



Herndon-Reston FISH Annual Report 2017

Our Mission

Herndon-Reston FISH (**F**riendly **I**ntant **S**ympathetic **H**elp) is a nonsectarian, volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to helping local residents through short-term financial crises.

Real cases where FISH provided emergency assistance:

I am currently assisting a Reston/Herndon family (mother and two children) with emergency funds. The mother just obtained full emergency custody of her two children. Currently the children's belongings are at the offender's home. The mother is in need of funds to provide food and clothing to her children. She is also behind on her car insurance as those funds have been what she is using to get by with food and basic necessities. — Fairfax County Police Department in the Victim Services Section

A veteran—who was laid off, had no savings left, had become homeless and was ready to start a new job so she could afford a place to live—needed help because she could not cover the rental fee for her storage unit. She was heartbroken that she would lose her possessions in this transition. FISH stepped in with the funds needed to pay for two months' rent. This veteran is doing well.

What could go wrong next? The family car broke down. One of the parents could not get work because of not having reliable transportation, and public transportation was not available to them. They had managed to pay their rent and utilities thus

far, but what about next month? Working with a local car repair partner, FISH helped get the car damage assessed and covered repair costs. The family is grateful to move forward, secure in knowing they have reliable transportation, and the unemployed parent now has a full-time job.

What We Do

Emergency Financial Assistance

Offering a unique service, HR FISH (FISH) works with Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning to identify individuals and families in the Herndon-Reston area who require emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, medical prescriptions, critical dental care, household items, and other short-term needs. This funding averts evictions that could lead to homelessness, prevents health problems from escalating, keeps the electricity and water running, and helps to ensure that our neighbors' well-being and stability are not threatened. Through a network of 30 Assistance Volunteers and an Emergency Assistance Manager, FISH provides funds directly to landlords, utility companies, and other providers on behalf of clients.

Financial Literacy Classes

FISH helps families avoid future financial crises by offering Financial Literacy & Mentoring Classes. Classes in both English and Spanish are held monthly, and child care is provided free of charge.

Food and Holiday Baskets

FISH sponsors the SNAP Matching Program at the local farmer's markets, providing fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income families. FISH also assists Herndon and Reston residents through holiday food and gift programs in coordination with other organizations such as the Connections for Hope Partnership and local places of worship.



The Bargain Loft

The Bargain Loft, serving local needs for nearly 50 years, is a thrift store operated by FISH staff and volunteers. Annual net store proceeds account for 30% of the funds needed to provide emergency assistance to families and individuals experiencing a financial crisis. The Bargain Lofts Holiday Shop offers well-priced items for decorating and for gifts.

"Unique gifts, interesting collectibles, everyday items, all incredibly well priced!" said a customer.

Fundraising

FISH raises additional funds by sponsoring special events and from individual donations and public and private grants. The annual FISH Fling brings together donors, supporters, and volunteers to garner significant volunteer and financial support. FISH successfully competes for funds from Fairfax County CCFP, the United Way, and the Federal Combined Campaign. FISH also derives funds from activities sponsored by our community partnerships, such as the United Christian Parish Annual Craft Show, food drives at local grocery stores, and the Jim McDonald Lake Swim.

A Note from Our President

Contributions of money and time and donations of household items to FISH help families and individuals who struggle to make ends meet and face short-term financial crises caused by loss of employment, unexpected medical care, or similar urgent family expenses. FISH works in partnership with Fairfax County and other non-profit organizations in the Connections for Hope Partnership to provide emergency funding.

One of our most important functions is to help people avoid being evicted. When our efforts prevent evictions—as they often do—the community avoids the personal, social, and economic costs of homelessness.

For additional information please see our web site at <http://herndonrestonfish.org> and please donate.

A heartfelt thanks to all who support FISH!

Robert Reed, FISH president

Financial Highlights

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Funding

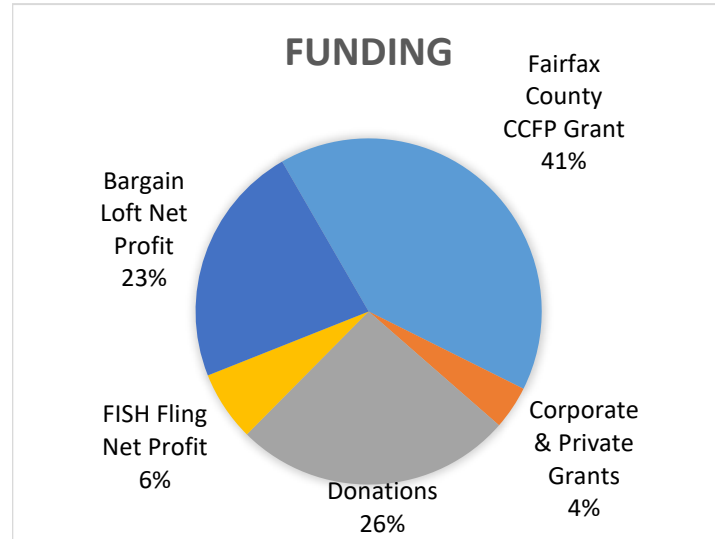
Grants

Fairfax County CCFP	193,256
Corporate and Private	19,229

Donations

Individuals	63,365
Churches	11,965
Businesses	12,823
Third-Party Campaigns	33,595
Interest Earned	1,709
FISH Fling Net Profit	31,123
Bargain Loft Net Profit	107,717

