



HERNDON-RESTON FISH, INC.

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

In This Issue

[Past President's Report](#)

[New President's Greeting](#)

[Successful FISH Fling Gala](#)

[Helping Others in Reston/Herndon](#)

[Annual Meeting Notice](#)

[Thanks to our Major Supporters](#)

[Meet Our New Board](#)

[FISH Fling GALA 2016](#)

[The People We Help](#)

[Bargain Loft](#)

Past President's Report

In June 2015 a new Board of Directors was elected to oversee the operation of Herndon Reston FISH. Below is the outgoing President's Report about her tenure.

I wish to thank all of you for your support during the four years I served as President of Herndon-Reston FISH. They were filled with a great many changes and challenges. Because of the hard work of the grant writers and generous donations of friends, FISH continues to be able to serve those in crisis in the community. Our store, The Bargain Loft, has increased its profitability under the superb management of April Elliott and Barbara Williams. In Lisa Groves, we have an Executive Director who is on top of all FISH's activities and gives them the direction they require. I am proud of our dedicated volunteers

Annual Meeting Notice

**Please attend the Annual Meeting for
Herndon Reston FISH on July 20, 2015
at 6 pm**

**Dominion Virginia Power
3072 Centreville Road
Herndon, VA 20171**

**A pot luck will be provided by the FISH
Board at 6 pm and the Board meeting
will start at 7 pm.**

**All individuals who are interested in
FISH are welcome to attend.
Please RSVP to Karen Stevens
703-620-0158**

Thanks to our Major Supporters

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

**America's Charities
Jane & Robert Anthony
Betty N. Giles Charitable Foundation, Inc
Marcia & Tony Di Trapani
Dominion Foundation**

who contribute so much to keep FISH functional. We recently raised the annual maximum we can give to clients to the highest level ever. This should make a significant difference in our ability to give clients the help they need to resolve their emergencies. Judy Duncan, the voice of FISH on the telephone Information & Referral Service, has agreed to work with us through the transition to ensure that client services continue unabated. We are most grateful for all the many years that Judy has served FISH first as a volunteer and more recently as a consultant.

It was with a high level of confidence that I turned over our gavel to Karen Stevens. She has served FISH at a high level for many years and will continue the forward progress of our organization. The Board is composed of fourteen dedicated individuals who are each chairing and/or serving on multiple committees. Committee Chairs will reach out to others to serve on their committees. If you'd like to be involved, there is a spot just right for you. We look forward to moving our data about clients, volunteers, and donors into an integrated system to allow us to work in a secure and effective, 21st century manner.

I can truly say that boredom was never an issue during my term as President and I appreciate all the people who preceded me in this task. Each one contributed to making FISH the organization it is today. I look forward to serving FISH in other capacities in future years, as the gratification that comes from involvement with the delightful people who are integral to FISH's operations enriches my life.

Janet Hyman
Past President

New President's Greeting

FISH has an incredible history of providing short-term assistance for people and families in need. By every measure we have been successful in what we have done and we should be proud-- very proud. We have seen increased Bargain Loft sales as well as the Grants Committee's successful efforts at finding and seeking new funds for assistance. As of this writing, plans for next year's FISH Fling are already under way. Come, bring your friends, and enjoy the fun next April.

FISH programs are evolving. Grantors are changing requirements, and we need to be creative enough to meet these new rules as well as the expanding needs of the community. The

Chris Griffin & Don Owens
Griffin-Owens & Associates
Herndon Rotary Club
Janet Hyman
Matthew Kramer
M & T Bank
Maximus Foundation
William McChesney & Lia Wolf-McChesney
National Rural Telecommunications
Cooperative
Evea Newsom
RealNetworks Foundation Matching Gifts
Program
Larry & Mary Kay Stine
St. John Neuman Church
United Christian Parish
United Way of the National Capital Area

Meet our New Board

The following members were elected for the FISH Board in June

Karen Stevens, President
Evea Newsom, Vice President
Olivia M. Toatley, Vice President
Peggy LeReche, Secretary
Clara Chambliss, Treasurer
Marcia Di Trapani
Bert Kramer
Gale Napoliello
Robert Reed
Felicia Roney
Susan Sather
Mia Merin
Mary Jo Baedecker
Janet Hyman

Many thanks to those who dropped off the Board this year: Frank Abrams, Steve Brown, Anne Strange, Jo Ann Bordeaux, Kay Walter, Jay Bhalla, Jennifer Heffner, and Jody Wolfe. FISH greatly appreciates your service and we know many of you are still

Board looks forward to implementing a new committee structure that will allow the Board to fulfill all functions necessary for the ever evolving operation of FISH programs. These committees will document how we do things as well as the changes we make over time. The Board is looking for new ideas while recognizing the successful practices of the past. I am looking forward to working with all of you to make the coming year even more successful in helping our neighbors.

