

FISH LINES

NEWSLETTER

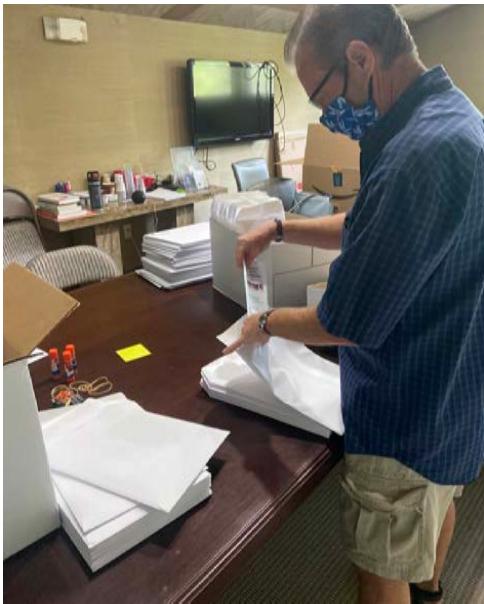
Celebrating The History of FISH

FISH has assisted with Hurricane preparedness for 40 years.

Annually, FISH OF SANCAP, the City of Sanibel, Lee County Emergency Management, and others work together to review plans and any changes for the upcoming hurricane season. FISH then compiles an updated Hurricane Resource Packet providing detailed information on where to go, what to do, and how to prepare in the event of an approaching storm.

The resource packet and hurricane season preparation is one of the first programs the FISH organization offered islanders when it began 40 years ago. "When the program began, FISH helped evacuate residents off island, put up storm shutters and even made hotel reservations for folks," recalls Maggi Feiner, President & CEO, FISH. "While there have been changes to the program over the years, we do provide critical information and helpful steps to stay safe before, during and after a storm. Our volunteers are also available to assist with planning, if needed."

Our team of volunteers verify evacuation routes, flood zones, hotels with generators, shelters, pet accommodations, and more to update the packet annually. While the official start of hurricane season is June 1, we provide the Resource Packet beginning in May. "With the safety of our neighbors in mind, we want to make sure everyone has reliable information in case a storm approaches," says Erika Broyles, Senior Services Director. Broyles oversees the program and coordinates the efforts of the team to insure all information is true and correct.



Over the past few years, we have seen a shift in travel schedules of seasonal residents and many new residents that are experiencing their first-ever hurricane season. To help our neighbors prepare, we offer the packet of vital information and checklists. FISH volunteers, in collaboration with other stakeholders like the City of Sanibel, also work with the most vulnerable residents to ensure their annual emergency evacuation plan is up to date. The FISH Hurricane Committee will keep in touch with them before, during, and after storms. To the extent possible, out-of-state family members are updated on the status of the storm and loved ones.

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Walk-In Center and Food pantry closed Mon., May 30



FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

2430-B Periwinkle Way
Sanibel FL 33957

239.472.4775

fishofsancap.org

email: info@fishofsancap.org





F.I.S.H LINES

"This is a huge undertaking and a true collaboration between many island and off-island organizations," continues Broyles. "Our volunteers spend many hours updating and verifying information. When our documents are complete, they then set up appointments with our most vulnerable to discuss the packet and solidify plans for evacuation, in the event the City is ordered to do so."

This year, the Sanibel Interact Club, sponsored by the San-Cap Rotary Club, assembled the FISH Resource Packets. The club challenges middle school students to identify places of need within the community and find ways to help. Through their work, the Club develops young leaders making valuable connections in the community and elsewhere and highlights their important role in making positive change.

We cannot stress enough the importance of making an evacuation plan, gathering emergency supplies, creating lists of contacts and medicine, and other helpful details that are listed in their packet.

To receive a free Hurricane Resource Packet, please contact the FISH Walk-In Center at 239-472-4775 or email erika@fishofsancap.org. Packets may also be downloaded from the organization's website, www.fishofsancap.org. Appointments may be arranged for those who would like a more detailed discussion on how to prepare during hurricane season. *Shown below, the 2021 Sanibel Interact Club.*





F.I.S.H LINES

neighbors helping neighbors

WITH FISH HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PACKETS

FISH is committed to the safety and well-being of our island neighbors, and hurricane season is no exception. Hurricane hazards come in many forms, including storm surge, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, etc.

It is essential to be ready before a storm approaches. FISH can help.