Total Funding 474,782



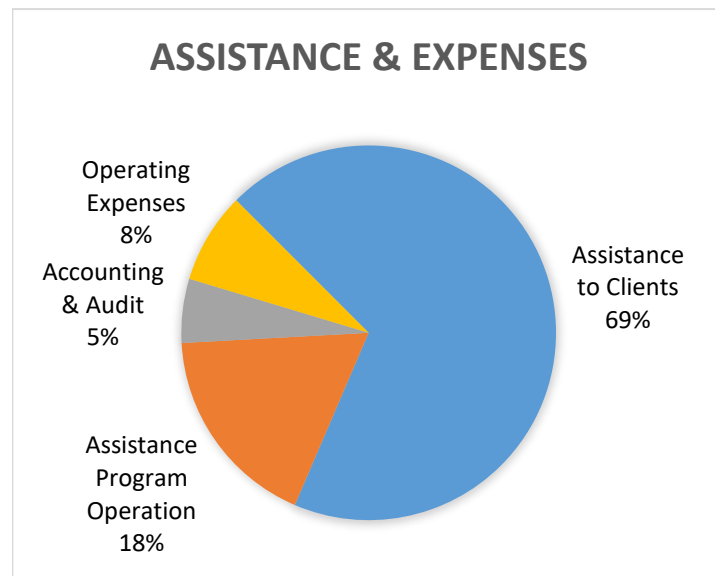
Emergency Assistance (financial and goods)

Rent	185,021
Utilities	106,271
Medical	20,721
Holiday Basket and Other	23,277

Operating Expenses

Assistance Program Operation	85,998
Accounting and Audit Expenses	27,010
Operating Expenses	38,007

Total Annual Expenses 486,305



Highlights of the Year

- Over \$300,000 was paid directly to landlords, utility companies and medical services.
- Individuals donated \$63,365 to FISH.
- FISH matched SNAP coupons in the amount of \$2,091.
- FISH offered November and December Food and Gift Assistance to over 1,400 people.
- Third party fundraising events provided significant contributions at \$33,595.
- FISH customized ClientTrack software to manage and process Emergency Assistance.
- Lilia Jimenez-Siuhengalu was hired as FISH Emergency Assistance Manager.

Major Financial Donations

Greater than \$100,000

Fairfax County Community Funding Pool

\$5,000 to \$30,000

Bradley Farm Homeowners Association
CDW Corporation
Nelson J. and Katherine Friant Post Foundation
Paul Bruce Trust
Reston Community Center (Fairfax County)
United Christian Parish
United Way of the National Capital Area
Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

\$2,000 to \$4,999

Apex Foundation
ExxonMobil Foundation
Frank J. Abrams Jr. Trust
Griffin-Owens Insurance Specialists

Gupta Family Foundation
Herndon Woman's Club
John and Hilda Arnold Foundation
National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC)
Philip L. Graham Fund
St. John Neumann Catholic Community
The Wawa Foundation

\$500 to \$1,999

America's Charities
Cornerstones, Inc.
Lockheed Martin Charity Program
Plave Koch PLC
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
The Bank of America Charitable Foundation
The JV Schiro Zavela Foundation
The Rotary Club of Herndon
The Scoggin Home Team
Unitarian Universalist Church
Washington Plaza Baptist Church

Funding Partners



CFC – No. 83534



United Way – No. 8359



Fairfax County CCFP

Current Board Members

Robert Reed, President
Janet Hyman, Vice President
Mary Jo Baedecker, Vice President
Jack Gazlay, Treasurer
Karen Stevens, Secretary
Charlie Chappell
Kathy Jones
Janie Odlen
Kathleen Powell
Stephen Reber

Susan Russell-Robinson
Elliot Wicks
Susan Sather

Staff

Lisa Groves, Executive Director (FTE)
Linda Bracewell, Bookkeeper (PTE)
Lilia Jiménez-Siuhengalu, Emergency Assistance Manager (PTE)
April Elliott, Bargain Loft Co-Manager (PTE)

Barbara Williams, Bargain Loft Co-Manager (PTE)

Contact Information

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