

## Farewell Executive Director Alicia Tighe Orgera



After three years with FISH as our Executive Director, Alicia Tighe Orgera is leaving the organization to relocate to the Washington, D.C. area with her husband Ryan and their eight-month old son, Emilio. Alicia joined FISH in 2019 to work with President and CEO, Maggi Feiner ensuring that the operations continued to meet the demands of the growing organization. Previously working in the United States Senate for ten years as a legislative policy advisor and outreach director before her arrival at FISH, Alicia is planning to take time away from her career to devote to Emilio.

“Working with FISH and the Sanibel/Captiva community has been an immense honor and incredibly rewarding. The islands are such a special place because of the people here,” said Orgera. “The commitment to community is unlike anything I have experienced and I feel grateful to have played a small part in FISH’s role in making the islands a better place to live, work, and visit.” Please join us in saying farewell to Alicia. “Alicia is truly a special person who made a difference in our great community every day,” says Maggi Feiner, President & CEO, FISH. “We will all miss her energy, input and dedication to our mission in serving island neighbors.”

## Announcing Promotion of Maria Espinoza

Maria has been with FISH since 2017, when she began after Hurricane Irma as a volunteer. Her talents were evident and the organization brought her on as a full time employee quickly. Throughout her four-year tenure with FISH, Maria has played a critical role in FISH’s operations and growth, particularly in Food Programs, as she’s held various positions within FISH.

“Maria was the obvious choice for us,” says Maggi Feiner, President & CEO. “Maria’s passion and commitment to our island residents, workforce, and community continue to grow and enhance the mission of FISH. In her role as Executive Director she will continue her focus on the broader scope of our work. There are few that know the ins and outs of FISH like Maria, and her involvement in our community to bring awareness to FISH through networking and promotions is second to none. We are excited to have Maria be a part of FISH leadership”

She has volunteered at various non-profits in Lee County including Salvation Army’s Center of Hope, Boys and Girls Club of Lee County, and Junior Achievement Programs on SWFL. Before working at FISH, she taught foreign language to elementary students. “I’m so grateful to be part of FISH team and continue to make a real difference within the Sanibel and Captiva Island community. I feel extremely encouraged by the support of the FISH Board and exceptional team of dedicated professionals and volunteers,” states Maria. “As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, it’s been interesting to review the history of FISH and see how we’ve grown. I’m excited to be an integral part of the future of FISH and the community we serve.” Please join FISH in welcoming Maria to her new role. “Maria is one of the most dedicated individuals I know, and on behalf of FISH, we are looking forward to her input and commitment to our mission in serving island neighbors,” notes Feiner.

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The Walk-In Center and Food Pantry will be **closed** on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31



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## Welcome Erika Broyles, B.S.W.



FISH OF SANCAP is pleased to welcome new staff member Erika Broyles, B.S.W., to their team as Senior Services Director. “We’re very fortunate to welcome Erika, an incredibly talented member of the Southwest Florida community,” said Maria Espinosa, FISH Executive Director.

In her position, Erika will oversee senior programs, actively working with community stakeholders to ensure FISH continues to meet the needs of island seniors. Erika received her B.S.W. from Austin Peay State University. Her career has focused on serving individuals

with mental health needs on an Acute Care level. Before transferring to FISH, Erika specialized as a clinician on a Children’s Crisis Unit. She grew up on Sanibel Island and is a mother to an 8-year-old daughter.

“Joining FISH will allow me to provide interactive educational programming to the older population of the Sanibel and Captiva community. I’m excited for this opportunity and look forward to working with community members and organizations on the islands,” stated Erika.

## Sanibel Students Artwork On Helping Others



I was welcoming someone to the neighborhood.  
I felt really good about it.

In honor of FISH’s 40th Anniversary, students at The Sanibel School created works of art showing the importance of helping neighbors and family. We are inspired by their art and their clear understanding of how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. The future of FISH—and our young neighbors—is promising indeed.

—by Zane, *The Sanibel School*

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FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



# Celebrating Our 40th -- Then and Now

**40 years**  
**THEN & NOW**

“By calling FISH, you’re just tying into a network of friendly neighbors.”  
—Emily Barefield, 1982  
Inaugural FISH Vice President

**FISH begins full-fledged service to Islanders**

By David Meardon  
FISH, Friends in Service Here, is charting a path on the islands as an organization dedicated to helping people.