WEATHERING THE STORM together



Our annual **FISH Hurricane Preparedness Packet** is a valuable island resource available to anyone who requests it. The packet provides detailed information on where to go, what to do, and how/when to begin preparing for hurricane season, including:

- Suggested Do's and Don'ts
- List of Hotels
- Check Lists
- Pet Information
- Evacuation Routes
- City of Sanibel Hurricane Pass Application
- Special Needs Application
- List of Shelters/Map
- Hotline Numbers

If you or someone you know could benefit from this packet or program, please contact us.

Packets can be picked up at the FISH Walk-In Center and are available for download at fishofsancap.org. For a packet by mail, contact FISH by calling **239.472.4775** or email clientservices@fishofsancap.org.

F.I.S.H. 

FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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COMMUNITY: High Cost of Groceries Drives Increased FISH Food Pantry Use

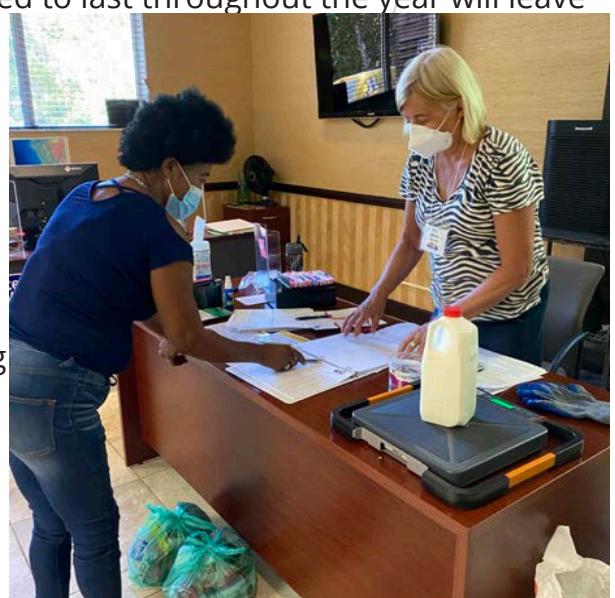


Our Food Pantry is a vital service for many households, and we receive requests for assistance daily from island residents and workers struggling to afford the skyrocketing cost of groceries. Once qualified, households are able to shop for nutritious supplemental grocery items to sustain food needs. Each year, we distribute hundred of thousands of pounds of food through the pantry program. We receive products from our partnerships with the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Midwest Food Bank, Sanibel Farmer's Market, Bailey's and Jerry's Foods, while many others hold food drives or donate products to the program.

"We are so thankful for the partnerships and generous donors that help keep our Pantry stocked," says Maria Espinoza, Executive Director. "Due to high demand, however, we still experience difficulty keeping our shelves full, particularly during the summer months when work hours are cut for our users, and donations are decreased as snowbirds head north." Last year, the Pantry program distributed 255,980 pounds of food equating to 213,316 meals.

We have increased the purchase of products weekly and now must place limits on how much one family can take to insure staples are available to all Food Pantry patrons. **With the increasing cost of food, however, our budget is stretched.** According to Bloomberg economists Andrew Husby and Anna Wong in an Insider article, "the red-hot inflation expected to last throughout the year will leave the average US household spending \$5,200 more compared to the year prior. That boils down to an extra \$433 per month on the same goods and services as last year."

"We see firsthand how inflation is affecting our Food Pantry program as now, more than ever before, our neighbors are making difficult choices between putting food on the table or filling their gas tank," continues Espinoza. Many Pantry users report they are fearful for the upcoming 'slow' months when work hours are cut and kids are out of school requiring additional at home meals. The FISH organization also offers a children's Backpack Program that includes child-friendly products and a fresh meal element. The program, available to any family that lives or works on Sanibel or Captiva, has nearly doubled in the last year. The FISH organization distributed 4,294 backpacks in 2021.





F.I.S.H LINES



While the FISH Food Pantry has been stretched thin for space with the increased need for services and expansions of programs such as the food backpacks for children, FISH has continued to keep pace during the pandemic. Currently, the Pantry is open Monday through Friday from 10a-3:45p for clients to shop for their groceries.

"This is a particularly difficult time for our neighbors for so many reasons -- the pandemic, inflation, cost of gas and supply shortages -- and we're not out of the woods yet," continues Espinoza. "We also see many of our seniors having to make the difficult choice between buying their medications and putting food on the table. FISH has many food, financial and educational programs to assist our neighbors in their greatest time of need. We're here to help, and FISH has something for everyone."

We are grateful for donations to our food programs—both monetary or products to distribute. Those leaving for the season are encouraged to donate unopened products including perishable and non-perishable food, personal hygiene products, and household cleaning items.

For a list of Pantry needs, please visit the pantry page website, <https://www.fishofsancap.org/food-pantry/>.

Thank You Food Pantry Volunteers!

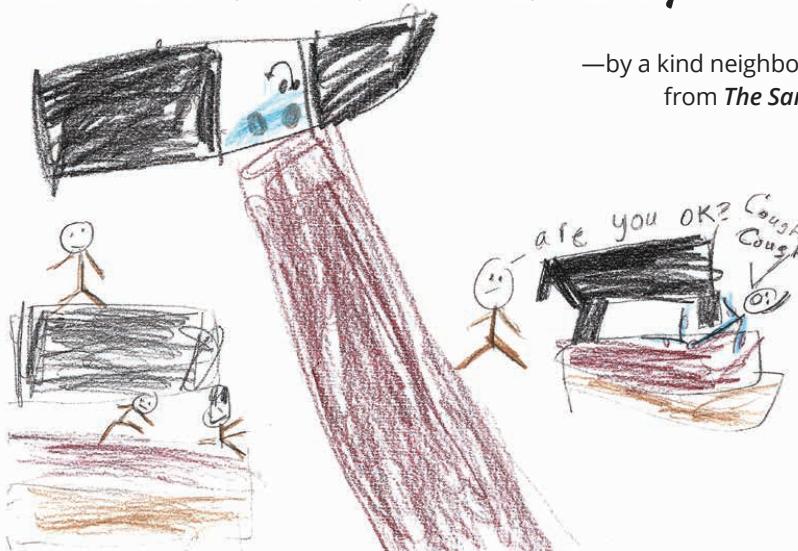




FISH LINES

CELEBRATING OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY Sanibel Students Artwork On Helping Others

We were at a restaurant and a lady was coughing. My dad checked to make sure she was okay.



—by a kind neighbor & student
from *The Sanibel School*

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 wonderful 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.



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I helped my friend when she fell when no one did. I was happy when I helped her.



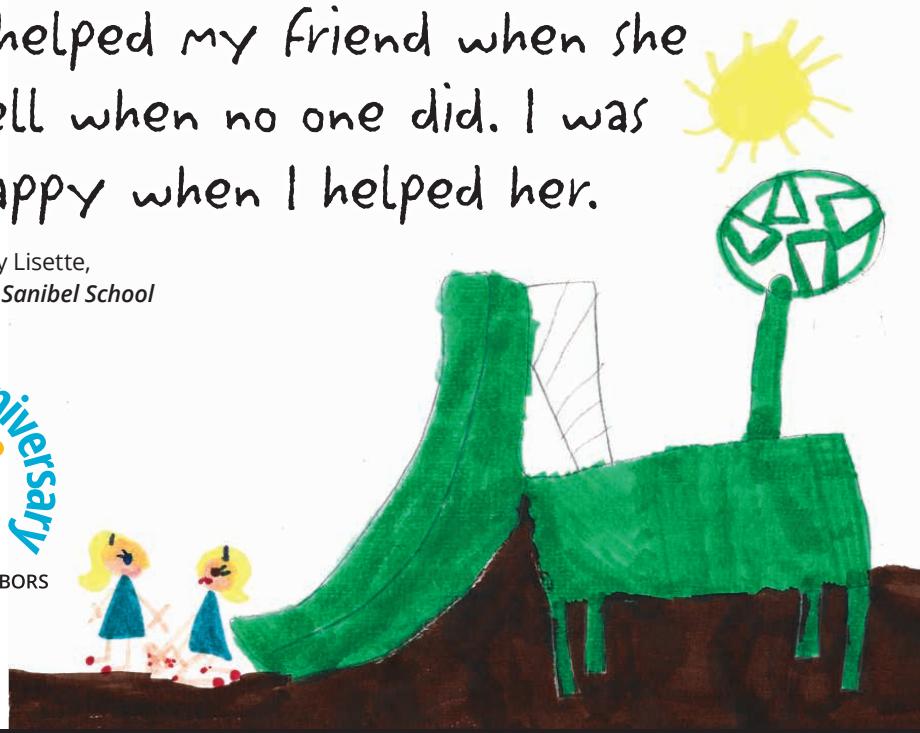
—by Lisette,
The Sanibel School



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Thank You go! FISH Sponsors

While we looked forward to celebrating in person, after feedback from many of you and thoughtful consideration, we determined it was in the best interest of our community to cancel our 2022 go! FISH Celebration. We cannot thank all of our 2022 go! FISH sponsors enough for giving in the spirit of our event. Your sponsorship, and any additional gifts, will go a long way to make sure that FISH continues to keep pace with the growing need for our services. We look forward to seeing you in person at our 2023 event!



TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

SUN FISH

Anonymous (1)
Liz & Jim Birmingham
Dixie & Robert Bowden
Pat & Frank Middendorf

TARPON FISH

Ellen & David Raisbeck
Alice & Fred Stanback
Kathy & Bob Wiesemann

BIG FISH

Barb & Todd Bluedorn
Judith & Robert Burgstahler
Dulce & Jim Doss
Jo & Manny Fernandez
Timothy Home
Jerri Mihaley
Kay & John Morse
Mary & Jim Nelson
Sheridan & Dick Snell
The Sanctuary Golf Club Foundation

BLUE FISH

Catherine & Ed Anderson
Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler
Dean Barry
Susie & John Freund
Linda & Nick Linsmayer
Linda & Gene Massey

Inky & Jack Meng

Shirley & Harold Miller
Barry Moss
Nathalie & Dick Pyle
Joan & Don Sherman
Marilee & Michael Wood

RED FISH

Mary & Dick Butler
Amanda Cross
Laurie & Steve Hafener
Sherry & Doug Gentry
Jo Guenzel
McGrath-Spellman Family Foundation
Douglas McLemore
Teresa & Jake Miller
Sue & Steve Peitzman
Nancy & Chip Roach
Lucy & Paul Roth
Sanibel Captiva Kiwanis Foundation
Patty & Jim Sprankle

GOLD FISH

Clair Beckmann
Margie & Michael Bennett
Pat & Mike Boris
Fay & Jack Chestnut
Carolyn & Ralph Clark
Debby & Rich Donahue
Karen & Ken Gill
Mariel & Porter Goss
Gulf Breeze Cottages
Kris & Bruce Gurall

Barbara & Robert Lee

Jean & John Halligan
Betsy & Taylor Hay
Rebekah & Bob Moyle
Emily & Dick Muench
Ginny & Mark Reiss
Nancy & Don Rolley
Toni & Brett Shannon
Ellen Sloan & Marco Neven-Dumont
Cathie & Bill Thiede
Linda & Tom Uhler
Betty & Robert VanTassel
Ann-Marie Wildman
Tina & John Wysocki
Zebis / IT Essentials

SUPPORT FISH

Gary & Marsha Bach
Tom & Margie Jeudes
Cassie & Paul Gaenger
Michael Hochschild
Alice & Ken Piesch
John MacLennan
Jeri & Dale Peterson
Linda & Hank Spire
Deb & Lee Wilson



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



F.I.S.H LINES

COMMUNITY: FISH Distributes Record Number of Baskets for Easter Holiday

In preparation for the Easter holiday last month, we assembled dinner baskets for families containing everything needed for a festive Easter dinner and children's bunny baskets filled with goodies. This year, we distributed a record number -- *203 Easter dinner baskets and 214 bunny baskets to neighbors in need.*

"The volunteers devoted to this program have been working tirelessly since the end of March to make sure everyone enjoyed the Easter holiday," said Maria Espinoza, Executive Director, FISH. "It's incredible how this program has grown over the years and in particular since 2020 which we attribute to COVID related loss of income and medical emergencies." In 2020, FISH distributed 100 dinner and 80 bunny baskets. Prior to that, participation was in the 40-80 range for food baskets and under 100 for bunny baskets.

With the increase in participation in this and other FISH programs comes an increased need for additional space. Volunteers assembled baskets at the FISH Palm Ridge location while others transferred donations and products from their Periwinkle Walk-In Center to Palm Ridge to keep the process moving smoothly.

Recipients checked in at the Periwinkle location, received a ticket for pick up, and received their baskets from Palm Ridge.



Basket recipients are those known to FISH through usage of other FISH programs such as the Food Pantry and Emergency Financial Assistance. All baskets are assembled by FISH volunteers adhering to all COVID-19 precautionary measures. "Our volunteers put a lot of time, energy and effort into making this a great day of celebration," continues Espinoza. "Their dedication, down to the tiniest of details like creating beautiful bundles of ingredients for Peep S'mores, is second to none."

The organization thanks local partners including CVS, Sanibel and Captiva Island Association of Realtors and Jerry's Foods for accepting food and candy donations and Gene's Books and MacIntosh Books & Paper for holding a book drive for Easter bunny baskets.

Additionally, many generous donors contributed to the cause, making this a joyous holiday for all.



FISH LINES

bunny baskets **DELIVER**

HELP & HAPPINESS TO NEIGHBORS AT EASTER!

