

FISH LINES

onward and upward

FISH PARTNERS WITH OTHERS FOR DRYWALL DISTRIBUTION



FISH, with partners Rotary International, GEM (Global Empowerment Mission) and Starbucks™ will distribute drywall to residents of Sanibel and Captiva on Tues., Jan. 31 at the St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church parking lot located at 2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel. Within hours of announcement, all 2000 sheets of drywall were reserved and FISH is now accepting *waiting list reservations only*. The event, secured through Executive Director Maria Espinoza’s connection as a community leader and Rotarian, is a

representation of the agency’s disaster assistance programs. “We are thankful to all of our partners for coordinating this effort, to St. Michael’s for use of their lot for distribution, and to all of the volunteers who will be helping with loading, unloading and delivery,” says Espinoza. “We were shocked to run out of drywall so quickly, and are working diligently to bring another distribution event to our community.” Those wishing to add their name to a waiting list for any future drywall events are encouraged to call Manuela Martinez, 239-472-4775.

COMMUNITY: EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY OPENS

We continue to assist island neighbors with emergency food assistance, housed at our Sanibel site, 2430 Periwinkle Way. While the Food Pantry may look a little bit different in size and offerings, our intention remains the same -- to help those living or working on Sanibel and Captiva islands by providing nutritious supplemental grocery items to sustain food needs. “Transition from our Food Pantry pre-hurricane to an Emergency Food Pantry post-hurricane has been an ongoing process, and we’re glad we are now able to store more products since our building has been remediated,” says Manuela Martinez, Program Coordinator. For those wishing to donate products to the Pantry, we are in need of:

- Personal hygiene products
- Feminine hygiene products
- Diapers
- Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues
- Pasta, rice
- Canned protein (tuna or chicken)
- Peanut butter, jelly
- Water



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2430-B Periwinkle Way
Sanibel FL 33957

Temporary Mailing Address:
15550 McGregor Boulevard,
Suite 204
Fort Myers, FL 33908

239.472.4775

fishofsancap.org

email: info@fishofsancap.org





FOOD BOX PROGRAM



We've launched a Food Box Program as a supplement to our Food Pantry! This program provides an assortment of fresh produce and Food Pantry items to islanders that are unable to visit our Sanibel site. We will provide an option for delivery, once weekly, to those who request it. Sign up is required; please contact Manuela Martinez at FISH, 239-472-4775 or manuela@fishofsancap.org.

"We are so thankful to Aurora's Produce, Local Roots Farmers Markets and the Sanibel Island Farmers Market for their abundant, and delicious, contributions to the Food Box and Food Pantry programs," says Manuela

Martinez, Program Coordinator. "As we continue to see more and more islanders return, we hope they will find this opportunity helpful as they continue to recover from Hurricane Ian."

FISH SPONSORS FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION

Continuing a popular service from the last several years, FISH will again host the United Way Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program which offers free tax preparation assistance. Eligible households who must make \$66,000 or less. Participating taxpayers will have their returns completed and filed for them at no cost. VITA preparers are IRS certified, trained volunteers that ensure each participant's return is maximized by informing them of all tax credits or policies relevant to their personal tax situation. Beginning **Fri., Feb. 3**, VITA will offer tax preparation service at the **Sanibel Public Library, 770 Dunlop Road, from 10:00a-3:00p**. Appointments are required and can be made by contacting Erika Broyles at FISH, 239-472-4775. [Read more](#)



FISH FURNITURE DISTRIBUTION



FISH, with the United Way Gifts-in-Kind Program, is distributing furniture through their Hurricane Ian Point of Distribution Program (POD). The program is available to Sanibel and Captiva Island residents and workforce. Items for distribution may include, but are not limited to mattresses, bed frames, chairs and tables, accent furniture and more. For additional information, contact Manuela at FISH, 239-472-4775 or manuela@fishofsancap.org. [Read more](#)



HELPING HANDS: ASSISTING WITH HURRICANE RECOVERY

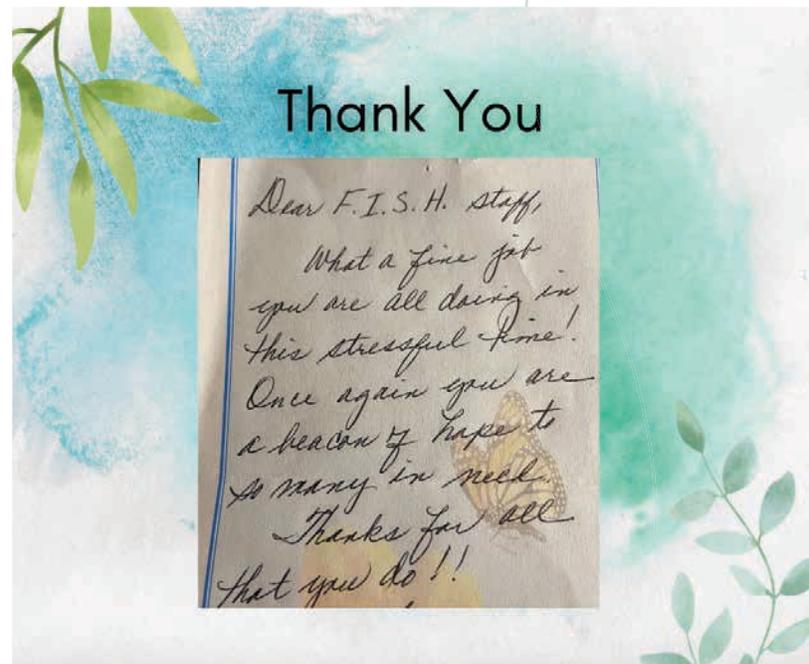
As Hurricane Ian was unfolding, our team members were on call, standing by to assist as soon as the storm passed. Since the date of landfall, we have been the 'boots on the ground' agency, assisting islanders navigate their way through broken homes, lost jobs and broken dreams. We've been helping many recover by providing essentials: food, supplies, hygiene items, referrals, comfort and support. Through generous support of donors and grants, we are also able to help those that qualify offset some of financial burden caused by the destructive storm.