In its first week of full fledged operation, FISH volunteers, ready to help 24 hours a day, provided such services as transportation for a caller’s weekly therapy session at Shell Point Village and aid in solving a simple household crisis in a recent problem.

“We have had a great variety of calls,” said FISH president Marilyn Bradley, who stressed that FISH is prepared to respond to the needs of the community.

Some of the services the more than 40 volunteers provide include companionship and help for the sick or disabled, aid in household tasks, and transportation for shopping excursions. FISH volunteers lend an ear or a hand to those in need. The service is strictly confidential, Bradley stressed.

“We can do lots of things. We are organization is really in good shape. We are more than happy to give help at no cost.”

**the first FISH logo**

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**MISSION**  
FISH of SanCap enriches the lives of all people in Sanibel and Captiva Islands by neighbors helping neighbors with food programs, island based education, social & senior services, and helping hands & financial assistance.

It began as simple acts of kindness over 40 years ago, in the kitchens and out of cars of island neighbors. **Today, FISH is the comprehensive social service organization on Sanibel and Captiva.** As we’ve grown with the years, our look has changed, our scope of assistance has evolved and our impact has broadened. But our mission is as clear as it was when we began.

“We are thrilled to celebrate 40 years of fulfilling the promise made so many years ago. Here’s to 40 more!”  
—Maggi Feiner  
FISH President & CEO

**40th Anniversary**

**FISH**

FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

**40 year timeline**

- 1982—March/April First full week of operations; Ready to help 24-7; original phone number is still in use
- 1983—First annual meeting at Gulf Pines
- 1984—Hurricane Committee Established
- 1986—First Friendly Faces Event
- 1987—Volunteers jump to action before Hurricane Floyd
- 1988—“Person-to-Person” calls established
- 1992—FISH celebrates 10 years of service
- 1999—New FISH President, Norman Bowles steps in after 12 years of volunteer work
- 2003—adopted motto of “Neighbors helping Neighbors”
- 2007—New logo reflecting community focus; opened first Walk-in Center
- 2008—Food Pantry opened & Walk-in Center relocated
- 2009—FISH becomes a United Way Partner
- 2011—Backpack Program established
- 2012—“30 Rocks” FISH 30th Anniversary Celebration
- 2015—New Walk-In Center opens & FISH has a “Home of its Own”
- 2017—FISH assists record numbers following Hurricane Irma
- 2020—New logo and Mission Statement

We’ve been in existence for for 40 years and hope you will share the excitement with us through a year-long celebration!

When we began in 1982, our 40 volunteers offered assistance with meal delivery for housebound seniors, transportation off and on the islands, medical equipment lending, phone calls to check-in on neighbors, and delivering books to residents from the Sanibel Library. We continued to grow our neighborly programs with our Hurricane Committee, which helped evacuate vulnerable residents, and the Friendly Faces luncheon to bring the community together. Our mission then, ‘to lend a helping hand to those that live, work or visit the islands’.

By 2007, the Walk-In Center was opened to make us more accessible to those seeking assistance and in 2008, the Food Pantry was established. Now, our food pantry serves nearly 1,000 families in a self-serve format, allowing islanders to shop for themselves five days a week.

In 2021, we updated our mission to encompass the growing services and programs that serve the community and changing demographic -- ‘to enrich the lives of all people in Sanibel and Captiva Islands by neighbors helping neighbors with food programs, island based education, social & senior services, and helping hands and financial assistance’. As a full-fledged wrap-around social service agency, we now rely on nearly 200 volunteers and a small professional staff to assist nearly 5,000 neighbors a year. We are ground-zero for disaster response on the islands, including now during the health crisis. In 2020 we distributed nearly 6,500 meals to seniors; 2,000 food backpacks to kids; nearly 250,000 pounds of food to families; and paid 494 essential bills for those in crisis. We even secured and distributed 1064 doses of COVID-19 vaccine at a pop-up vaccination clinic for island seniors and others at-risk.

“We are thrilled to celebrate 40 years of fulfilling the promise made so many years ago. Here’s to 40 more,” says Maggi Feiner, President & CEO, FISH, who has been with the organization for almost half their existence.



## Stress Management & Self Care

You're invited to an interactive Stress Reduction Workshop with Dr. Doreen Greenberg on Tues., Dec. 7 beginning at 10:00am at The Sanibel Community House, 2713 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel. Out of an abundance of caution for our community, all attendees must adhere to social distance guidelines and masks are encouraged. Registration is requested by contacting FISH at 239-472-4775.