MAKING HOLIDAYS— AND EVERY DAY— BETTER FOR FAMILIES

Once again, our generous island neighbors and volunteers have made the **FISH Holiday Program** a success this Easter. *Nearly 150 families struggling with financial circumstances have been given a brighter spring holiday because of your donations, help and support.*

In the last week, FISH provided **214 Kids' Bunny Baskets**—including small toys, stuffed animals, books, candy, and more for kids age 14 and under—as well as **203 Easter Food Baskets** filled with dinner ingredients and a gift card to purchase a ham or other holiday protein.

Together, we have fed the needs of others and shared the hope of spring with our island neighbors in need.

special thanks to these participating businesses & drop off locations:

CVS JERRY'S FOODS
GENE'S BOOKS MACINTOSH BOOKS & PAPER
SANIBEL CAPTIVA ISLAND ASSOC. OF REALTORS

"Our neighbors are in need of assistance as many struggle to recover from job loss, reduced work hours and medical emergencies. As a FISH volunteer, I love to see the smiles on kids' faces when they receive their baskets, and provide some relief for those who need a little help getting back on their feet."

—a FISH volunteer





COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE: FISH Assists in Time of Loss



FISH provides assistance to island residents and employees who need a hand up through their Helping Hands program. Many who seek assistance have experienced one or several crisis situations such as job loss, medical emergencies, unexpected family circumstances and more. Team member Nitza Lopez, Social Services Director, coordinates the Helping Hands & Financial Assistance program by working 1:1 with individuals in need to create and implement a plan to move quickly through crisis and into recovery.

For the purposes of privacy, the names of the individuals involved have been changed. Mary Dugan visited FISH for the first time

after the unexpected death of her husband, Martin, who passed away due to complications from the COVID-19 disease. "His death occurred one month after our 20th wedding anniversary. I still can't believe it. This whole thing feels like a nightmare," notes Mary during her intake interview. Mary's husband contracted COVID and after a few days struggled with shortness of breath and difficulty breathing, chest pain and severe vomiting. Mary recalls when Martin's symptoms worsened, she took him to the hospital where he was admitted immediately. Seven days later, he was gone. "We had so many plans for this year. We were going to open a savings account for the first time in 20 years, and Martin had just finished a side job and was very excited to fix his truck that broke down a while ago. I felt like things were coming together, and then everything changed in an instant," says Mary.

Prior to Martin's illness, the couple lived modestly, always trying to stay ahead of their bills, but the pandemic slowed down opportunities to earn extra income. When available, Martin would take side jobs while Mary tried to secure additional shifts so they could finally get ahead. "We had so much to look forward to, and it seemed like we were beginning to recover financially from the huge hit we took at the beginning of COVID," continues Mary. "Now everything has changed forever."

Mary stayed by Martin's side as much as possible during his last days, using their small savings to pay bills, buy groceries for herself, and keep her car filled with gas. "Of course I didn't work while he was sick, and couldn't work after he passed, so I've lost a lot of income. I have a small amount that I can use toward his medical expenses, but then I won't have enough to keep up with the household bills. I don't know what to do, I never thought I would be alone so early in my life."

Nitza Lopez, FISH, met with Mary several times to learn of any additional needs that FISH could assist with. She referred Mary to the FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program and Lee County Cremations Services and FISH assisted with two months of mortgage payments. Mary has returned to work and has started using the FISH Food Pantry. "Every day I mourn the loss of my husband," says Mary. "I'm thankful I found FISH and the kind people that work there and help me. I know Martin would have been happy to volunteer at such a fine organization like FISH; he just loved helping others." FISH continues to talk with Mary and provide additional resources to help with her grieving process.



F.I.S.H LINES

neighbors helping neighbors— & FILLING FAMILY NEEDS

PROVIDING INDIVIDUALIZED PLANS TO HELP IN EACH UNIQUE SITUATION

"Meghan"—whose name has been changed for privacy—is a young grandmother recently awarded temporary custody of her three grandchildren due to their mother's critical illness. **Through this difficult situation, Meghan has come to rely on FISH for invaluable support.**

All three grandchildren are under 5 years old and attend extended daycare so that Meghan can continue to work full time on Sanibel. Due to the increasing cost of gas, Meghan cannot afford the round-trip expense six days a week and relies on others to carpool for transportation.

"*Every single month it's a struggle just to stay afloat with feeding the kids and paying all the bills,*" says Meghan. She began using the **FISH Food Pantry** when she learned that she could not qualify for SNAP (food stamp program). "*I had just found out about FISH, and thought I would give it a try,*" continues Schneider. "*The food assistance has been a life saver!*"

FISH Social Services Director Nitza Lopez met with Meghan and learned of additional family needs that FISH could assist with. "*When working with people, situations are unique; we view everyone individually, working together to create a plan that best fits their specific situation,*" says Lopez.

