

Friend In Service to Humanity (F.I.S.H) 2010 Annual Report

The 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. The St. Mary's community is a major supporter through both volunteers and donations. Additionally, St. Mary's provides peanut butter, a staple of the food pantry. F.I.S.H. continues to benefit from new energy-efficient refrigerators, freezers, and plumbing provided by generous St. Mary's donors in 2009. F.I.S.H. in turn provides a home for storing the supplies for "Helping Hands."

F.I.S.H. is a non-profit organization (501 (c) (3)), run by a seven-member Board of Directors. We have no paid staff. All activities are carried out by volunteers. Our only expenses are food and utilities. We make deliveries Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week; we added one Saturday a month beginning in September 2010. During 2010, F.I.S.H. provided 114,400 meals to 12,711 hungry folks, 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 and individuals and we "shop" regularly at the Food Bank of Alaska, which is essentially a warehouse for food pantries like FISH. Our big fund-raiser each year is the FISH Charity Golf Tournament, in its nineteenth year in 2011. Ron Pollock, Bob Bradley, and Chuck Eddy are the energy behind this fund-raiser. In 2010, the golf tournament earned \$21,000.

The golf tournament, as well as other F.I.S.H. events, is highlighted on our website, www.fishcharity.org (during the months of March to May.) F.I.S.H. also participates each year in the PFD Pick-Click-Give program and received \$1,175 for 2010.

F.I.S.H. partners with a number of churches in Anchorage. These include St. Mary's Episcopal, Amazing Grace Lutheran, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Anchor Park Methodist, Turnagain Methodist, St. John Methodist, First Presbyterian, First American Baptist, and Muldoon Community Assembly. These churches contribute either a staple to the pantry, such as baby food or tuna fish, hold food and fund drives, or recruit volunteers. Switchboard Alaska donates 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 go out to such public-spirited businesses.

Many individuals also donate substantially to F.I.S.H. Among these community-spirited folks are the members of Branch 4389, American Association of Letter Carriers; the letter carriers provided two tons of food for the F.I.S.H. Pantry from their annual Stamp Out Hunger campaign in May. The St. Mary's Youth Group took on the

daunting task of organizing this mountain of food for easy retrieval by the FISH packers (and they also put Christmas surprises in the deliveries the week before the holiday.) St. John United Methodist Church also conducts two large food drives for F.I.S.H. each year. 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!

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 must be constantly recruiting new volunteers. It takes four people to make sure a single family receives food on each of our service days; that's 50 volunteers each month. The need is ever present. Please contact **Raissa D'Antonio** at **229-9299**, to learn more.

Barbara S. Smith, President