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HERNDON-RESTON FISH, INC.

Providing local residents with Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help since 1969

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014
 July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014**

FY 2014 Highlights

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

During FY 2014, FISH assisted a total of 2,337 families (5,665 people), gave emergency financial assistance to 1,328 families, and helped 180 families by providing them with used furniture and/or other household necessities. In total, almost \$358,000 was given to Herndon and Reston residents to meet the following needs:

Rent Assistance	\$138,248	Holiday Food & Gift Baskets	\$16,396
Utility Assistance	184,563	Miscellaneous (includes gasoline, food)	2,524
Medical Expenses	16,212		

In FY 2014, Jim O'Donnell coordinated our volunteer drivers who provided 294 rides to medical appointments for the elderly and other needy individuals. These rides, funded by our volunteer drivers, are given to clients at no cost to FISH.

FISH collected, assembled, and distributed Thanksgiving food baskets for 965 people and December holiday food and gift baskets for 967 people. Over 800 volunteer hours were spent working at United Christian Parish on these two projects in coordination with other human service providers in Fairfax County. Thanks to volunteer Mia Merin who, for her first time, coordinated this program; and thanks also to our volunteers who collected food from donors at participating local grocery stores.

FUND RAISING AND EVENTS

The *FISH Fling Gala and Fundraiser* was held April 26 and “netted” over \$45,000. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly on the event. Board members spoke at various community groups and attended many networking events and seminars in the area. FISH continues to have membership in the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Herndon Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of Volunteer Fairfax. FISH participated in the Unitarian Universalist Alternative Gift Market, The Bradley Farms Haunted House and The Taste of Reston this past FY year. Our acceptance into the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Neighborhood Assistance Program continued to substantially increase the dollar amount of donations from individuals.

FISH continued to apply for grant funding and received the following grants in FY 2014:

Fairfax County Community Funding Pool	The Closet
Nelson J. & Katherine Friant Post Foundation	John & Hilda Arnold Foundation
Gannett Foundation	Dominion Foundation
Real Networks Foundation	MAXIMUS Foundation
	St. Mark Catholic Church

Other major funders included: The Bradley Farm Haunted House, United Christian Parish, Reston Community Center, CDW, Sallie Mae, NRTC, Hidden Creek Country Club, Griffin-Owens & Assoc., Rotary Club of Herndon, Exxon Mobil Foundation, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus Family of Man Council #7566, Verizon Foundation, Virginia Heritage Bank, and Volkswagen Group of America.



CFC – No. 83534



United Way – No. 8359



Fairfax County CCFP

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

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

The FISH Family Assistance Information and Referral (I&R) Service, funded by a grant from the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool, received over 3,400 calls in FY 2014. FISH's I&R Service personnel, who maintain a comprehensive database of available resources, referred many of the callers to appropriate public and/or private agencies. They also collected pertinent information from each caller who appeared to meet FISH's eligibility requirements. Those callers were then referred to the Assistance Volunteer on duty for further assessment and financial assistance if needed. Many requests for assistance are made directly to FISH by Fairfax County social workers on behalf of their clients.

ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS

Twenty-four volunteers, under the leadership of Kay Walter and Diane Mandel, help our neighbors who are referred to them by FISH's I&R Service. Working from their homes, they have direct phone contact with the callers. The Assistance Volunteer gathers the appropriate facts concerning each request for help; verifies the information by contacting the landlord, utility company or other creditor; makes all other appropriate inquiries; and then decides whether they qualify for help from FISH. If assistance is to be provided, checks are normally sent to the creditor within 24 hours. These volunteers helped 1,328 families in FY 2014.

FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

FISH Financial Literacy Workshops, in partnership with Fairfax County Human Services and Cornerstones, continue to be successful. FISH volunteer Don Owens teaches monthly workshops for English speaking clients and Viveka Fuenzalida teaches quarterly workshops for Spanish speakers. FISH's I&R Service schedules the English-speaking referrals and Cornerstones assists in scheduling those who speak Spanish. Cornerstones also arranges for baby sitters for each class. 252 people completed the classes in FY 2014. Families receiving FISH assistance are required to attend the class as a condition of future assistance from FISH.

THE BARGAIN LOFT OPERATION

The Bargain Loft and its over 80 dedicated volunteers continue to work successfully to provide a steady source of income for FISH Family Assistance. These volunteers price each incoming item, stock shelves, wait on customers, deliver furniture and do dozens of other tasks every day. This FY, The Bargain Loft brought in over \$146,000 in income, \$67,000 of which was transferred to the Family Assistance Program. 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. Furniture and household goods are also donated to neighbors in need who are referred to FISH by social workers or other organizations. Many thanks to Barbara Williams and April Elliott, co-managers for The Bargain Loft.

In January FISH hired a full-time Executive Director, Christine Poward. Christine keeps busy coordinating activities, networking in the community and generally keeping an eye on all of FISH's operations to be sure everything is running smoothly. This year FISH entered into a partnership with Connections for Hope, a collective impact initiative to serve families and individuals, youth and adults who are facing eviction, homelessness, hunger, poor health or other human service needs. FISH has an office within the Connections for Hope facility in Herndon.

REVENUES

Sources of revenue for FISH Family Assistance in FY 2014 were:

Fx Co Community Funding Pool	\$116,000	Special Events	\$55,975
Individuals	78,524	United Way/American Charities	21,306
The Bargain Loft	67,000	Organizations and Businesses	9,333
Grants	42,750	Churches	12,714

NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FY 2015

COMMUNITY DIRECTORS:

Janet Hyman, President
Olivia Toatley, Vice President
Karen Stevens, Vice President
Peggy LeReche, Secretary
Jodie Wolfe, Treasurer
Frank Abrams
JoAnn Bordeaux

Steve Brown
Mia Merin
Evea Newsom
Susan Sather
Anne Strange
Tricia Taylor
Kay Walter

CORPORATE DIRECTORS:

Jay Bhalla, Crowne Plaza Hotel
Jennifer Davis Heffner, Vita Images Photography
Peggy LeReche, Dominion
Felicia Roney, NRTC