

MAY 2021

FISH LINES NEWSLETTER

FISH HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PACKET



Each year, we work with the City of Sanibel, Lee County Emergency Management, local hotels and others to plan for hurricane season. We then develop our Hurricane Resource Packet which provides detailed information on where to go, what to do, and how to prepare in the event of an approaching storm. The packet is available to anyone who requests it.

Our team of volunteers verify evacuation routes, flood zones, hotels with generators, shelters, pet accommodations, etc. in order to update the packet annually. "The safety of our neighbors is of utmost importance. We want to make sure everyone has reliable information on hand in case a storm approaches," says Susan Alexander, Senior Services and Community Engagement Director.

Due to shifting travel schedules of seasonal residents, many islanders may stay on the islands for, sometimes, their first-ever hurricane season. To help them prepare for hurricane season, we are offering a packet of vital information and checklists. Our volunteers also work with the most vulnerable residents, in collaboration with other stakeholders like the City of Sanibel, to ensure their annual emergency evacuation plan is up to date so that our Hurricane Committee can keep in touch with them before, during, and after storms. In 2020, FISH experienced a 34% increase in hurricane information packet distribution and we expect distribution to increase once again for the 2021 hurricane season.

We cannot stress enough the importance of making an evacuation plan, gathering emergency supplies, creating lists of contacts and medicine, and other helpful details listed in the packet. Like last year, it is extremely important to frequently check in with local officials or us to ensure the most up to date information is on hand, as things may change due to COVID-19. To receive a Hurricane Resource Packet, please contact the Walk-In Center at 239-472-4775 or email manuela@fishofsancap.org. Packets can also be viewed from our website, www.fishofsancap.org. Phone calls may be arranged for those who would like a more detailed discussion on how to prepare during hurricane season.

- 2 Hurricane Flyer
- 3 COVID Vaccination Sites
- 4 COVID Participant Thanks
- 5 Senior Needs Assessment
- 5 Great Nonprofits Badge
- 5 In Memory Of
- 6 Youth Summer Scholarships
- 7 Cooking With Leslie
- 8 Cooking With Leslie Flyer
- 9 Volunteer Page
- 9 Resources
- 10 Volunteers in Action
- 11 Testimonials
- 12 Food Programs
- 13 Friendly Faces Flyer

The Walk-In Center and Food Pantry will be closed on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day



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





ARE YOU PREPARED? GET A HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PACKET

neighbors helping neighbors

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE!

Each year, FISH OF SANCAP works with officials and others to plan for hurricane season. They develop a Hurricane Resource Packet providing information on where to go, what to do, and how to prepare in the event of an approaching storm. Annually, FISH verifies evacuation routes, flood zones, hotels with generators, shelters, pet accommodations, etc.

PLANNING IS KEY!

It's very important to create an evacuation plan, gather emergency supplies, update contact lists, keep prescriptions on hand and prepare ahead of time. Check frequently with local officials or FISH to ensure the most up to date information is available, as things may change due to COVID-19.

PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE!

To receive a FISH Hurricane Preparedness Resource Packet, please contact the Walk-In Center at 239-472-4775 or visit the FISH website, www.fishofsancap.org. Packets are available to anyone who requests one.



Available Now!

LOCATION:

View on FISH website
Request a mailed copy
Arrange pick up

Contact:

Susan Alexander
Manuela Martinez
FISH OF SANCAP
239-472-4775



neighbors helping neighbors

FISH continues 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.

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

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SECOND DOSES COMPLETE; ANOTHER SANIBEL SITE SET FOR MAY 7 AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

The second does of the Pfizer vaccine was given on Friday, April 30 at the Sanibel Community House. Thank you to everyone that made this opportunity available for our island neighbors including the Sanibel & Captiva Rotarians, Sanibel Community House and The Sanctuary Golf Club Foundation! We have secured **another opportunity** for community members to receive the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine on Friday, May 7 between 9:00am-Noon. There will be 150 doses available and interested parties need to schedule an appointment with us by calling 239-472-4775. We are encouraging island businesses to share this information with their employees who are interested in receiving the J&J COVID-19 vaccination. *“It’s so important for Essential workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, Bailey’s staff are in contact with so many people, we are encouraging our employees to take advantage of this vaccine opportunity on island.” Bailie Johnson*

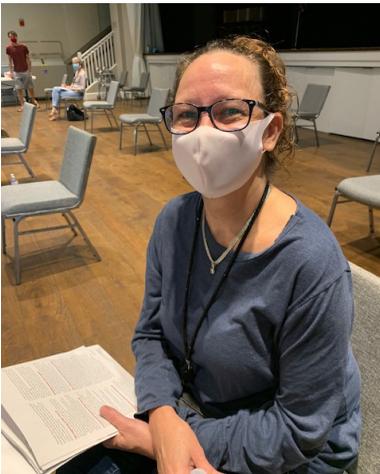




OUR NEIGHBORS APPRECIATE YOU!

So many are appreciative of our ability to secure COVID-19 Vaccination sites! Here's what our neighbors are saying:

- *"I heard about the vaccines on island, called FISH on a Monday and receive my first vaccine 4 days later. I thought it was great because it's close to home and very convenient." Anna Benza*
- *"I'm a long time Sanibel resident – finally someone had the good sense to bring it here! I'm just glad FISH figured it out, thank you!" Charlie Morgan (Standing behind her Mary Holden, "As a retired nurse, I love volunteering for FISH...it's like my second home!")*
- *"I had no luck trying to get a vaccine on-line and had given up trying. I thought it just must not be meant to be. But then, someone I work for told me about the vaccines. Shortly after that I got my appointment pretty fast - I'm relieved." Ernest Watts*
- *"FISH does a lot for me. I have a bad hip and knee and that means mobility issues to go off and on island. So hearing I could just go down the road was great news. I trusted FISH and it has been so convenient. It's just fantastic!" John Quillin*
- *"Very excited to get my second vaccine today. Our employees from Billy's Bike Rental had the vaccine available to them as well as my 90 year old father-in-law. It's taken all the stress away for my wife and me because the whole process has been a lot easier. It's been good, very convenient not having to stand in a long line." Billy Kirkland*





SOCIAL SERVICES

FISH LINES

SENIOR SURVEY LAUNCHED COMMUNITY LINK NOW AVAILABLE

In early April, 3,000 households with those aged 55 or older across Sanibel and Captiva received a request by mail from us to complete a survey addressing an array of topics related to living on the islands. Funded by the Charitable Foundation of the Islands (CFI) and facilitated by Polco, the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA), is a national benchmark survey that will allow us and other island organizations to have a clearer understanding of the needs currently being met and gaps in services to the aging population of Sanibel and Captiva. The households that received the mailed survey were chosen at random.

Beginning April 30 – May 14, the Sanibel and Captiva community who are aged 55+ will have the opportunity to participate in the survey online at <https://polco.us/sqe485>. If residents received a survey invitation in the mail, it is very important to complete that version rather than the open participation survey. **Please note this survey is only open to Sanibel and Captiva residents as a household aged 55 or over.**

“Our hope is that we’ll receive significant participation to create a really meaningful set of data about our 55+ islanders,” states FISH. “We are focused on the growth and development of our senior services and this is a huge step to gathering statistically significant data to guide our decision making in concert with the information we collect internally.”

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO EARN OUR GREAT NONPROFIT BADGE FOR 2021

If you love our work then tell the world! You have an opportunity to help us make even more of a difference in our community. GreatNonprofits, a review site like TripAdvisor, is honoring highly reviewed nonprofits with their 2021 Top-Rated Awards. Won't you help us raise visibility for our work by posting a review of your experience with us? All reviews will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It's easy and only takes 3 minutes! Go to <https://conta.cc/3fqmpF3>

IN LOVING MEMORY

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bill Taylor, a former FISH volunteer. Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time.

BIG THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS





SOCIAL SERVICES

FISH LINES

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

As the school year winds down, many households are wondering what summer care will look like. Uncertainty surrounding childcare and summer camps adds additional stress to working families. We understand the challenges of finding appropriate programs and the costs associated with summer childcare and continue to provide financial assistance in the form of youth scholarships for summer programs.

“FISH offers scholarships for summer programs every year to ensure children remain active and in enriching environments when they’re out of school,” says Maria Espinoza, Assistant Executive Director, FISH. “This year, much like 2020, will be extremely complex for our families. Some offerings that were available pre-pandemic continue to have restrictions or shortened schedules if they are available at all. It’s going to be tough for families.”

FISH remains in close contact with area camp directors to have knowledge of local programs they can refer families to both on and off-island. “We continue to work with the Sanibel Recreation Center and CECI, as well as some off-island locations so that our families have an array of options,” added Espinoza. “We are ready to assist families through our Summer Youth Scholarship Program which provides financial assistance for camp sessions and is supported by private donors and grant funding from the Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Foundation and the Sanibel Captiva Lions Club.”

“Last year, with the COVID crisis, loss of work hours for both myself and my husband and the varied school schedule, I had a hard time finding a summer camp for my three boys,” says Patti, island worker. “FISH helped me find age-appropriate programs that fit our schedule and budget. They were able to offer partial assistance with the tuition, which was so helpful since we were – and still are – finding it difficult to keep up with bills. Their scholarship really helped us keep our kids active while allowing us to continue working and remain somewhat sane through all of this chaos.” Patti notes her children really enjoy the opportunity to socialize with friends over the summer and they are looking forward to having an activity filled summer again this year.

Scholarship assistance is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and eligibility is determined through a review of income and expense documentation. Scholarship amounts vary depending upon the length and cost of the program and the family’s financial status. Available funding is limited, and scholarships may cover only a portion of the cost. To learn more and to determine eligibility, please contact Nitza Lopez, Social Services Director, at 239-472-4775.

BIG THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS





'ZOOM' COOKING WITH LESLIE ADAMS -- A NEW, VIRTUAL COOKING SERIES OFFERED BY FISH



We are excited to announce our new virtual series, Zoom Cooking With Leslie Adams. The kick-off cooking event will be held by Zoom on Wed., May 19 from 2:00-3:00pm and will be offered monthly. Registration is required.

Tasty recipes will be presented in a cooking class style as participants cook together, virtually, as a group. Ingredients will be home delivered to those living on Sanibel or Captiva the day of the event and are compliments of FISH of SANCAP. Participants should have cookware and utensils on hand. All recipes are geared toward smaller portion sizes. This month's recipe is Chicken Picatta, Roasted Baby Bliss Potatoes with Fresh Parsley,

Charred Asparagus, Baby Green Salad with French Vinaigrette, Heirloom Tomatoes & Gorgonzola and a sweet treat. Leslie Adams, chef and owner of Sanibel Captiva Catering, LLC/Catering by Leslie Adams, will lead the cooking lesson.

Adams is the former owner of award-winning Rosie's Deli on Sanibel. After six years of ownership, Leslie sold the deli to devote her energy and talents as a catering and private chef service. She was trained at The California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and expanded her expertise, techniques, and repertoire by attending classes at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. She has been a caterer and private chef on Sanibel and Captiva Islands for 14 years and, with her high school-aged son, are residents of Sanibel.

"We hope our neighbors will join us for this fun interactive online workshop," says Susan Alexander, Senior Services and Community Engagement Director, FISH. "Everyone is certain to learn new recipes and beneficial cooking tips and techniques while satisfying their palate."

Please register no later than May 15, 2021 by contacting Susan Alexander or Manuela Martinez at the FISH Walk-In-Center, 239-472-4775. Once registered, FISH will provide a link and meeting ID number for access to the Zoom webinar.

To all the moms in our community, we wish you a very Happy Mother's Day.

And, a very special Mother's Day wish to our Executive Director, Alicia Tighe Orgera, who welcomed a beautiful baby boy last month.

Congratulations Alicia and Ryan!

HAPPY
mother's
DAY



VIRTUAL 'ZOOM' COOKING! WITH LESLIE ADAMS & FISH OF SANCAP

neighbors helping neighbors

COOKING WITH LESLIE

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

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Zoom instructions will be provided upon RSVP



neighbors helping neighbors

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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:*

[May Phone Duty](#)

[May 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

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

You shop. Amazon gives. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com



neighbors helping neighbors



stay connected to FISH by visiting us on 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**
- **South Seas Main Gate**





OUR VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION!

From assembling Backpacks, stocking Food Pantry shelves, delivering Smile Boxes and more, you are our **TRUE SUPERHEROES**





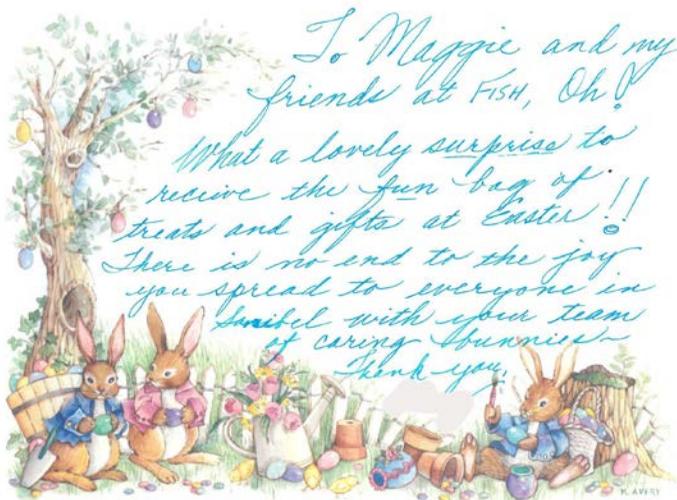
OUR NEIGHBORS APPRECIATE YOU!

