

## Annual Report 2015 - Fellowship 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, 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-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 of each week and 2 Saturdays of each month. During 2015, F.I.S.H. provided nearly 125,000 meals to approximately 13,800 hungry folks (more than 40% children), on 173 delivery days, 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. **(You too can do this!)**

To provide those meals last year, F.I.S.H. expended about \$35,000 for food. We make good use of donations from churches, organizations and individuals and we "shop" regularly at the Food Bank of Alaska, which is essentially a warehouse for food pantries like FISH. Our one big fund-raiser each year is a Golf Tournament. **The 2016 tournament will be on June 4.** New committee members are always welcome. Chuck Eddy began the tournament in 1992 and is still active in maintaining its success. In 2015, the Golf Tournament earned a record \$30,000. We'd like to recognize the **Lynden family of companies** as a major sponsor of the golf tournament as they provided much needed funds, golfers, and volunteers to help make the 2015 tournament a huge success.

The Golf Tournament, as well as other F.I.S.H. events, are highlighted on our website, [www.fishcharity.org](http://www.fishcharity.org) F.I.S.H. will participate in the PFD Pick-Click-Give program again in 2016. We received over \$5000 in 2015 from this campaign. We are continuing with community based fundraising ideas. We are part of the **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** program which brings in over \$200 a month. (link your FM Rewards card to FISH and we receive funds every quarter!). CROP walk began again in Anchorage and chose FISH as a recipient of local funding. Many thanks to those walkers who braved the rain and the Girl Scouts who marked the trail.

NEW IN 2015 ... We hosted a Food Drive at a UAA Women's/Men's Basketball game and gathered enough food to feed 20 families. The Visit Anchorage Holiday Open House and Charity Drive collected food and funds dedicated to FISH this year! Their donations helped FISH provide food for over 200 families! St. John United Methodist church awarded FISH \$10,000 to help update the pantry and expand our storage capacity. A young man from First Congregational is working on this as his Eagle Scout project!

Nearly 15 churches and organizations throughout Anchorage contribute either a staple to the pantry (peanut butter, pasta or tuna fish), hold food and fund drives, and/or recruit volunteers. Holy Rosary Academy students help to repackage bulk supplies during the school year and St. John youth spend a full day helping to clean organize and stock the pantry. UAA OT students spent a summer day repacking food, cleaning and stocking the pantry shelves.

Many local businesses also donate substantially to F.I.S.H. Among these community-spirited folks are the members of the Nat'l Association of Letter Carriers; the letter carriers provided 3500 pounds of food for the F.I.S.H. Pantry from their annual Stamp Out Hunger campaign in May. Thankfully, **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. **Red Apple Market** donates gift cards we can use to shop for much needed supplies. 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. 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. It takes 4 people to make sure a single family receives food on each of our service days; that's 60 volunteers each month, not counting shopping, cleaning, scheduling and repacking. The need is ever present. Please contact **Raissa D'Antonio, 229-9299**, or visit the website [www.fishcharity.org](http://www.fishcharity.org) to learn more.

Raissa D'Antonio, President