteers. Working from their homes, they have direct contact with the clients and/or Social Workers referred to them by the help line personnel. The Assistance Volunteer gathers the appropriate facts concerning each request for help; verifies the information given by checking with the landlord, utility company or other creditor; makes any other appropriate inquiries; and then decides whether or not help should be given. If help is to be given, checks can be sent to the creditor within 24 hours. These volunteers helped over 1,285 families in FY 2011.

FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

FISH Financial Education Workshops, in partnership with Fairfax County Human Services and Reston Interfaith, continue to be a huge success. The workshop for English speaking clients is taught by FISH volunteer Don Owens. Classes for Spanish speakers are taught by volunteers from TD Bank. The English classes are held once a month and the Spanish classes are held quarterly. Client referrals are taken by FISH's Information and Referral Service (English) and Reston Interfaith (Spanish). 284 clients completed the classes in FY 2011.

REVENUES

Sources of revenue for the Assistance Program in FY 2011 were:

TANF-Emergency Funds	\$134,000	Individuals	46,170
Fx Co Community Funding Pool	86,600	United Way/ American Charities	21,994
Special Events	56,740 (net)	Organizations and Businesses	10,639
Grants	52,375	Churches	9,111
The Bargain Loft	47,000		



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