Dr. Doreen Greenberg, an expert in the mind-body connection, will discuss the symptoms of stress, the perceived stress scale and how to score it. She will introduce various exercises and techniques to elicit the relaxation response and teach participants about lifelong wellness. With a Master's degree in Counseling and Human Relations and a Doctorate in Psycho-Social Interaction in Sport, Dr. Greenberg has always been interested in how the mind can help the body to work. This focus led to years of research and work experience exploring the complex mind-body relationship, from how emotions impact athletic performance to how stress affects susceptibility to disease. Dr. Greenberg served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The President's Council on Fitness and Sports, and Billy Jean King's Women's Sports Foundation.

## Virtual Friendly Faces With Sanibel Public Library Guest



Please join the community-wide Friendly Faces Luncheon, offered in a virtual format! The Zoom luncheon is scheduled for Tues., Dec. 14 beginning at noon. Lunch, prepared by George & Wendy's, consists of a cold entree, side, water bottle and dessert. The cost of the Dec. lunch is complimentary to all participants. FISH volunteers will deliver meals to islanders beginning at 11:30am.

Guest speaker Beth Jarrell, Reference and Archives Librarian, Sanibel Public Library, will discuss how to retrieve digitized items from Sanibel's historic past, including images, stories, and oral histories. She will include an introduction on how to use Ancestry's Library

Edition to track and record family genealogy and provide tips for preserving family images and stories for future generations.

"We are so excited to partner with the Sanibel Public Library as they lead us in a discussion to uncover our history," says Manuela Martinez, FISH. "They are recognized as one of the best libraries in the country and provide valuable resources for islanders and visitors. We're so glad Beth can lend her knowledge and share how we can best navigate the library." We hope you will join us and the Sanibel Public Library for this educational lunch and learn where you can catch up with friends and make new connections. Reservations and meal choices are required by Fri., Dec. 10 to FISH, 239-472-4775.



# There's So Much To Be Thankful For

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Thanksgiving Holiday Meal Baskets a success! Our community partners, volunteers and staff worked around the clock to make sure everyone received a holiday meal in time for Thanksgiving.





## Holiday Hors D'Oeuvres by Leslie Adams



Holiday celebrations need hors d'oeuvres, and the FISH sponsored Cooking with Leslie virtual cooking class will show participants how to make three delicious hors d'oeuvres to make celebrations sparkle! The class will be held on Thurs., Dec. 16 beginning at 2:00pm on the Zoom virtual platform.

Participants will learn how to prepare Ham & Arugula in Mini Crepes with Cream Cheese; Dates Stuffed with Gorgonzola & Bacon served on Rice Crackers; and Sausage Stuffed Mushrooms. Leslie Adams, chef and owner of Sanibel Captiva Catering/Catering by Leslie Adams, will lead the lesson in a virtual cooking class format.

For those living on Sanibel or Captiva, we are glad 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. Please indicate if ingredients and delivery are needed with RSVP. Please register no later than Dec. 13, 2021 by contacting the FISH Walk-In-Center, 239-472-4775.

## Ashton Kirchner Group and Great White Grill Toy Drive

The Great White Grill and Sarah Ashton, Chris Kirchner of the Ashton Kirchner Group of Keller Williams Realty is hosting a Holiday Toy Drive Celebration at the Great White Grill and Keller Williams Realty Center, 2440 Pine Ridge Road, Sanibel on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021 beginning at 6:00pm. Hors d'oeuvres by the Great White Grill and refreshments, donated by the Ashton Kirchner Group of Keller Williams Realty will be provided. Both groups will offer raffle prizes and holiday cheer a-plenty to kick off the giving opportunity to assist island families by providing toys and gifts for the holiday season. The Great White Grill, a faithful supporter of FISH, has hosted the drive for several years to kick off the holiday giving season. John Nader, owner, happily delivers truck loads of gifts collected during the event to the FISH Walk-In Center. There, FISH volunteers will sort, and wrap presents that will be distributed just before the Christmas holiday.

"FISH provides an amazing resource for families, particularly children during the Holiday Season. We want to help those kids who may not have much cheer during Christmas to be able to feel the joy of the holiday, says Ashton who has been a part of the annual toy drive for several years. "Having kids of my own, I know the joy on the faces when they open their presents on Christmas day. If we can help one child feel that joy, this is a real success and the reason we have the toy drive," adds Kirchner. Please join The Great White Grill and the Ashton Kirchner Group of Keller Willams for this festive event. New, unwrapped toy donations will be accepted throughout the evening.

