

# FISH LINES NEWSLETTER

## Maggi Feiner, Maria Espinoza Finalists for ENPY Awards



The Cape Coral Community Foundation (CCCF), Annual ENPYs – Excellence in Nonprofit Performance Yearly awards – features Maggi Feiner, nominated for Nonprofit Executive of the Year and Maria Espinoza, nominated for Nonprofit Employee of the Year. Each was one of 36 finalists chosen out of the over 160 nominations received this year.

Over 17 years ago, Maggi Feiner delivered meals to housebound Sanibel and Captiva residents as a volunteer for FISH. Since then, Maggi has been a constant in the long history of Sanibel and Captiva’s

‘neighbors helping neighbors’ social service agency. Her volunteerism has turned into a labor of love and a legacy of neighborly generosity. Maggi has grown the organization into a full-service wrap-around social service agency that today operates with over 175 volunteers, 8 professional staff members, many programs and services, and a \$1.8 million budget. And, she does it all without accepting a salary. “It’s such an honor to be included as a finalist in this category. FISH represents an army of selfless people who work hard to promote a positive impact on our remarkable community. It takes a village . . . and I am proud to be a part of the FISH family that helps our neighbors,” says Feiner.

Maria Espinoza has been with FISH since 2017, when she began with the organization after Hurricane Irma as a volunteer. Her commitment to FISH’s cause made her an obvious choice to bring on as a full-time employee. She soon became the Walk-In Center Manager, Director of Food Programs, and now Assistant Executive Director, proving herself a committed organization advocate. Maria exemplifies professionalism and a can-do spirit. She doesn’t take no for an answer when solving problems for those in need—always putting FISH families at the forefront of any decision making. “I’m so grateful for the nomination and to be recognized alongside so many wonderful nonprofit professionals who go above and beyond to meet the needs of our community. It is a privilege to be able to come to work every day and make an impact in people’s lives. I’m constantly motivated and encouraged by the support of the FISH Board and exceptional team of dedicated staff and volunteers,” says Espinoza.



The ENPY Awards highlighting the efforts of Southwest Florida nonprofits and the accomplishments of nonprofit leaders will collectively be recognized on a special live televised broadcast airing across Southwest Florida. Finalists and winners will be recognized during the televised event on Oct. 19, 2021 beginning at 7:30pm. Viewers may join the live event on CTN Television for Southwest Florida by live stream at CTNtelevision.com.

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The Walk-In Center and Food Pantry will be **closed** on Monday, Oct. 11

2430-B Periwinkle Way

Sanibel FL 33957

239.472.4775

[fishofsancap.org](http://fishofsancap.org)

email: [info@fishofsancap.org](mailto:info@fishofsancap.org)





## FISH Volunteer Mary Holden, Partner Community House Named Finalists for ENPY Awards

FISH volunteer Mary Holden was nominated for the Paul Sanborn Service Above Self Award and The Sanibel Community Association – the Community House -- was nominated for Business Impact Partner of the Year Award as a business who supports nonprofits and the community. The awards, hosted by the Cape Coral Community Foundation (CCCF), recognize those doing work to better communities and chose 36 finalists out of the over 160 nominations received this year.



The Paul Sanborn Service Above Self Award is awarded to a southwest Florida citizen who exemplifies the spirit of ‘Service Above Self’ in memory of Paul Sanborn, one of Cape Coral’s earliest residents who passed away in July of 2017. FISH nominated volunteer Mary Holden who has dedicated her talents to almost every service area FISH offers since 2018. Mary, a retired nurse, is always willing to step in when needed and offers ideas on how to streamline processes to better serve our neighbors. She is passionate about helping residents of Sanibel and Captiva, especially the senior population and has dedicated an extraordinary amount of time to one elderly woman in particular. Through her work with FISH, Mary

touches the lives of many within the Sanibel and Captiva communities. She is so well known to many that she is often requested as a delivery or well-check person by those FISH serves. Her smile is infectious, her conversation engaging and stimulating – Mary is one that exemplifies the spirit of FISH’s ‘neighbors helping neighbors’ motto. She is driven by her passion to help others is truly in service to the community as a whole.