Often a visit to FISH is a symptom of a larger underlying problem, so by tailoring assessments, the organization can help people get back on their feet quickly. Through discussion during the intake process, it was discovered that Meghan was behind in rent and utility payments and just barely getting by, living paycheck to paycheck with three additional mouths to feed. "*Sometimes it gets so stressful it's like I forget to breathe, and it feels like I'm in quicksand,*" notes Meghan. "*It just keeps getting harder and harder, but I am so thankful that FISH is here to help me.*"

Ultimately, Meghan received **Emergency Financial Assistance** for rent and utilities and received a gas card from FISH so she could continue working on Sanibel. Additionally, her family was enrolled in the **Holiday Assistance Program** which will ensure the three children receive Easter 'bunny baskets' in April, an Easter meal for the family, as well as the children's **Food Backpack Program**. Through the food backpacks, each child will receive their own bag of kid-friendly, nutritious meals and snacks to enjoy weekly in addition to Meghan's visits to the pantry.



"The FISH food assistance has been a life saver!"

—"Meghan"
a thankful FISH client



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F.I.S.H LINES

COMMUNITY: Volunteers, the Backbone of FISH, Return Home For End of Season

FISH, the islands' only wrap-around human services organization, was founded 40 years ago as a neighbors helping neighbors organization and continues to value their volunteers as the lifeblood of the organization. Through activities big and small, FISH volunteers allow the over 30 programs and services we offer year-round -- food pantry, hot meal delivery, food backpacks for kids, equipment for loan, and more -- to serve island residents, workforce and visitors.



This time of year, the 'end of season' for the islands, comes with mixed emotions for FISH. "We witness our volunteers, many of whom are 'snowbirds', return to their northern homes beginning in late April," states Maria Espinoza, Executive Director, FISH. "Volunteers are the essence of our organization. We couldn't exist without the people who share their time and hearts with us and our community. They help us with everything from delivering meals and assembling backpacks and Smile Boxes, answering phones and stocking shelves, to event planning and grocery shopping – and we appreciate all of it! In 2021, volunteers provided over 5,800 hours of service and drove over 22,000 miles on behalf of FISH and our neighbors."

As season comes to an end almost half of FISH volunteers head back home through at least October, while we find creative ways to continue to provide services. "Although it may take us a little longer to find a phone duty or a Walk-In Center volunteer, we always find a way to get the job(s) done. Our year-round volunteers really go above and beyond to fill in the gaps," continues Espinoza.

Kim Ouellette is the FISH organization's Operations and Volunteer Manager, who supports FISH by engaging new and existing volunteers with a rewarding volunteer experience. Her responsibilities include recruitment, engagement and communication to support operational excellence and create a meaningful experience for volunteers that embodies 'neighbors helping neighbors' organization. "It's refreshing to see our volunteers, new and tenured, work together and develop a bond, enjoy new experiences and grow friendships as they give their time and talent to FISH and our community," notes Ouellette. "How fortunate are we all that individuals that decided to volunteer are able to create a friendship and comradery that goes beyond their time spent at FISH."

FISH volunteers are full and part-time residents, retired and working. Some help in one service area, others assist with several, and some can only give mornings or afternoons or certain days of the week, while others have more availability. There are always opportunities to become involved with FISH. With so many possibilities everyone can find a good fit!



F.I.S.H LINES



Jenny Rosenberg began volunteering at FISH in the Food Pantry in January, desiring to give back while experiencing the organization and learning what they were all about. "I was also hoping to have a more personal connection to Sanibel, to widen my circle beyond my neighbors, and yoga and swim friends I met since moving here in 2019 with my husband," says Rosenberg. Through her volunteer time at FISH, Rosenberg met a fellow food pantry volunteer, Kristin Malone, and the two became instant friends. "We try to catch up on the previous month of life while stocking and organizing food products during our shift. Here's to new friends! I'm so grateful," continues Rosenberg. Malone is equally as grateful, noting she always looks forward to her volunteer hours at FISH. "I feel so fortunate to be down here on Sanibel. I volunteer 'up north', but felt the need to give back to this beautiful island — it's a special place. And, the first time I volunteered, I met Jenny and we just connected; we have a lot in common and I always look forward to our shift."

There are always opportunities to become involved with FISH, from transportation to meal delivery; phone duty to stocking shelves; and much more! New volunteers are trained in their area(s) of interest, and placed with a more seasoned volunteer, giving newcomers the necessary tools to be successful. The application to become a FISH volunteer can be found on our website, <https://www.fishofsancap.org/volunteers>. To learn more about FISH and volunteer opportunities, please contact the FISH Walk-In Center at 239-472-4775.





COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE: Youth Summer Scholarships

With Lee County Schools wrapping up the school year on June 2nd, FISH is busy working with households to ensure they have plans for kids during the summer that keep them safe and active. For those who qualify, FISH offers scholarships to send children to various summer camps throughout the county. The program offers limited financial assistance for families who cannot afford the rising cost of summer childcare and camps.

"Many households struggle to find balance between work and childcare particularly during the summer months. Some facilities and camps that closed in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic have not re-opened, while others are open with less staff meaning fewer children can attend," says Nitza Lopez, Social Services Director, FISH. "Summer months for island employees can often bring about a reduction in hours at work for our clients, and with rising costs it's becoming difficult to afford childcare." The uncertainty that surrounds summer care for children adds additional stress to working families and many do not have a plan in place, even though school ends for summer recess in less than one month. FISH understands the challenges of finding appropriate programs and the costs associated with summer childcare, and continues to provide financial assistance in the form of youth scholarships.

"We offer scholarships for summer programs every year to ensure children remain active and in enriching environments when they're out of school," continues Lopez. FISH is in close contact with area camp directors both on and off island so they can provide families with appropriate options. "We work with the Sanibel Recreation Center, Sanibel Sea School and CECI, as well as off-island locations, so that our families have an array of options," added Lopez. "It's all about finding a balance that makes sense, keeps children engaged, and most importantly keeps them safe."

The FISH Summer Youth Scholarship Program is supported by private donors and grant funding from the Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Foundation. "Last year FISH helped with a portion of the costs associated with camp for my three boys," says Patti, program participant and island worker. "We still haven't caught up with expenses from the incredible loss of income we experienced throughout the height of the COVID crisis and through some other unexpected medical costs. I'm grateful that FISH can help us again this year as it will keep the boys active and engaged while giving us the opportunity to pick up more hours." Scholarship assistance is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The FISH Social Services Department determines eligibility for need-based financial assistance through a review of a family's 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.





F.I.S.H LINES

WORKSHOP: Virtual Lunch With Calusa Waterkeeper



All islanders, friends and family are invited to the community-wide FISH OF SANCAP Virtual Friendly Faces Luncheon, scheduled for Tues., May 10 beginning at noon via Zoom. Lunch, prepared by George & Wendy's, consists of a cold entree, side, water bottle and dessert. The cost of the luncheon is waived and complimentary to all participants. FISH volunteers will deliver meals to islanders beginning at 11:30am.

Guest speaker Trisha Botty Executive Director, Calusa Waterkeeper, will introduce the organization and programs designed to improve the waters of our jurisdiction, including impacts on riparian and estuarine systems, wildlife habitat, and marine life. She will also address the importance of public education concerning the significance, condition, and future of our water bodies and watersheds. Trisha has over 15 years of experience driving social change by leading innovative programs, strategies, collaboration, capacity building and campaigns while building meaningful and authentic relationships that lift-up people, organizations, and communities.

The FISH Friendly Faces luncheon is a great way to catch up with friends, make new connections and learn about exciting offerings in the area. Reservations and meal choices are required by Fri., May 6 to the FISH Walk-In-Center, 239-472-4775. Once registered, FISH will provide an emailed link and meeting ID number for access.

WORKSHOP: Cooking With Leslie

The monthly Cooking with Leslie virtual cooking class sponsored by FISH OF SANCAP will take place on Thurs., May 19 beginning at 2:00pm via Zoom. This month we will learn how to turn summertime classics into a healthier version of our tired and true favorites.

Leslie Adams, chef and owner of Sanibel Captiva Catering/Catering by Leslie Adams, will lead the lesson in cooking class format. We will provide a list of ingredients necessary for the lesson to registered participants. If there is a need, FISH can assist in purchasing ingredients and deliver on the day of the event. Please indicate if ingredients and delivery are needed with RSVP.

Please register no later than May 16, 2022, by contacting the FISH Walk-In-Center, 239-472-4775. Once registered, FISH will provide the Zoom link and meeting ID number for access.





F.I.S.H LINES

This Month's Memory Café

interfaith


OUTREACH OF SANCAP



WHEN:

**May 24th, 2022
10:00-11:30 a.m.**

WHERE:

**2173 Periwinkle Way,
Sanibel, FL 33957
(239) 472-2155**

Summer is right around the corner! Get ready for warmer weather and join us as we talk about our favorite summer pastimes and enjoy an activity!

