



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 2015
 July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015**

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

During FY 2015, FISH assisted a total of 1,939 families (4,907 people), gave emergency financial assistance to 1,060 families, and helped 183 families by providing them with used furniture and/or other household necessities. In total, almost \$321,315 was given to Herndon and Reston residents to meet the following needs:

Rent Assistance	\$144,481	Holiday Food & Gift Baskets	\$11,008
Utility Assistance	140,816	Gasoline	2,122
Medical Expenses	21,837	Miscellaneous	1,050

In FY 2015, Jim O'Donnell coordinated our volunteer drivers who provided 245 rides to medical appointments for the elderly and other needy individuals. These rides, funded by our six volunteer drivers, are given to clients at no cost to FISH.

FISH collected, assembled, and distributed Thanksgiving food baskets for 684 people and December holiday food and gift baskets for 712 people. 227 children received toys and 105 teenagers received gift cards. Over 688 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 coordinated this program and to all the volunteers who helped fill and deliver the baskets. 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 March 14, 2015 at the Hyatt Dulles Hotel. It provided over \$41,000 in net profit for FISH Assistance. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly on gala planning and orchestration. In addition to supporting the gala, Board members presented FISH to various community groups, and attended many local networking events and seminars. 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 and The Bradley Farms Haunted House. Our acceptance into the Commonwealth of Virginia's Neighborhood Assistance Program continued to substantially increase the dollar amount of donations from individuals. In addition, FISH has a presence at the Herndon Farmer's Market where FISH volunteer, Susan Sather, assists low income people buy fresh foods with their SNAP vouchers.

FISH actively pursues grant funding and received the following grants in FY 2015:

Fairfax County Community Funding Pool	The Closet
Nelson J. & Katherine Friant Post Foundation	John & Hilda Arnold Foundation
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation	Dominion Foundation
Real Networks Foundation	MAXIMUS Foundation
Philip L. Graham Fund	St. Mark Catholic Church
Ruth & Hal Lauanders Charitable Trust	United Way – National Capital Area

Other major organization funders included: The Bradley Farm Haunted House, United Christian Parish, Reston Community Center, CDW, Sallie Mae, NRTC, Griffin-Owens & Assoc., M&T Bank, Rotary Club of Herndon, Exxon Mobil Foundation, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Betty N. Giles Charitable Foundation, 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 2,900 calls in FY 2015. 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, Diane Mandel, and Marcia Di Trapani, helped 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 1,060 families in FY 2015.

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. In FY 2015, 126 people completed the classes. Families receiving FISH assistance are required to attend the class as a condition of future assistance from FISH. In addition, Anne Strange is available to give one-on-one mentoring to clients wanting more help with their finances. In FY 2015, Anne and her assistants helped 10 clients, meeting with each of them individually on a monthly basis.

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. For FY 2015, The Bargain Loft brought in over \$176,720 in income, a 21% increase over the previous year. 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 October, Lisa Hering Groves became FISH’s Interim Executive Director and after six months was hired as the Executive Director. Lisa has been a long-time volunteer for FISH for more than 15 years. She is fully qualified to manage and organize FISH’s diverse activities. FISH’s office is within the Connections for Hope facility in Herndon, VA. FISH continues with their 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.

REVENUES

Sources of revenue for FISH Family Assistance in FY 2015 were:

Fx Co Community Funding Pool	\$137,000	Special Events	\$59,243
Individuals	78,809	United Way/American Charities	14,844
The Bargain Loft	84,000	Organizations and Businesses	14,771
Grants	87,670	Churches	15,650

NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FY 2016

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Karen Stevens, President | Janet Hyman |
| Olivia Toatley, Vice President | Bert Kramer |
| Evea Newsom, Vice President | Mia Merin |
| Peggy LeReche, Secretary & Dominion | Gale Napolliello-Vasquez |
| Clara Chambliss, Treasurer | Robert Reed |
| Marcia Di Trapani | Felicia Roney, NRTC |
| Mary Jo Baedeker | Susan Sather |