Because of you, we are able to change the lives of our island neighbors. Thank you for your support of FISH of SanCap!

Thanking
 you for your ^{services}
 wonderful & received
 vaccine at Comm.
 House and you all
 were so well prepared,
 nice, helpful!!
 Thank you,



March 30, 2021
 Dear Staff of F.I.S.H.
 I just wanted to Thank you
 for the services you provide!
 My mother has been visiting
 Samuel for the last 20 years during
 the winter. After the passing of my
 Dad, Mom would fly to Florida instead
 of driving. Since my Mother had no car
 she used your services to get back &
 forth to the doctors & pick up prescriptions.
 Thank you for your part in
 keeping my Mother healthy while she
 got away from the cold winters in
 NY.



To Maggie and my
 friends at FISH, Oh!
 What a lovely surprise to
 receive the fun bag of
 treats and gifts at Easter!!
 There is no end to the joy
 you spread to everyone in
 Samuel with your team
 of caring business.
 Thank you,

4/17
 Dear FISH,
 we cannot
 begin to thank you
 for your service!
 Dad (age 90) said this
 was "his best trip to
 Samuel ever" ~ and
 we have been coming
 here since 1967.
 Thank You all!





neighbors helping neighbors **FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY**

FISH FOOD PROGRAMS

People are often surprised to hear the island communities are home to food assistance programs. They are even more surprised to hear *how often these food programs are utilized by a wide range of people with varied circumstances*. No community is immune to food insecurity, and we at FISH work daily to ensure that no islander is deciding between feeding their family or paying rent, childcare or medical bills. Nourishing our community is just another example of neighbors helping neighbors.



FOOD PANTRY

FISH offers nutritious supplemental groceries at our Walk-in Center five days a week from 10a-3:45p allowing islanders to shop for the resources they need. *In 2020, FISH distributed 246,545 pounds of food through 6,407 visits to our food pantry, and over 3,000 individuals were served equating to 205,454 meals.*



MEALS-BY-FISH

Our Meals-by-FISH program ensures all islanders, regardless of mobility constraints, have access to at least one hot meal per day, and fresh meals seven days a week. Whether for island seniors who no longer cook or drive, or residents who could temporarily use assistance—such as following surgery or illness—our volunteers deliver nutritious meals to neighbors. *In 2020, volunteers delivered 6,412 meals.*

For information on pantry needs, drop-off locations and how YOU can help feed the need, visit fishofsancap.org

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Nutrition is fundamental to academic achievement. Our backpack program gives island children in need nutritious foods and snacks to sustain them over the weekends and school breaks. In addition, each family receives a weekly kid-friendly fresh meal to prepare together. *In 2020, students received 1,974 backpacks.*

ad sponsored by:



HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Guaranteeing a holiday meal to our island neighbors in need is not only a warm way for our community to give back during the holiday seasons, but also relieves families of the stress of providing it during what can be a financially strained time. *In 2020, 517 baskets with all the fixings for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas meals were distributed.*



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COME ONE, COME ALL! VIRTUAL FRIENDLY FACES LUNCHEON

neighbors helping neighbors

FRIENDLY FACES

Everyone is invited to our popular community-wide virtual social gathering! Please join Friendly Faces on

TUESDAY, MAY 18 AT NOON

George & Wendy's will prepare a delicious meal and FISH volunteers will deliver meals to all islanders between 11:30am-noon. **The cost of the May luncheon is waived and complimentary to all participants.** Call log in begins at noon.

All community members are welcome and we'd be happy to have you! Please join us for lunch, activities, fun and lot of laughs!



DATE:
Tuesday, May 18

TIME:
Meal delivery beginning at 11:30 am
Call log in begins at Noon

LOCATION:
Virtual Zoom Call

RSVP:
By May 14 to FISH
239-472-4775

Meal selections and Zoom instructions will be provided when you RSVP



neighbors helping neighbors

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