

GO FISH!

Please visit our web site www.pennridgefish.org
Penridge FISH Newsletter Summer 2017

Summer is Here...

...and Penridge FISH is as busy as ever! We had a great spring, and now it's time for Summer Lunches, School Bags and School Supplies, Fresh Garden Produce, and Client Re-registration. It seems there is never time to catch up! Before you know it, it will be time for Christmas registration again! One thing is for certain, the need for our services, for food, clothing, financial assistance, and resources, isn't going away any time soon.

We appreciate the love, grace, patience, respect and dignity with which our volunteers attempt to treat our clients. Folks who need our services come from ALL walks of life, and it is our desire to meet their needs without judgement, and with the love with which Christ has charged us to have for our fellow man.

FISH Serves Record Number of Families

Since July 1, 2016 we have registered or re-registered 790 Penridge School District families for the food pantry, clothing outlet and/or our financial assistance program. That number is a remarkable increase over previous years.

Since January 1, 2017 we have helped 95 families with \$18,000 in emergency financial assistance. Funding has been primarily for electric and other utility bills, but several homeless families have been assisted with motel stays and security deposits. We are seeing, on average 550 visits to the pantry each month, and we have distributed 155,000 lbs. of food, and 1,286 bags of clothing to families in need.

Summer Lunches for School Aged Kids

We are now collecting items for our Summer Lunches for Kids program. This program serves

school aged children who qualify for subsidized or free school breakfasts and lunches during the school year. When school lets out, families struggle to find ways to provide these meals for their kids.

In July and August, FISH will distribute a special monthly food bag to clients with school aged children. Families will also receive extra cold items including milk and cheese to help maintain a nutritious diet for their children during the summer months. If you would like to donate to this program, here is a list of suggested items:

Bottled Juice or juice box packs

Cold Cereals

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Macaroni and Cheese

Soups and Stews

Canned Tuna or Chicken

Mayonnaise

Saltine-type Crackers

Fruit packs

Applesauce Packs

Pudding and Jell-O packs

Cheese/Peanut butter Cracker packs

Granola and Snack Bars

Kid's Snacks

Hardy fruit like apples, bananas, or oranges

We are also accepting financial donations for this program so we can purchase extra milk and cheese. Please note that any donations received that are not needed for this program will be used to stock our shelves to feed other hungry families.

2017 School Bags and Supplies

Many of our families do a great job of budgeting throughout the year and meeting their most basic needs, however, there are some things that continue to create challenges for our client families each

year. One of these budget-busters is back-to-school shopping!

Pennridge FISH continues to grow its school supply program to help families meet this important needs. Children who have a decent school bag filled with supplies are more likely to succeed in school than those who do not. Please consider donating to this important program. FISH served more than 300 K-12 students last year with new backpacks filled with supplies.

Needed supplies (suggested list): Pens, Pencils, pencil sharpeners, red pens, colored pencils, college ruled composition books, college ruled loose leaf notebook paper, notebooks, 1 1/2 in.- 2 in. binders, glue sticks, METRIC rulers, blunt tip school scissors, duo-tang folders, markers, permanent markers, dry erase markers, erasers, highlighters, hand sanitizers, tape, thumb drives, pencil cases, post it notes, etc.

School supply donations should be delivered by August 14th. Bags will be distributed to FISH client families on Saturday August 19, 2017 from 9-11 am. All clients should be registered with the pantry by August 18th to participate in this program.

Gardening at FISH

A note of thanks to our volunteer, Zenta Benner, and to Todd Hurley, Sarah Larson and other volunteers from Penn Community Bank and the Perkasie Rotary Club for helping us to get our gardens back in shape. Todd and Sarah took on the veggie garden out back and are hoping to see a nice little crop of tomatoes and peppers and more throughout the summer. Members of the Rotary Club came out to weed and mulch the large flower beds that grace the front of our building, and Zenta Benner planted some lovely flowers and mulched our smaller flower bed. We appreciate this help in keeping up the FISH grounds.

If you have a backyard garden and would like to donate produce or flowers to our families in need, we will be happy to accept! All garden produce donations may be brought to the pantry during pantry hours.

Pet Food Needed

Many of our families have beloved pets, so we are now distributing donated pet foods at the pantry. If you have a heart for animals, please consider dropping off cat or dog food and treats to the pantry. We have seen many clients in tears when they find that we provide food for their pets, too!

Volunteers Needed! We have current need for clothing room volunteers (all shifts), and pantry volunteers for Friday and Saturday hours. We need folks with all types of skill sets and interests. Stop in today and pick up an application, or download a copy from our website. Current clients are not able to volunteer at this time. **All volunteers must have current criminal background checks and child abuse clearances on file at FISH.**

Meeting Notice - Mark Your Calendars

All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend our volunteer board meetings. The FISH Board meets every other month on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Meetings are about an hour in length. We will be taking a break over the summer and will resume meetings on Monday, September 11th. (No meeting on Labor Day)

Pennridge FISH is open Monday & Wednesday 3-5 pm, Thursday 6-8 pm, Friday & Saturday 9-11 am.

We have an active Social Media presence. If you want the latest news from FISH, please follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Pennridge FISH is a 501 [c] 3 non-profit, charitable organization and is registered with the State of Pennsylvania. Donations made to FISH are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration and financial information of Pennridge FISH Organization, Inc. may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.