The Sanibel Community Association, ‘The Community House’, is the islands’ “home” where friends and residents meet to socialize through education, culture, events, and programs presented by the Sanibel Community Association. They have remained a steadfast partner of FISH and the island community who is committed to improving the lives of those living, visiting, and working on Sanibel and Captiva, in complete alignment with FISH’s mission. They have assisted FISH over the years by providing space for their annual 10K Race, annual meeting and volunteer recognition luncheon, community workshops and gatherings, and as the sole location for the pop-up COVID vaccination sites orchestrated by FISH. The Community House continuously answers the call to support those in need and stands side by side with FISH to raise awareness within the community. FISH is confident that they are not only a community hero to FISH, but that many other individuals, non-profits, and businesses feel the same.



“Both Mary and the Sanibel Community House played a crucial role in helping FISH distribute over 1000 doses of the COVID vaccine to island residents. They are committed to making a positive impact within the community through their acts of service,” says Maria Espinoza, Assistant Executive Director. “We are honored to work with them in our efforts to assist our neighbors.”



## FISH Reorganizes Staff Roles

FISH is restructuring in order to maximize the talents of staff members by reorganizing current roles to better serve the island community.



Manuela Martinez, who joined the organization in the spring, is now the FISH Program Coordinator. Manuela will oversee intakes with clients to get to know their personal circumstances and how FISH can best direct services with social and senior service staff. Additionally Manuela will oversee the Food Pantry and Backpack programs in her new role. Speaking both Spanish and English, Manuela offers a unique skillset to work with the diverse community living and working on Sanibel and Captiva islands.

Heike Gosselin, another recent hire, continues with the organization as the Walk-In Center Manager. Heike will remain the front office point of contact for incoming clients and visitors while also overseeing the management of the building. She has become a vital part of the FISH organization through her kind and eager approach to assisting anyone who walks in the door.



A new title and role, Education & Outreach Director, will be held by Jennifer Pagano. In this role, Jennifer will work to increase awareness of FISH in the community through employers and other organizations in order to reach those who may be interested in volunteer opportunities or benefit from FISH services. In addition to informing the community about FISH, Jennifer will also be ears and boots on the ground for community members to communicate their observations, needs, and concerns that FISH can address as the islands' only wraparound social service organization.

"FISH is such a dynamic organization with an incredibly dynamic and driven team. We're thrilled to see these individuals and roles transform as they've all become such assets to our organization in their short time here – these roles are key to our ability to provide continued exceptional service to our neighbors in need," says Alicia Tighe Orgera, Executive Director. "In addition to these changes, we are working on a few other pieces of the FISH puzzle. Most notably, we look to hire a dedicated Senior Services Director who can not only continue our robust senior service programming, but also someone who has the training and background to really create a plan for our most vulnerable seniors as they age," says Alicia Tighe Orgera, FISH Executive Director.



## 13th Annual 10K Race 4 F.I.S.H. Goes Virtual



The Annual 10K Race, originally scheduled as a hybrid virtual and in-person event, is now completely virtual. The change to an all virtual event was made out of an abundance of caution and care for participants and islanders due to the ongoing rise in COVID-19 cases.

“We are disappointed that the race cannot take place in person again this year,” says Diane Cortese, Race Chair. “Despite the current situation, we’re hoping to see more runner participation for the virtual

version since the race can take place anywhere and at any time where all can be safe”.

Registration is open through the Fort Myers Track Club at [ftmyerstrackclub.com](http://ftmyerstrackclub.com). Runners that have previously signed up will have options, 1) to go virtual, 2) to roll over fees to the 2022 race, 3) to donate fees. Runners who participate virtually will log their resulted online through a race link. Times will be accepted at any point from when they register through Oct. 31st. Participating runners will receive a dri-fit shirt, with the Hortoon 10K logo on the front, as well as 10K medals which will be mailed to directly to them based on sign up date.

“While we will miss seeing the smiling faces of our runners and the excitement of race day, the virtual option is an important safety measure for our community and allows us to hold this very important fundraising event,” continues Cortese. Funds raised through the 10K race will benefit FISH as we continue to meet the needs of islanders for nearly 40 years, including during disasters such as the current health crisis.

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## Royal Shell Sponsors 10K Race



Royal Shell, Southwest Florida’s leading vacation rental and real estate company providing a one-stop resource for Southwest Florida’s premier destinations, is the newest sponsor of the 10K Race 4 F.I.S.H. Their team of eight will run the race virtually as a group in support of FISH and the Sanibel and Captiva communities.

“Supporting our community is one of our priorities at Royal Shell. It is a good feeling to give back, especially when helping an organization like FISH that puts more than 90% of the donations they receive into good works locally,” says Michael Polly, President.

Royal Shell Real Estate was formed in 2005. It has a strong reputation of providing legendary service and continues to grow. Royal Shell Real Estate has expanded to Fort Myers/Cape Coral, Bonita Springs, Naples and Ocala. In 2012 Royal Shell Real Estate acquired Landmark Realty Group and opened in Cashiers and Highlands in North Carolina. They are a proud member of the Leading Real Estate Companies of the World and recognized by Who’s Who Luxury Real Estate, demonstrating a mastery of knowledge of the global and local markets.



## Dream Vacations Joins 10K Race 4 F.I.S.H. as Sponsor



FISH welcomes Dream Vacations as a first time sponsor of the 10K Race. Dream Vacation Rentals, co-owned by Ryan and Nicole Block, opened in 2018. The owners have a combined 15-plus years of rental experience on Sanibel and Captiva. "Anytime we donate, the local impact is measured. There isn't anything more impactful, locally, than FISH. We're very honored to have the ability to provide some resources to further their mission," says Ryan.

## Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club Shows Support of FISH

FISH announces The Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club as a sponsor of the popular 10K Race 4 F.I.S.H., the only foot race on Sanibel. The 13th annual 10K is a virtual event this year, due to the COVID pandemic and out of extreme caution for the community.



"The Kiwanis Club and Foundation are delighted to partner with FISH in lending a helping hand to our island youth," said Kiwanis. "Club members have been dedicated to providing all youth with an array of educational opportunities for many years."

## Spoonbills, Sanibel Fire Run In Remembrance of 9/11



Earlier this month, the Sanibel Spoonbills Run Crew and members of the Sanibel Fire Department held a very special FISH 10K training run in honor of 9/11 fallen responders. Participating in the run were Greg Kerns, Joe Nygaard, Jodi Lucker, Tim Barrett, Nicole McHale and Roger Timm.

The Crew, started by Eva Vertes in 2018 and co-lead by Roger Timm, consists of 12 members that train and run together at various events.

Members of the Spoonbills Run Crew are instrumental in the planning and coordination of the annual FISH race as well as run the race themselves. This year's FISH 10K is a virtual opportunity for runners to participate while supporting the island's social service organization. Registration is open through the Fort Myers Track Club at [ftmyerstrackclub.com](http://ftmyerstrackclub.com) and runners will log their results online through a race link. Times will be accepted at any point from registration through Oct. 31st. Participating runners will receive a dri-fit shirt, with the Hortoon 10K logo on the front, as well as a 10K medal, both of which will be mailed to participants directly based on race sign up date.



# SOCIAL SERVICES

FISH LINES

## NEXT COOKING WITH LESLIE CLASS SCHEDULED

The Cooking With Leslie virtual class will be held on Thurs., Oct. 21 from 2:00-3:30pm. Interested individuals may sign up by calling FISH at 239-472-4775 and registration is required. Tasty recipes are presented in a cooking class style as participants cook together, virtually, as a group.

Leslie Adams, chef and owner of Sanibel Captiva Catering, LLC/Catering by Leslie Adams, will lead the cooking lesson. This month's recipe is Authentic Italian Bolognese Sauce with Pasta, Classic Caesar Salad, and Espresso Chocolate Mousse.

For those living on Sanibel or Captiva, FISH is happy to purchase and deliver the items on the day of the event. FISH will provide a shopping list prior to the event for those guests wanting to purchase their own ingredients.



## THANK YOU AND FAREWELL JUDIE ZIMOMRA



FISH bids farewell to City Manager Judith Zimomra, lovingly known as 'Judie Z', who officially retired as the longest serving city manager in Southwest Florida, holding her position for 20 years. "Always advocating for the vulnerable in the community, Judie was a great partner to FISH whose energy, care and compassion will be missed," notes Maggi Feiner, President & CEO.

FISH has been working with the City of Sanibel since its inception, nearly 40 years ago. "It's hard to believe Judie has been involved with FISH for half of its life," continues Feiner. "From hurricane preparedness, environmental disaster assistance, community member well checks, assistance with bringing COVID vaccines to our neighbors and more, Judie was always by our side."

Crisis and emergencies, a common thread of the Zimomra / FISH relationship, caused the two to work closely over the last 20 years. And in true 'neighbors helping neighbors' fashion, Zimomra continuously donated products for the FISH Pantry program, attended events such as the 10K Race and Go FISH Celebration, and, year after year, donated Girl Scout cookies to the Pantry for all to enjoy. FISH thanks Judie Zimomra for her support and partnership over the years. She will be greatly missed but always a part of the FISH family.



## The Sanctuary Golf Club Foundation Partnership



With funding from a one year grant awarded to FISH OF SANCAP by The Sanctuary Golf Club Foundation (SGCF), FISH is able to aid island neighbors through their Helping Hands Program. The program provides limited financial assistance for island residents and workers when they have fallen upon difficult times.

“SGCF is a committed partner that helps us provide assistance beyond what the resources of FISH can offer alone. Our partnership is a critical connection between FISH and those we serve,” says Maggi Feiner, President & CEO.

“Without the strong, caring partnership between FISH and SGCF, our island neighbors may have struggled to feed their families; may have lost their homes; may not have been able to receive critical health treatments and may have suffered in other ways. We are very grateful to have received this grant, as it is used to bridge the gap for so many community members,” Feiner continues.

Partnering with SGCF has made a difference in the lives of our island neighbors, as described in the following case study. Steve Daley, whose name have been changed for client privacy, is a single middle-aged man working in the hospitality industry on Sanibel. He is not new to FISH -- his health crisis began several years ago. Steve is always hesitant to request assistance as he does not want to ‘take from others’. However, with the uncertainty of the COVID crisis and his underlying health problems, he felt compelled to turn to FISH for help. Here is Steve’s story:

Steve has been working on Sanibel for over 25 years, living a very simple life of work and enjoying all that Sanibel has to offer – fishing, beachcombing, riding his bike. Steve has few friends and no family close by; but for work, he rarely spends time with others. “I see my neighbors when I get my mail, but other than that, I usually spend my off time alone,” says Steve.

Steve became a member of the FISH Food Pantry, visiting once or twice a month to supplement his grocery needs, about five years ago. He knows everyone by name and always waves hello to volunteers and staff. A few years later, he began experiencing headaches, back pain, muscle weakness and nausea. He didn’t think much of it, and let it go for weeks before visiting an island doctor where it was discovered he had a spinal tumor. His team of doctors arranged to surgically remove the tumor and chemotherapy and radiation treatment was scheduled.



## Sanctuary Golf Club Foundation Partnership Cont'd



As he does not drive, Steve approached FISH for transportation assistance to his treatment appointments. FISH arranged for a team of volunteers to rotate driving him to appointments, and ordered supplemental products like clear liquids and superfood smoothie mixes to help him through his toughest days. Steve missed a lot of work, and FISH was able to assist with rent and utility payments to keep his home as stable as possible. Home visits were scheduled, and Steve was placed on the daily well-check call list. FISH assisted in any way they could through his treatment and recovery, including helping with the high cost of his prescription medication. Once he was well enough to return to work, Steve began visiting the pantry every so often, always smiling, always thankful. And never forgetting that his tumor could come back.

Every so often, Steve called FISH to request a ride for follow up appointments. And, then came COVID. Steve spread out his follow up appointments as much as possible and completed many of them by tele-Med, only taking a taxi to those requiring testing. Earlier this year, Steve started feeling 'off' and strangely different. He was fearful he may have another tumor and also fearful that, since he was so compromised, he may have COVID. Unfortunately, the latter was the case; Steve tested positive for COVID-19. Deemed not critical enough to be hospitalized, Steve was sent home with an oxygen therapy device and treatment advice. Although exhausted, he was afraid to sleep and tried everything to stay awake, even though he could hardly move. Steve thought he was going to die. "If COVID didn't kill me, I was certain my tumor would come back and that would be the end," Steve noted in a conversation with Nitza Lopez, FISH.

Fortunately, Steve survived COVID much like he has survived his tumor, through faith and determination. While he's not 100%, he is slowly recovering. Through medication modification, revised treatment plans and constant monitoring, Steve is on the mend, with FISH by his side, assisting again with prescription costs, medical expenses, rent and living expenses. "Funding from the SGCF grant is crucial in cases like this," says Nitza Lopez, Social Services Director, FISH. "His medical costs are so high and his income low, it's a struggle for him to maintain everyday living expenses. Steve's road to recovery will be a long one. We're so grateful we can help him in his greatest time of need."

Based on circumstance and eligibility, financial assistance through the SGCF grant may be available as determined by FISH. Assistance is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and amounts vary depending upon financial status. Available funding is limited, and assistance may cover only a portion expenses.

To learn more and to see if you qualify, please contact FISH at 239-472-4775.



