

JANUARY 2021

FISH LINES NEWSLETTER

Holiday Programs: FISH Thanks Our Islands



The outpouring of support from the Sanibel-Captiva community has risen to the occasion for FISH of SanCap holiday programs. The pandemic has created extra stress for many more families this year who are trying to provide food, gifts, and a joyous time for their families and children. This year the community has gone above and beyond to ensure that there are holiday meals on family's tables and toys under the tree for our youngest neighbors. FISH provided meals for over 1500 neighbors for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays combined and provided 287 gifts for children and families

"From additional donations to our Food Pantry as well as Toy Drive, Adopt a Family and Food Basket gifts and contributions, the community really came to the rescue for our neighbors in need," stated Maria Espinoza, Food Program Director for FISH. The agency reports a higher than average assistance requests during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Using COVID-19 precautionary measures such as facemasks, hand sanitizing and social distancing, volunteers and staff assembled food baskets, and sorted toys at the FISH Walk-in Center. FISH volunteers delivered food and gifts by car, bike, and on foot for both Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

"Our community is the ultimate example of the FISH 'neighbors helping neighbors' motto. Through natural disasters and now global pandemics, we've been able to keep pace with the rising demand for services all because of the tremendous generosity of islanders. This holiday season hundreds of families will be celebrating with all the food and gifts they need to end a difficult year on a positive note," said Alicia Tighe Orgera, Executive Director, FISH.

Partners for the Holiday programs included Bailey's General Store, Chase Bank, Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, Chase Bank and The Great White Grill all of whom donated toward the food baskets; The Ashton, Kirchner Group of Keller Williams Realty, The Great White Grill, The Sanibel-Captiva Association of Realtors, The Rauschenberg Foundation, Bat Yam Temple of the Islands, Sanibel Police Department and Toys Ahoy, all of whom donated toward the Toy Drive and Adopt a Family programs; Friends Who Care, who donated gift cards; community members who donated resources and FISH volunteers, who donated time, energy and effort.



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- 2 **Kiwanis Cereal Drive**
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All workshops and offerings are virtual until further notice due to COVID-19.

2430-B Periwinkle Way
Sanibel FL 33957
239.472.4775
fishofsancap.org
email: info@fishofsancap.org

neighbors helping neighbors





FOOD NEWS

FISH LINES

ROTARY CLUB DISTRIBUTES FOOD



Our Pantry shelves run low on essentials daily, and our volunteers are working around the clock to assist with grocery pick-ups and stocking our shelves. A huge thank you to the **Rotary Club of Sanibel Captiva** who distributed boxes of food outside our Food Pantry. The FISH Food Pantry provides supplemental food to island residents, employees, and visitors in need five days a week, year round.

In 2020, we have distributed 246,545 pounds of food, equating to 205,454 meals, to those that live or work on the islands.

MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY

The Kiwanis Club of Sanibel & Captiva collected cereal and breakfast foods for our Food Pantry during the month of December, and **Sanibel Captiva Community Bank** was a drop off location. Additionally, **John R. Wood Properties** donated a truckload a cereal to the pantry. Thank you to all others who participated in this annual cereal collection event.



BIG THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- *Bailey's General Store for weekly donations and drop off site*
- *Bank of the Islands, an ongoing non-perishable Food Pantry donation site*
- *Jerry's Foods for weekly donations*
- *Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, John R. Wood Properties and Kiwanis Sanibel/Captiva for collecting cereal and breakfast foods in December*
- *Sanibel Island Farmer's Market 'Farm 2 FISH' program.*
- *Chase Bank and The Sanctuary Golf Club for holding a food drive on behalf of FISH*

We cannot thank you enough for your support.



SOCIAL SERVICES

FISH LINES

VIRTUAL FRIENDLY FACES LUNCHEON



FISH OF SANCAP, with George & Wendy's Seafood Grill, continues the community-wide Friendly Faces Luncheon in a virtual format! The first virtual luncheon held in December was a huge success. Twenty community members joined the lunch where games, conversation and socialization through the Zoom platform brought many smiles, laughter and renewed connections.

Please join FISH and community members on Tues., Jan.19 for their second interactive virtual Friendly Faces Lunch. George & Wendy's will prepare the lunch and FISH volunteers will deliver to all islanders. Also included are activities, games and lots of good 'ole conversation. Again, FISH is covering the cost for everyone joining the Jan. 19 luncheon. "We hope community members won't let technology get in the way, as we want everyone to join us," says Susan Alexander, Senior Services & Community Engagement Director, FISH. "Our staff can help you with any technology concerns. We want everyone to join the fun, catch up with friends from the past and make new connections."

The Friendly Faces lunch consists of a cold entree, side, water bottle and dessert. Meal choice details are provided upon sign-up. Reservations and meal choices are required by Jan. 15 to Susan Alexander or Anthony Morales at the FISH Walk-In-Center, 239-472-4775. Once registered, FISH will provide an emailed link and meeting ID number for access. For more information or for assistance with registration and/or Zoom instructions, please contact FISH.

