



HERNDON-RESTON FISH, INC.

## FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

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### President's Report

In the last year, FISH has been moving toward improving the efficiency of the organization. We have just received funding to purchase an integrated IT system that will meet our needs for data entry and analysis in all areas of our operation. It is hoped this new system will be up and running by the end of this fiscal year. The Board has a new system of committees to carry out all the identified functions of FISH. Each committee is working on its policies and procedures. We also continue to offer our Financial Workshop for clients each month in English, and quarterly in Spanish.

FISH is very active in the fall months, participating in many

### Meet A Volunteer



#### **Marcia Di Trapani** of Reston

has been a dedicated volunteer for FISH for over 13 years. She started as the Assistance Coordinator for the phone system that our clients use to seek help. Then she served as President of FISH for five years and oversaw the expansion of our fundraising efforts.

To increase funds for FISH she initiated the writing of grant proposals and, also suggested the annual FISH Fling Gala. She started the FISH Newsletter, which comes out quarterly. Through all of her activities at FISH, Marcia has worked to keep costs down so that our resources are used for helping others. Today she volunteers as a member of the Board, serves on the Grant Committee, is Co-Chair of the FISH Fling for 2016, serves as the bookkeeper for FISH, and works at the

community activities. Lisa Groves, our Executive Director, attended the Herndon Community Day on September 19; presented at the United Way event at Sprint in Reston on September 22; and will present at the Reston Lions Club at Hidden Creek Country Club on October 21, 2015. Check the calendar below for the upcoming activities of FISH and look for announcements about how you can participate.

We look forward to your continued support.

Karen Stevens, President  
Herndon-Reston FISH

## Upcoming Events to Note

**October 23 & 24** - Visit the Bradley Farm Haunted House. Adults, teenagers, children are welcome. All proceeds help Herndon-Reston FISH (see article below).

**November 14** -- Collection of food at Franklin Farm Giant, Fox Mill Giant, and North Point Giant for the FISH Food baskets. Sign up now to help on [tinyurl.com/FISHbasket2015](http://tinyurl.com/FISHbasket2015).

**November 20** - Donate food by this date for the Holiday baskets. Food can be left at the Bargain Loft at 336 Victory Drive in Herndon from 10-3 on Tuesday through Friday and 10-4 on Saturday.

**November 24** - Opening of the Bargain Loft Christmas Store. Shop for great bargains and see our beautifully decorated store.

**November 27** - March in the Reston Holiday Parade to represent FISH. Email Janet Hyman for details at [janethyman@aol.com](mailto:janethyman@aol.com).

**December 5** - For those who would like to give a non-material gift this holiday season, we will again participate in the Alternative Gift Market at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 1625 Wiehle Avenue in Reston from 10 am-2 pm.

Visit "The Haunted Coal Mine"

Bargain Loft in charge of pricing clothing. Marcia said, "it was a natural thing for me to become involved with FISH from my career as a public health nurse. During home visits I saw that people needed assistance and this made working with FISH a good fit." We are indeed lucky to have such a talented and dedicated volunteer in our FISH family.

## Thanks to our Major Supporters

Thanks to the following groups and individuals for recent contributions of \$1,000 or more to Herndon-Reston FISH

Philip L. Graham Fund

The Ruth & Hal Lauders Charitable Trust

Evea Newsom

The Closet

Tony & Marcia Di Trapani

United Way of the National Capital Area

America's Charities

Berton & Barbara Kramer

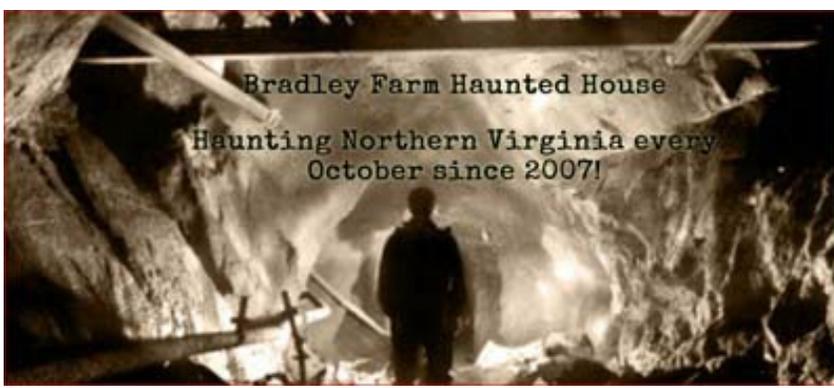
INOVA Health Systems

United Christian Parish

## Herndon Community Day



On Saturday, September 19, 2015 hundreds of local residents colored our FISH while learning about community services at Herndon Community Day. Thank you for all the beautiful drawings that covered the FISH tent! FISH supported the event with



