



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, office supplies and utilities. We make deliveries Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week. During 2021, F.I.S.H. made 3000 deliveries to more than 11,000 hungry folks (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 maintain the pantry, and manage our SignUpGenius account.

To provide those meals last year, F.I.S.H. expended about \$40,000 for direct food purchases from 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 F.I.S.H. free of charge for all of 2021. That was a huge help to our budget, so we are now able to include eggs for each client.

Despite the seemingly endless pandemic, FISH is able to continue our deliveries with protocols in place to protect both volunteers and clients. Drivers try to have contact free deliveries and we have plenty of masks and sanitizer on hand. We are serving many clients with covid and many who are newly housed with nearly nothing for supplies. Through donations and frugal shopping, we are also now able to provide some basic toiletries like soap, shampoo and toilet paper, along with their 3 day supply of food items and pet food as needed.

Fundraising is a challenge without in-person events, so we are very grateful to our long term supporters and generous donors. We're trying some new ideas (drive thru food and fund drives) and direct fundraising letters to sponsors. We even have a QR Code that goes directly to our Paypal Giving Fund site. This year, FISH was also awarded a \$2500 grant from Franz Bakery.

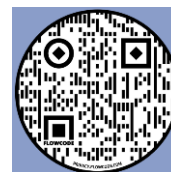
F.I.S.H. continues to participate in the PFD Pick-Click-Give program, receiving nearly \$5000 each year. We are continuing with community based fundraising ideas, as well. We are part of the **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** program which brings in nearly \$100 a month. (link your FM Rewards card to FISH and we receive funds every quarter!). A new local thrift store, Fashion Pact, is also a very recent FISH partner. Designate FISH both when you donate there and when you shop there and we'll receive \$1 for each item. We've already received over \$500! Also, when you 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 (Service High, Hanshew Middle), church groups (St. John, LDS, St. Mary's) and individuals spend extra time working to clean and stock the pantry and re-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 welcomes 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 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 re-packers. 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



Scan here to donate!