# SOCIAL SERVICES

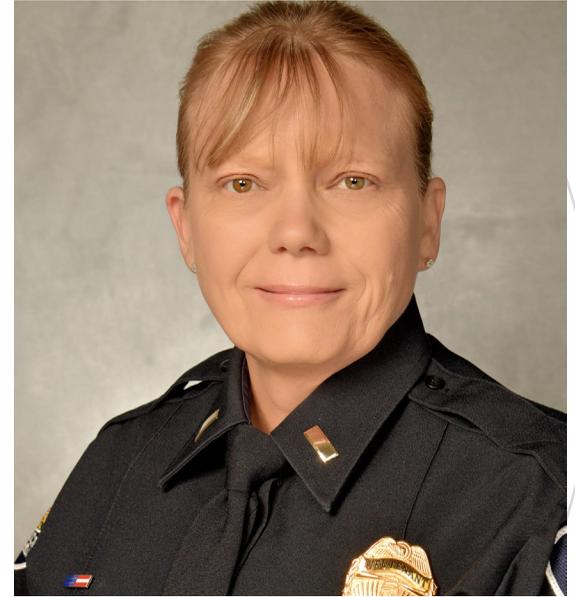
FISH LINES

## SCAMS, IDENTITY THEFT AND CRIME PREVENTION

We are pleased to offer a Crime Prevention Workshop on Mon., Oct. 25 as both an in-person and virtual event. The in-person event will take place at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, and the virtual event will be offered via Zoom. Both opportunities will begin at 11:00am. Due to the COVID pandemic and out of an abundance of caution for our community, all in-person attendees must wear a mask throughout the entire presentation and adhere to social distance guidelines.

The presentation will focus on personal and home safety; mail, phone and computer fraud and scams; the 'dark house program'; and important techniques for protecting yourself.

Lieutenant Grace Towler will discuss different issues that are threats to the community, increase awareness of certain crimes, and teach participants what to do to intervene and prevent victimization. "You can never be too safe," says Towler. "By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce risk to yourself and your property." Lieutenant Towler has been with the Sanibel Police Department since 2007, serving in road and beach patrol, crime scene investigation, and is currently assigned to the Emergency Management division. She obtained her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Hodges University in 2007 and her master's degree in criminal justice from Florida Gulf Coast University in 2012.



FISH is excited to host Lt. Towler for this very important workshop as she continuously works to strengthen the bond between the Sanibel Police Department and the community. Please RSVP by Oct. 20 to FISH at 239-472-4775. FISH will supply the Zoom link to those wishing to participate virtually.

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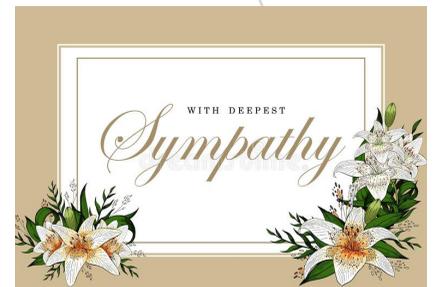
## IN MEMORY OF

It is with great sympathy that we note the passing of the following FISH volunteers. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families in this time of sorrow.

John Boone - FISH volunteer in 2017, Hurricane Preparedness Program

Barbara McGarry - FISH volunteer since 2015, Walk-In Center, Phone Duty, Food Pantry, Meal Delivery, Transportation, Equipment

Edith Rood - FISH volunteer 2009-2010, Meal Delivery





neighbors helping neighbors

# FRIENDLY FACES



## TUESDAY, OCT. 19 AT NOON



Please join us for this month's Friendly Faces luncheon where FISH and EPIC Islands present information about Caribbean nature, why it's important, and what's being done to conserve natural resources for future generations. EPIC Islands is a nonprofit, formed to protect the Caribbean environment through science, education, advocacy, and stewardship.

Tabitha Stadler, Executive Director, EPIC Islands will deliver the presentation in an upbeat mix of storytelling with lots of audience participation.

We'll provide the food, fun and friends -- all we need is you! Don't let technology stop you from joining us -- we will help you get connected! Delicious meals by George & Wendy's will be delivered to all islanders.