Looking for a some spine tingling fun this Halloween? Right here in Herndon, the Bradley Farm Haunted House promises everyone a ghoulishly fun time for just \$5 a walk-thru. This all-volunteer, community fundraising event returns **October 23-24, 2015** for its 9<sup>th</sup> season. All proceeds go to help Herndon - Reston FISH bring emergency help to folks in our community.

This year's theme is "**The Haunted Coal Mine.**" Journey into the damp, darkness of the Bradley Coal Mine with only the light of your lantern to guide you! On Friday and Saturday evening from 6-10 p.m., the Bradley Farm Haunted House offers a dark and scary adventure that's perfect for tweens, teenagers, and adults. For the younger crowd, there's a non-scary version available on Saturday afternoon from 1-5 p.m.

After you brave the Haunted House, you can visit the concession stand to chase away your "chills" with warm caramel apples and hot cider. This year's outdoor entertainment will offer a variety of musical acts, dancers, and magicians. The entertainment includes illusionist Mario Orsini and The Franklin Project.

Each year the Haunted House draws thousands of visitors. Plan to arrive early to get your tickets and be assigned a group number. Then enjoy the entertainment, food, and games while waiting for your turn to be terrified! For a chance to win a family four-pack of passes, be sure to "Like" us on Facebook! Winners will be announced on October 22<sup>nd</sup> on Facebook! More details are available at [www.BFHauntedHouse.com](http://www.BFHauntedHouse.com).

**Donation from the United Christian Parish**

the Connections for Hope Partnership and Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center at 1086 Elden Street.

For more info on the ResourceCenter, please call 703.435.6830.

## Helping People Using SNAP

In the Spring Newsletter we introduced you to the SNAP Program whereby individuals using SNAP funds (formerly food stamps) can spend up to \$20 of those funds and receive matching funds to purchase fruits and vegetables at the Herndon Farmers Market.

As the program draws to a close for this year, FISH reports that, by the end of September, 44 clients spent \$1300 on fresh produce. We thank Fairfax County, the Town of Herndon, INOVA Healthcare, members of the Dulles Chamber of Commerce for matching funds.

## The People We Help

A mother of two young children recently lost a leg to diabetes and its complications. She has been on long-term disability for six months and has fallen behind with her rent payment. She has applied for Social Security disability benefits which should be forthcoming. FISH was able to pay her late rent payment and avoid the pending eviction.

A social worker requested assistance for a 51-year-old woman who sustained serious injuries from a car accident. She required a number of orthopedic surgeries and exhausted her sick days from her employment. During her latest hospital stay, her Dominion VA Power was disconnected for non-payment. FISH was able to have the utility service restored.



Pictured Left to Right: Karen Stevens, President of FISH; John Moore, UCP; Lisa Groves, Executive Director FISH; Robert Haley, UCP; Pastor Joan Bell-Haynes, UCP

United Christian Parish (UCP) presented FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help) with a \$2,000 check to support the organization's annual Holiday Giving Program. The UCP is an Ecumenical parish that unites four denominations in a ministry.

## FISH Fling Gala



The new Logo for the 2016 FISH Fling Gala, designed by Lisa Groves, reminds us that the Gala will be held on **Saturday April, 23, 2016** at the Hyatt Dulles. Join us for a good time and enjoy live and silent auctions, dinner, music, dancing, and games.

**FISH is supported by the following:**

United Way Campaign No. 8359

A father with a wife and two children was recently laid off from his consulting job. He has depleted his savings and his unemployment benefits and only recently secured two part-time jobs to help with his expenses until full-time work can be found. One child suffers from cystic fibrosis and the family was unable to pay the cost of the medically necessary drugs and inhalers. FISH was able to provide the needed assistance.

## Quick Link

### Find us on the Internet

[www.HerndonRestonFISH.org](http://www.HerndonRestonFISH.org)

### The Bargain Loft sells on eBay!

under the name

### DownstairsUpstairs

Herndon-Reston FISH

President: Karen Stevens

Executive Director: Lisa Groves

Newsletter Editor: Mary Jo Baedecker



Combined Federal Campaign No. 83534



Fairfax County of Virginia