BIG THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



- *George & Wendy's Seafood Grille, provider of delicious food choices for our monthly luncheon*
- *FISH Volunteers who deliver Friendly Faces meals to guests*





SOCIAL SERVICES

FISH LINES

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: CARING FOR A PERSON WITH MEMORY IMPAIRMENT

FISH of SanCap and Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center is offering a presentation, Caring for a Person With Memory Impairment on Mon., Jan. 25 beginning at 10:00 am via Zoom.



Jennifer Eno, Community and Caregiver Educator, Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center will offer a brief overview of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia as well as tips on how to successfully care for a person with memory impairment. Alzheimer's is a complicated disease. Many times the term Alzheimer's is used when speaking about any type of memory loss. Ms. Eno will discuss all dementia-related diseases, of which Alzheimer's is just one. She will offer facts and information about neurocognitive diseases that affect not only patients but also their family and friends.

Jennifer Eno served in the Peace Corps as a Health worker after obtaining her degree in Health Services Administration from UCF. Since returning from her Peace Corps post in the Central Pacific, she has spent the last 10 years working in senior care in Southwest Florida. Inspired by her grandmother who had Alzheimer's she has a passion for helping those with memory impairments. Jennifer joined the Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center in July 2020.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: SCAMS, IDENTITY THEFT AND COVID - RECOGNIZING RED FLAGS



FISH, with Lee County Sheriff's Office, is offering a community presentation, Scams, Identity Theft and COVID: Recognizing Red Flags, on Mon., Feb. 8, 2021, beginning at 10:00am. This presentation will be held virtually via Zoom.

Dr. Kim Swanson, *Lee County Sheriff's Office*, will discuss new 'scam' calls targeting the general public that relate to COVID and the vaccine, pandemic updates or products, as well as other identity theft schemes. Dr. Swanson will offer ideas for self-protection and provide answers and tips to help citizens recognize red flags. Dr. Kim Swanson has been working at the Lee County Sheriff's Office for the last 25 years where she has served as a Sheriff's Deputy and a Public Information Officer. She is currently a Crime Prevention Specialist in the Community Response Unit (CRU).

BIG THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- *Lee County Sheriff's Office*
- *Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center*

We invite you to join these very informative discussions. Please RSVP by contacting Susan Alexander or Anthony Morales at FISH, 239-472-4775. Once registered, we will provide a link with Zoom call instructions



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Jack Alexander, who joined the FISH Board in 2015 as Treasurer, has retired as of Dec. 31, 2020. Thank you Jack for your attention to detail in preparing our financial statements and dedication to the FISH organization.



Jack Meng's board term ended as of Dec. 31, 2020. Jack joined the FISH Board in 2019 as a director who provided valuable experience to the team, particularly with strategic planning and board leadership. He will continue to volunteer with his wife, Inky and advocate for FISH. Thank you for your commitment to FISH.

WITH SYMPATHY

Dr. Donald Vap, husband of FISH volunteer Jan Vap, recently passed. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with Jan and her family during this difficult time.

Margaret White, long time Sanibel resident and FISH volunteer and advocate, recently passed. Margaret was predeceased by her husband, Al, who served as a Treasurer of FISH. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time.

HOLIDAY SUCCESS!

So much cheer was spread throughout the holidays thanks to you! From everyone at FISH, Happy New Year!

OUR 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sheridan Snell
Chair

Maggi Feiner
President & CEO

Lisa Ann Miller, M.D.
Vice Chair

Jim Metzler, Ph.D.
Treasurer

Willy Ocasio
Secretary

Robert Bowden

Melissa Congress

John Morse

Jim Nelson

Kathy Samson

Ellen Sloan

Ann-Marie Wildman

Nicole McHale
Past Chair

Alicia Tighe Orgera
Executive Director



neighbors helping neighbors



stay connected to FISH by visiting us on  or at our website: fishofsancap.org





WE NEED GREAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

Although certain duties are limited during the COVID crisis, **we still need volunteers!** Please consider our volunteers opportunities, including phone duty, meal delivery, food pantry, and more. *Contact Maria Espinoza, 239-472-0404, for details. Click on the links below for a calendar download for the following services:*

[January Phone Duty](#)

[January Meal Delivery](#)

RESOURCES

Below are online shopping links to make your generosity that much easier. An online account is required for ordering. For direct shipments to our Food Pantry, please send to: *FISH c/o Food Pantry, 2430-B Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957.* Please include a gift note so we know who it's from and can acknowledge accordingly! *As always, thank you for thinking of our neighbors in need.*

[Amazon Prime Pantry](#)

[Bailey's General Store](#)

[Jerry's Foods](#)

[Publix](#)

