



Annual Report 2020 - Friends In Serving Humanity (F.I.S.H.)

Since 1967, F.I.S.H. has been fulfilling emergency needs for the Anchorage community. Today's mission of F.I.S.H. is to deliver a three-day emergency food supply to people in need in Anchorage. The generosity of many individuals, churches, businesses and community organizations provides the food that stocks our pantry's shelves and feeds the needy. Many church communities and organizations support F.I.S.H. through both volunteers and donations throughout the year.

F.I.S.H. is a non-profit organization (501(c)(3)), run by a 7-9 member Board of Directors. We have no paid staff. All activities are carried out by volunteers. Our only expenses are food, agency fees and utilities. We make deliveries Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and Saturday of each week. During 2020, F.I.S.H. provided more than 100,000 meals to approximately 11,025 hungry folks (more than 40% children), thanks to the hard work of our corps of 75 volunteers who take calls from clients, pack the groceries, re-pack bulk items, shop, deliver the food, and manage the pantry.

To provide those meals last year, F.I.S.H. expended about \$33,000 for direct food purchases from both the Food Bank of Alaska and local retail stores. We make good use of donations from churches, organizations and the community. Through a large grant, the Food Bank of Alaska was able to provide food to agencies such as FISH free of charge for much of 2020.

Despite the pandemic, FISH is able to continue our deliveries with new protocols in place to protect both our volunteers and our clients. We're trying some new ideas (drive thru food drives) and welcomed several new board members. Look for our Facebook page for upcoming events.

Obviously, many things changed in 2020. We did not have our annual fundraiser golf tournament. However, before the pandemic, we did have a dinner where we invited prior sponsors to learn more about FISH and to ask for sustained giving. It was very successful and has brought new donors, new volunteers and new appreciation of FISH from the community. Mitzvah Mall went virtual in 2020 as did the Letter Carrier's Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Both of those events brought much needed funds to FISH, as well.

F.I.S.H. continues to participate in the PFD Pick-Click-Give program, receiving over \$4000 each year. We are continuing with community based fundraising ideas, as well. We are part of the **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** program which brings in nearly \$100 a month. (link your FM Rewards card to FISH and we receive funds every quarter!). Also, when your shop online, go to Smile.Amazon.com and select FISH in Anchorage as your recipient and we'll receive a portion of proceeds from Amazon orders.

Nearly 15 churches and organizations throughout Anchorage contribute either a staple to the pantry (peanut butter, pasta, tuna fish), hold food and fund drives, and/or recruit volunteers. Many scout troops, school classes (Holy Rosary Academy), church groups and individuals spend extra time working to clean and stock the pantry and package goods for distribution.

Many local businesses also donate substantially to F.I.S.H. We are lucky that **Switchboard Alaska** continues to donate its telephone answering service to help hungry folks get in touch with F.I.S.H., and **Beltrami & Associates PC** has been our volunteer accounting firm for many years. Many, many thanks to such public-spirited businesses. Needless to say, F.I.S.H. could not carry out its mission without the support of these wonderful businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals. Thank You one and all!

FISH always NEEDS new volunteers, despite many people who have volunteered with us for decades to keep fighting hunger here in Anchorage. Our volunteer corps is volatile, as people leave for the winter (or summer), or take new jobs out of state, or retire. We are constantly recruiting new volunteers while cherishing our long time dedicated staff. It takes 4 people to make food distribution a success on each of our service days: a telephone volunteer, a packer to fill the bags, and 2 drivers for deliveries. That's 60 volunteers each month, not counting shoppers, cleaners, our scheduler and repackers. The need is ever present. Please contact **Raissa D'Antonio, 229-9299**, or visit the website www.fishcharity.org to learn more.

Raissa D'Antonio, President