THE GREAT WHITE GRILL





# UPCOMING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DECEMBER 2021

## *neighbors helping neighbors*

***Walk-In Center and Food Pantry Closed Fri. Dec. 24 and Fri. Dec. 31***

***Stress Management & Self Care -- Tues., Dec. 7, 10:00a***

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

Dr. Doreen Greenberg, an expert in the mind-body connection, will discuss the symptoms of stress and introduce various exercises for lifelong wellness.

***Virtual Friendly Faces Luncheon -- Tues., Dec. 14, Noon-1:30p***

Come join us for this month's Friendly Faces luncheon where FISH and Beth Jarrell, Reference and Archives Librarian, Sanibel Public Library will discuss how to retrieve digitized items from Sanibel's historic past including images, stories, and oral histories. RSVP to FISH by Fri., Dec. 10. Menu options and Zoom link will be provided.

***Virtual Cooking with Leslie -- Thurs., Dec. 16, 2:00p***

Leslie Adams will teach how to prepare hors d'oeuvres, a holiday celebration essential! On the menu is Ham & Arugula in Mini Crepes with Cream Cheese; Dates Stuffed with Gorgonzola & Bacon served on Rice Crackers; and Sausage Stuffed Mushrooms to make your holiday celebrations sparkle! RSVP to FISH by Dec. 13. Recipes and Zoom link will be provided.

***'Tis The Season at FISH***

***Holiday Basket, Adopt-A-Family and Toy Distribution***

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

Distributed Dec. 20-23

***Ongoing, monthly:***

Backpack for Kids Distribution - weekly at FISH OF SANCAP

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



FISH LINES

## Attention Volunteers!

SAVE THE DATE

**40 years** of volunteers like you  
*giving hearts* to the community



Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for the  
**FISH volunteer luncheon & annual meeting**

Tuesday, February 15, 2022 from 11:30a - 1:30p  
Sanibel Community House—2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel  
*invitation to follow*



2430-B Periwinkle Way, Sanibel FL 33957  
**239.472.4775** f: 239.243.9009  
**fishofsancap.org** email: [events@fishofsancap.org](mailto:events@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:**

[December Phone Duty](#)

[December 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!

[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](#)



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## 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**



## In Memory Of



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Barbara McGarry, a treasured FISH volunteer of many years, pictured above, left.. Barbara's mass and internment will take place at St. Columbkille Catholic Church on Thursday, January 13th, 2022, beginning at 10:00 AM. The internment will be in St. Columbkille's Memorial Garden after the mass is over.

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Dee Caldwell, FISH advocate and participant of many workshops and Friendly Faces luncheons. No details on services were available at this time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families during this difficult time.



# FISH Volunteers In Action

Thank you to all of our wonderful, dedicated volunteers. You are undoubtedly the lifeblood of our organization, and we could not do what we do without you!



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.



There are many opportunities to volunteer with FISH OF SANCAP. For additional information, please visit our website, <https://www.fishofsancap.org/volunteers/>, or contact FISH at 239-472-4775

Thank you



# 'tis the season for neighbors helping neighbors with **HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE**

## HELP SHARE THE JOY

Each year FISH offers Holiday programs to spread the joy of the winter season to our neighbors. Whether for our island seniors or families who may be struggling financially due to work-hour reduction, job loss, or medical expenses, your generous support can make the holidays brighter for everyone!

### SENIOR HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Share the warmth of the season with our special island seniors who may be feeling isolated or alone. FISH will deliver a personalized SMILE BOX with special gift items and decor to make their season bright, and remind them they're not alone! **Donate special senior items by Friday, Dec 3.**

### ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Help Santa fill his bag with gifts for our youngest neighbors. This year we will provide childrens' toys to over 50 households. Help make the holiday fun and magical for the kids of our community! **Drop off toys by Friday, Dec 10.**

### ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Make a difference for an entire household! When you choose to adopt a family, FISH provides you with a specific wish list for a particular family. Then donors can shop more intentionally to make those wishes come true while providing requested items that fit the needs perfectly. **Drop off gifts by Friday, Dec 10.**

### HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

A special Holiday meal is something everyone should be able to enjoy. FISH provides baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas filled with dinner ingredients and a gift card to purchase a turkey or other holiday protein for approximately 100 of our neighbors. **Drop off food donations by Thursday, Dec 23.**

*If you or someone you know is in need, contact FISH at 239.472.4775*



neighbors helping neighbors



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