



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 2010
 July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010**

FY 2010 Highlights

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

During FY 2010, FISH assisted a total of 2,705 families (5,850 people), gave emergency financial assistance to 1,199 families, and helped 149 families by providing them with used furniture and/or other household necessities. This past year, FISH paid out 22 percent more in utility payments compared to FY 2009. Also this past year, \$270,000 was given to Herndon and Reston residents to meet the following needs:

Rent Assistance	\$116,546	Holiday Food & Gift Baskets	3,418
Utility Assistance	136,094	Miscellaneous (includes gasoline, food)	4,405
Medical Expenses	8,632		

The total money given out for assistance is steadily increasing, and is now 19 percent higher compared to FY 2009, including 21 percent more for rent and utility payments.

In FY 2010 twenty volunteer drivers provided 965 rides for the elderly and other needy individuals for their medical appointments at no cost to FISH. Efforts are being expended to recruit more volunteer drivers.

FISH collected, assembled, and distributed Thanksgiving food baskets to 673 people and December holiday food and gift baskets to 812 people. Over 463 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 10 and “netted” FISH over \$52,392. 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 helped to substantially increase the dollar amount of donations from individuals.

In May 2010, FISH received a grant to distribute emergency funds (TANF-EF) for families facing imminent eviction. FISH works in coordination with Fairfax County social workers to determine which clients are eligible for these funds. Other major grant funding received in FY 2010 included the Fairfax County Community Funding Pool, the United Way Community Impact Fund, and the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz 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 “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



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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 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 brought in over 13 percent more in receipts than the previous fiscal year.

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 1,199 families in FY 2010.

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). 268 clients completed the classes in FY 2010.

REVENUES

Sources of revenue for the Assistance Program in FY 2010 were:

Grants	\$209,154	The Bargain Loft	41,000
Special Events	54,274	Churches	14,734
Individuals	51,233	Organizations and Businesses	11,573
United Way/ American Charities	17,528	Reimbursements, Interest, etc.	606



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Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. is a volunteer, nonsectarian, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.
 Member of Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce & Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce