



Annual Report 2019 - 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 2.5 Saturdays of each month an increase of 10 deliveries per month. During 2018, F.I.S.H. provided more than 135,000 meals to approximately 15,025 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 \$50,000 for direct food purchases from both the Food Bank of Alaska and retail stores. We make good use of donations from churches, organizations and individuals including the city-wide food collection Stamp Out Hunger. Our big fund-raiser each year is a Golf Tournament. The 2019 tournament will be on Friday MORNING JUNE 14. (Join the committee!) FISH depends on the success of the Golf Tournament to raise more than half of our food budget!! Please consider being a sponsor, prize donor, volunteer or golfer this year.

F.I.S.H. continues to participate in the PFD Pick-Click-Give program, and despite the dividend reduction, we still received over \$4000. We are continuing with community based fundraising ideas. 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!). CROP walk Anchorage again chose FISH as a recipient of local funding and that brought in over \$500 this year as did the Mitzvah Mall in December. The St. Mary's Bazaar generously donates enough to FISH for us to purchase nearly a month's supply of food from the Food Bank.

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, 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. Community-spirited folks include the members of the Nat'l Association of Letter Carriers; the letter carriers provided approximately 4000 pounds of food for the F.I.S.H. Pantry from their annual Stamp Out Hunger campaign in May. Also, 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