**For more information or to RSVP, please call
(239) 437-3007**

In partnership with:



THE DUBIN CENTER
Where no one faces dementia alone.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS MAY 2022

Community: Youth Summer Scholarships

For those who qualify, FISH offers scholarships for families to send their children to various summer camps throughout the county. The program offers limited financial assistance for families who cannot afford the rising cost of summer childcare and camps.

Community: Hurricane Preparedness Packets -- Available beginning May 9

Receive an updated Hurricane Resource Packet providing detailed information on where to go, what to do, and how to prepare in the event of an approaching storm. For additional information contact FISH.

Community: Virtual Friendly Faces Luncheon -- Tues., May 10, Noon-1:30p

Virtual community luncheon with guest speaker Trisha Botty, Executive Director, Calusa Waterkeeper. RSVP to FISH by Fri., May 6. Menu options and Zoom link will be provided.

Community: Virtual Cooking with Leslie -- Thurs., May 19, 2:00p

Virtual cooking class with Leslie Adams. RSVP to FISH by May 16. Recipes and Zoom link will be provided.

Community: Memory Cafe -- Tues., May 24, 10:00a

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

Individuals with memory impairment and their caregivers join The Dublin Center and Interfaith Outreach of SanCap for activities centered around the season of flowers.

Ongoing, monthly:

Backpack for Kids Distribution - weekly at FISH Walk-In Center

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

Memory Cafe - 4th Tuesday of each month at the Sanibel Community House

The FISH Walk-In Center and Food Pantry will be closed on Monday, May 30



F.I.S.H LINES

Community Condolences



With great sadness, we announce the loss of FISH volunteer and beloved community member *Linda Scherer* who passed away last month. Linda lived and loved all things Sanibel with endless joy, and she will be beautifully remembered by our organization. Services are scheduled for May 6 at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Sanibel. Please join us as we keep her family in our thoughts during this mournful time.

Linda, right, with Ira Grasgreen assembling Easter baskets



Annie Schreck, wife of former Board Member Dick Schreck and FISH volunteer since 2008, passed away peacefully in April. Annie was a dedicated volunteer who coordinated our Meals-by-F.I.S.H. program as our meals manager for many years. Our deepest condolences to the Schreck family during this difficult time.



Paul J. Powers, a supporter and advocate of FISH, passed away on April 11 surrounded by his loving family at his home on Sanibel. Paul proudly served as a commissioned Officer in The United States Navy. He was on The Explosives Ordnance Disposal Unit, a Frogman, and the Ship Diver for The USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. The family will hold a private Celebration of Life at a later date. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends during this sorrowful time.



Marilyn Helpers, a supporter and advocate of FISH, passed away on April 23. Marilyn had a diverse working life. She was the founding editor of "She", the first women's section of The Arlington Day newspaper and won the University of Missouri JC Penney Award in Journalism. A celebration of life service was held on April 28. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends during this sorrowful time.





F.I.S.H LINES

Community Connections

In case you missed the Duane Shaffer, Sanibel Public Library, presentation of WWII 1944, you can watch the replay of the videos on their [website](#), or at the YouTube links below:



[WWII 1944 'Big Week'](#)
[with Sanibel Public Library](#)
Duane E. Shaffer

[1944 - Operation Griffin](#)
[with Sanibel Public Library](#)
Duane E. Shaffer



[WWII 1944 - Battle of the Philippine Sea](#)
[with Sanibel Public Library](#)
Duane E. Shaffer



[WWII Operation Goodwood](#)
[with Sanibel Public Library](#)
Duane E. Shaffer

Happy Memorial Day! We will be closed on Mon., May 30

MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER & HONOR



WE NEED GREAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

As we move toward summer and many of our volunteers return to their Northern homes, we have many opportunities, and hope you can help!

- Flyer distribution
- Phone Duty volunteers
- Product pick-up, load/unload
- Food Pantry stocking, inventory

Hurricane Committee Members
Medical equipment volunteers
Backpack and Fresh Meal assembly

Please contact Kim Ouellette, Operations and Volunteer Manager to sign-up or with questions. Thank you for your continued support, we appreciate all of our volunteers! Click below for current volunteer calendars.

[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!

[Bailey's General Store](#)

[Jerry's Foods](#)

[Publix](#)

[Amazon Prime Pantry](#)

Food Pantry Donations Requested

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](#)

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](#)



ABOUT FISH

FISH of SanCap is a nonprofit, staffed by more than 150 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**
- **Jerry's Foods**



F.I.S.H LINES

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!