**The cost of the October luncheon is waived and complimentary to all participants.**

**DATE:**

Tuesday, Oct. 19

**TIME:**

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

**LOCATION:**

Virtual Zoom Call

**RSVP:**

By Oct. 15 to FISH  
239-472-4775

Meal selections and Zoom instructions will be provided when you RSVP



# ARE YOU PREPARED? GET A HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PACKET

## *neighbors helping neighbors* **HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE!**

Each year, we work with officials and others to plan for hurricane season. We 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, we verify 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](http://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:

FISH OF SANCAP  
239-472-4775





# UPCOMING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OCTOBER 2021

## *neighbors helping neighbors*

***Walk-In Center and Food Pantry Closed Monday, Oct. 11***

***Virtual Friendly Faces Luncheon -- Tues., Oct. 19, Noon-1:30p***

Come join us for this month's Friendly Faces luncheon where FISH and EPIC Islands present important science-based education that helps protect the Caribbean environment. RSVP to FISH by Fri., Oct. 15. Menu options and Zoom link will be provided.

***Virtual Cooking with Leslie -- Thurs., Oct. 21, 2:00-3:30p***

Tasty recipes are presented in a cooking class style as participants cook together, virtually, as a group. This month, we'll be preparing Authentic Italian Bolognese Sauce with Pasta, Classic Caesar Salad and Espresso Chocolate Mousse. RSVP to FISH by Mon., Oct. 18. Recipe and Zoom link will be provided.

***Crime Prevention -- Mon., Oct. 25, 11:00a***

***Location: Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel and Virtual***

Lieutenant Grace Towler will discuss personal and home safety; fraud and scams; the 'dark house program'; and important techniques for protecting yourself. She will increase awareness of certain crimes and teach participants what to do to intervene and prevent victimization. Masks and social distancing required for in-person participants. Zoom link provided to virtual participants.

***Halloween at FISH -- Last week of October***

***Location: FISH OF SANCAP, 2430 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel***

Pumpkin and treat distribution for children visiting the Walk-In Center during the last week of October! Come in costume and have your photo taken!

***Ongoing, monthly:***

Backpack for Kids Distribution - weekly at FISH OF SANCAP

Smile Box Distribution - delivered the 2nd Friday of the month



# 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:*

[October Phone Duty](#)

[October 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.*

[Bailey's General Store](#)

[Jerry's Foods](#)

[Publix](#)

[Amazon Prime Pantry](#)

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

- Canned protein
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Cereal
- Crackers and snacks
- 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](https://smile.amazon.com)*



## 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**

neighbors helping neighbors



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





# OUR VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION!

Undoubtedly our volunteers are the lifeblood of FISH! In 2020, our volunteers provided 4,433 hours of service on behalf of clients. They delivered 6,412 meals to island neighbors for a total of 19,382 miles that year.





# neighbors helping neighbors **HELPING HANDS** & FINANCIAL assistance

## WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST

Each year FISH provides **Emergency Financial Assistance** to families in need. Finding yourself in a position where you are unsure if you can provide basic needs to your family is a scary experience. **Helping Hands** is meant to provide *short-term assistance with life's most critical costs including rent, utilities, medical & dental.*

### RENT

A roof overhead is something we all need. FISH works with clients who need temporary assistance paying their rent. FISH offers clients relief and the opportunity to remain self-sufficient. We also help with budgeting and planning to help people get on their feet and stay in their home.

### UTILITIES

FISH helps people at risk of having utilities turned off by paying their bills in times of crisis and financial hardship. Missing even a few hours at work can cause someone to get behind. A \$100 bill can quickly turn into a \$500 bill due to late fees. FISH helps clients get caught up on monthly expenses to ensure neighbors have access to water and electric services required for safe and healthy living.

### MEDICAL & DENTAL

FISH can help clients who can't afford their healthcare deductibles for necessary imaging, surgeries, specialized office visits or unexpected trips to the ER which can lead to thousands of dollars in bills. FISH works with providers to get a better price for our clients. We've paid for mammograms, cataract surgeries, MRIs, medications, dental procedures and more to provide help and health.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

Financial assistance may be provided by FISH for individuals wanting to further their education either by attending college, certification courses, required CEUs or vocational programs for enrichment and career development for a better life.

### IMMIGRATION

The Immigration Assistance Program provides individuals with free resources to help guide them through the application, petition or request process. FISH partners with local agencies to find families an affordable way to take care of their immigration needs. Qualifying individuals may request financial assistance for processing and form fees.

*"As a single mom working on Sanibel for many years, I cannot tell you how grateful my family is for the help FISH has provided us. Not only did FISH help with rent and utilities, but when I could not afford the copay so my daughter could see a mental health therapist, FISH immediately helped me find a therapist that would see my daughter right away, along with paying the copay. Nitza has been so very kind and helpful. FISH holds a very special place in our hearts."*

—a FISH client