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED

Food is one of our most basic survival needs, yet there is a significant portion of our community who struggle to put food on the table. We are working daily to reduce that number by providing assistance through our food programs thanks to our generous donors, volunteers, community partners, and staff. We are proud to offer supplemental groceries to our island neighbors five days a week by way of our 'Choice' Food Pantry. *We are open from 10:00am-3:45pm Monday—Friday, allowing our clients to shop according to their own life schedules that may otherwise prevent them from getting the resources they need.*

Our Food Pantry is always in need of the following items:

- Canned protein
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Cereal
- Crackers
- Nut butters and jellies
- Pasta, rice, beans
- Ready-to-eat meals and soups
- Visit our [FOOD PANTRY PAGE](#) to learn more

During the COVID-19 health crisis, Food Pantry patrons will not be allowed to shop but instead will be handed bags of food.

neighbors helping neighbors



stay connected to FISH by visiting us on [f](#) or at our website: fishofsancap.org

ABOUT FISH

FISH of SanCap is a nonprofit, staffed by more than 170 volunteers. Professionals staff the Walk-in Center and are available Mon. through Fri. to assist islanders and visitors with an array of services and programs. FISH is Sanibel and Captiva's only *neighbors helping neighbors* organization offering a range of human services including:

- **Temporary Emergency Financial Assistance**
- **Food Pantry**
- **Medical Equipment Loan**
- **Hurricane Packets**
- **Hot Meals Program**
- **Kid's Food Backpack**
- **Community Seminars**
- **Youth Scholarships**
- **Referrals & Resources**
- **Monthly Luncheon and much more!**

FOOD PANTRY DROP-OFF INFO

We accept donations to help stock our Food Pantry. Items must be unopened, unexpired non-perishables.

Perishable items accepted Mon-Fri from 8am-3:30pm at the Walk-in Center

Other drop off sites include:

- **Bailey's General Store**
- **Bank of the Islands**
- **Sanibel Fire Station**
- **South Seas Main Gate**



NAVIGATING UNCHARTED WATERS TOGETHER



neighbors helping neighbors **THROUGH COVID-19**

In these times of uncertainty and growing needs, FISH remains steadfast in providing both **help and hope** to our island communities. Thanks to generous donors, volunteers and neighbors like you, **these FISH programs—our largest and most critical—have not missed a beat:**

- Food Pantry
- Meals-by-FISH meal delivery
- Food backpacks for children
- Emergency financial assistance

Whether feeding families, providing financial relief for rent and medical bills, or making daily phone calls and visits via FaceTime, Skype or Zoom, we continue to help our neighbors in meeting their physical, mental and emotional needs. As always, we are committed to being a safety net for all. **At the end of the day, our message is simple—FISH is for everyone.**

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW needs assistance during these difficult times, please call us at **239.472.0404**. For more info about FISH services, visit **fishofsancap.org**.



neighbors helping neighbors

food programs • **island based education** • **social & senior services** • **helping hands & financial assistance**

2430-B Periwinkle Way, Sanibel FL 33957 **239.472.4775** • **fishofsancap.org**



FISH FACTS

Even before COVID-19, the need for FISH emergency programs has grown significantly over the past year. Thank you for helping to meet these very important needs in all circumstances.

FOOD PANTRY January - December

2020

246,545 lbs
equating to
205,454 meals

BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED January - December

2019 **2020**

1170 **1974**

MEALS-BY-FISH DELIVERY January - December

2019 **2020**

3260 **6412**

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE January - December

2019 **2020**

466 Instances

sponsored by:

Robert & Dixie Bowden





Jan-Feb 2021

community events & workshops

food programs • **island based education** • **social & senior services** • **helping hands & financial assistance**

COMMUNITY EVENT: *Friendly Faces Luncheon*

Tues, Jan 19, Noon—Virtual via Zoom

The lunch, prepared by George & Wendy's and delivered by FISH volunteers to islanders, will include activities, games and lots of good 'ole conversation. **FISH is treating all participants to the Jan 19 lunch.** Reservations and meal choices are required by Jan 15.

COMMUNITY EVENT: *Caring for a Person With Memory Impairment*

Mon, Jan 25, 10:00a—Virtual via Zoom

Jennifer Eno, Community and Caregiver Educator, Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center will offer a brief overview of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia as well as tips on how to successfully care for a person with memory impairment. Ms. Eno will offer facts and information about neurocognitive diseases that affect not only patients but also their family and friends.

COMMUNITY EVENT: *Scams, Identity Theft & COVID: Recognizing Red Flags*

Mon, Feb 8, 10:00a—Virtual via Zoom

Dr. Kim Swanson, Lee County Sheriff's Office, will discuss new 'scam' calls targeting the general public that relate to COVID and the vaccine, pandemic updates or products, as well as other identity theft schemes. Dr. Swanson will offer ideas for self-protection and provide answers and tips to help citizens recognize red flags.

For more info or to RSVP for workshops and events, please contact Susan Alexander or Anthony Morales at FISH, 239.472.4775

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Walk-In Center & Food Pantry will be CLOSED:

Fri, Jan 1

Mon, Feb 15