Karen Stevens,
Herndon-Reston FISH President

Successful FISH Fling Gala

We had another successful FISH Fling Gala in 2015, netting about \$41,000 for helping our neighbors in need. We enjoyed a great dinner at the Hyatt Dulles followed by entertainment from the Reston High School DoReMigas and Noteworthy, two A Cappella Groups, and music from The Franklin Project Band. Silent and live auctions rounded out the evening for a fun event. We thank Delegate Ken Plum who was the auctioneer for the live auction.



photos by Alicia Tulloch

Top photo is the group of the DoReMigas, from South Lakes High School who performed during the dinner. The bottom photo is of the Star Fish recipients, who were honored for outstanding contributions to FISH. From the left, Executive Director, Lisa

involved with FISH.

FISH Fling Gala 2016

Yes, plans are underway for next year's FISH Fling. It will be held at the Dulles Hyatt on April 23, 2016. Mark your calendars. The Co-Chairs for the Fling are Evea Newsom, Marcia Di Trapani, and Mary Jo Baedecker. If you would like to volunteer to help or have comments, please contact one of us.

The People We Help

FISH received the following letter from a client regarding service provided for her Mother:

"I recently reached out to your organization when we were in need of a driver to help my mom get to her radiation treatment appointments at Reston Hospital since she cannot drive. My father passed away from cancer. I am the only child and due to my work schedule, I was not going to be able to take her to the daily appointments each morning

We received the assistance of a truly amazing volunteer, Jim O'Donnell, who was not only willing to drive my mom to 10 appointments, he provided great care for her as well. He was always very timely, courteous and compassionate. My mom and I were amazed that a complete stranger provided so much thoughtful care and assistance to another stranger in need. He sacrificed his time and resources to drive my mom every day, wait for her until she was done with her radiation treatment, and drive her back home safely.

We are very thankful that we were blessed with a great volunteer from a fantastic

Groves, honored Mike and Jane Drewes, Diane, Mandel, and Yasmine Nowrouz and colleagues from CDW. Absent recipients were Jocelyne Colao and Chuck Veatch. The contributions of the recipients were described in the Winter newsletter available on our website.

Helping People in Herndon/Reston

FISH started a new program this summer to help low-income people obtain nutritious food from the Herndon Farmers Market. Those receiving assistance from SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) can receive matching funds up to \$10 to buy fresh produce at the market. The matching funds are donated by INOVA Healthcare and several members of the Dulles Chamber of Commerce. This is how it works-- if a SNAP recipient contributes \$10 of their SNAP funds, we give them \$20 to spend at the market for fruits and vegetables. Jenny Phipps, from Supervisor Foust's office, brought FISH into a partnership with the Town of Herndon and Fairfax County for this program. From FISH, Susan Sather and Mia Merin organized the program and found supporters to provide the matching funds. In addition to Susan and Mia, April Elliott, Ellen Scheinfeld, and Alec Sather are working every week at the market from May through November. FISH facilitates the process of matching funds at the Farmers Market and our volunteers have an opportunity to explain to people who stop by the booth what FISH does for the community. If you are in Herndon on Thursday between 8 am and 12:30 pm stop by the booth and say "Hi" to our volunteers.

FISH is a member of the following campaigns:

United Way Campaign No. 8359



Combined Federal Campaign No. 83534

organization during a time of great need. My mom had her last treatment in April and I hope this is the end of her battle for cancer and she does not have to face any other obstacles. I wanted to share this experience with you and let you know that you provided consolation for my mom and alleviated our stress. While I was at work, I knew my mom was being taken care of and receiving the treatment she needed. I will be sending a small donation to contribute to your organization and hope that you will be able to help others as well."

The Bargain Loft

Our thrift shop, The Bargain Loft (BL), continues to do well with our managers Barbara Williams and April Elliott in charge. In the last fiscal year the BL transferred \$84,000 directly to the FISH Assistance Program that helps those in need. The annual inventory at the BL was completed in June and now the store is stocked with new merchandise. Check it out-- there are items of interest for everyone in the store. Remember, if you redecorate or downsize, donations to the BL are tax deductible.

Quick Links

Find us on the Internet

www.HerndonRestonFISH.org

FISH and The Bargain Loft are on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HerndonRestonFISH>

If you're on Facebook, be sure to show us to your friends by "liking" us

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The Bargain Loft sells on eBay!

under the name

DownstairsUpstairs



President: Karen Stevens  
Executive Director: Lisa Groves  
Newsletter Editor: Mary Jo Baedecker