



Herndon – Reston FISH, Inc.

Providing *Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help* since 1969
to local residents in short-term emergencies.

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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

FY 2009 Highlights

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

During FY 2009, FISH assisted a total of 3,059 families (6,080 people) and gave emergency financial assistance to 1,211 families and helped 146 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 2008. In FY 2009, \$226,840 was given to Herndon and Reston residents to meet the following needs:

Rent Assistance	\$100,405
Utility Assistance	108,555
Medical Expenses	11,276
Miscellaneous (includes gasoline and food)	6,604

In the last four years, the total money given out for assistance has steadily increased and is now 73 percent higher compared to FY 2006, including 83 percent more for rent and utility payments.

In FY 2009 thirty volunteer drivers provided 1,272 rides for the elderly and other needy individuals for their medical appointments at no cost to FISH.

FISH collected, assembled and distributed Thanksgiving food baskets to 674 people and December holiday food and gift baskets to 657 people. Over 538 volunteer hours were spent working on these two projects in coordination with other human service providers in Fairfax County. Thanks to Robyn Kampf for an excellent job in coordinating this program.

FUND RAISING AND EVENTS

The 40th Anniversary of Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. was celebrated at the *FISH Fling Gala and Fundraiser* that was held May 9 and and “netted” FISH over \$43,000. Kudos 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 (i.e. Rotary Clubs and Women’s Networking Lunch) 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.

ANSWERING AND REFERRAL SERVICE

The Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. help line, funded by a grant from the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Pool, received on average over 100 calls a day. The majority of the callers are referred to the appropriate public and private agencies 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 made the arrangements for the rides to medical appointments given by volunteers. They also 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 continuing source of income for FISH. Generous amounts of gently used household goods, art, books, antiques, collectibles and many other items were donated by the general public. Sherri Longhill was hired as manager of The Loft in August. Under her able leadership, The Loft brought in \$134,158; almost 14 percent more in receipts than the previous fiscal year. The Loft is now accepting women’s designer clothing, clean and on hangers.



CFC – No. 83534



United Way – No. 8359



CVC – No. 8129

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ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS

Over 25 volunteers, coordinated, instructed 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, verifying the information given by checking with the landlord, utility company or other creditor and making any other appropriate inquiries, and then decides whether or not help should be given. If help is given, checks can be sent to the creditor within 24 hours. These volunteers helped over 1,150 families in FY 2009.

FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

FISH Financial Education Workshops, in partnership with Fairfax County Human Services and Reston Interfaith, have been 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 Answering and Referral Service (English) and Reston Interfaith (Spanish). 236 clients completed the classes in FY 2009.

REVENUES

Major sources of revenue for assistance in FY 2009 were:

Grants	\$147,730	Individuals	\$24,860
Special Events	55,500	Churches	11,592
The Bargain Loft	41,500	Organizations and Businesses	14,040
United Way, American Charities and Other Employee Giving	20,350	Reimbursements, Interest, etc.	1,422

Grant writing proposals yielded grants from the following organizations:

Fairfax County Consolidated Funding Pool	CFNC Human Services and Poverty Funds
The Cafritz Foundation	United Way Community Impact Fund
The Closet	The Sallie Mae Fund
The Giving Circle of Hope	

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The FISH Board of Directors participated in Strategic Planning under the leadership of Marie Kordes. Committees were set up to define leadership roles, the Executive Director position and orientation of volunteers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As provided by our By-Laws, the following Board of Directors and Officers were duly nominated and elected for one-year terms, commencing July 1, 2009.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORS:

Marcia Di Trapani	President	Janet Hyman	FISH Fling Chair
Darlene Palmer	Vice-President	Sue Maynard	Historian
Suzanne Rudiselle	Vice President	Barbara Beecy	Board Director
Karen Stevens	Secretary	Mary Delaney	Board Director
Diane Hardcastle	Treasurer	Marie Kordes	Board Director
Helen Sellman	Assistance Liaison	Dan Vitiello	Board Director
Cindie Moulton	Publicity		

CORPORATE DIRECTORS:

Mitch Chambliss	Rotary Club of Herndon	Carl Larsen	M&T Bank
Suzanne Fulton	Soarings	Peggy LeReche	Dominion Virginia
Power			
Chris Griffin	Griffin-Owens & Associates		

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Sherri Longhill



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