Barbara Jones, whose name has been changed for client privacy, not only lost her housing but also her employment after Ian. While her home was not completely destroyed, it was deemed uninhabitable until flood remediation was complete and repairs were made, which she was told could take eight months or more. Her employer unfortunately didn't fare well and is determining whether they will return at all.

Barbara contacted us to request assistance in filling out her FEMA application as well as help with finding a new job. In a tearful call with Nitza Lopez, Social Services Director, Barbara breaks down about losing virtually everything – clothes, electronics, furnishings, food. "I know I should be grateful that I'm not hurt and have my good health, but I don't even have a computer to apply for assistance and work, or clothes to wear for a job interview," says Barbara. The rawness and vulnerability of those hardest hit by Ian's wrath is heartbreaking. [Read more.](#)

COMMUNITY: WORDS OF APPRECIATION





COMING SOON: MEALS-BY-F.I.S.H. PROGRAM TO RETURN



As the aftermath of Hurricane Ian continues to change shape, FISH is working tirelessly to ensure they continue to support the community in this time of crisis. While FISH has not been able to run their traditional food programs at full speed, the organization is working on re-establishing the Meals-by-FISH program by the **middle to end of February**, in addition to continuing immediate hurricane response services. Over the last few years, the Meals program doubled in size, mainly due to the COVID crisis, and now, in the wake of Hurricane Ian, proves to be a critical resource for islanders as many grocery stores and restaurants remain closed to work on repairs.

The Meals-by-FISH program delivers one hot, nutritious meal per day, up to 5 days/week, including extras for the weekend to island neighbors. Originally facilitated in partnership with Bailey's General Store, the program meals will now be provided by Jerry's Foods as Bailey's continues repairs to the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Ian.



SEEKING EQUIPMENT DONATIONS

Prior to Hurricane Ian landfall, our Medical Equipment Lending program assisted island residents and visitors with equipment they may only need on a temporary basis. For islanders recovering from a medical procedure or visitors unable to travel with bulky medical items, individuals were able to borrow equipment from FISH at no cost. Unfortunately, all medical equipment we had on hand was destroyed or lost as a result of Hurricane Ian.



We are asking for your help to replace lost equipment for this vital program and can accept wheelchairs/transport wheelchairs; walkers; crutches (only in pairs); bedside commodes; bath chairs; canes; knee scooters and shower transfer chairs. All donated items must be in good working order -- no rust, no missing pieces, no noticeable damage.

To learn more about the Meals-by-F.I.S.H. and/or Equipment Loan programs, please contact Erika Broyles at FISH, 239-472-4775 or erika@fishofsancap.org.



WELCOME BOARD MEMBERS



Susan Ryckman, MSN, RN, CPNP - Susan joined Lee Health in 2012, and served as the VP of Operations and Chief Nurse Executive for Golisano Children’s Hospital of SW Florida until retiring in 2020. A Chicago area native, Susan is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who held a variety of clinical and leadership roles since completion of her undergraduate work in 1977 at Northern Illinois University. She has a Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Cincinnati, and served as a clinician and a leader at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago (now Lurie Children’s Hospital), Columbus Children’s Hospital (now Nationwide Children’s Hospital) and at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, as well as on the faculty of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Prior to joining Golisano, Susan was the Senior Clinical Director of the Heart Institute at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital for 15 years. Susan serves on the RMHC Board of Directors, currently as President, and on the local March of

Dimes Board of Directors, as well as actively supporting several other organizations focused on the care and nurture of children and families.

Jane Majeski - Jane Majeski and her husband Paul split their time between Sanibel and Demarest, NJ. Jane graduated with a BA in Economics from Ohio Wesleyan University and was employed by Great West Assurance in Baltimore, MD marketing large group employee benefits and annuities. She transferred to the Great West North Jersey office where she worked until she joined forces with her husband at Music Trades, the leading trade magazine for the music industry since 1890. During her tenure at Music Trades, she played key roles in finance, marketing, and sales. She has served on numerous organizations including: President of the Demarest Library, PTA Board, Elder of Presbyterian Church at Tenafly – Chair of Finance and Stewardship, member and past President of Garden Club of Englewood (GC of America member), and serving on the Demarest Board of Education for nine years. Jane was honored to be a part of the Charitable Foundation of the Island’s inaugural Leadership Sanibel-Captiva Class of 2022.



Nicole McHale - Nicole and her husband, retired attorney James T. McHale, have resided on Sanibel since 1995. Nicole was appointed to the FISH board in 2013 to complete an unfinished term, was Vice Chair for part of 2017 and Chair from 2017-2019. As Chair, she furthered the reach and network of FISH through her commitment to raising awareness of the organization. In 2019, she was honored with two major community awards: Citizen of the Year by Committee of the Islands (COTI) and Volunteer of the Year by the Sanibel Chamber, and she has continued her service in 2020 and 2021. McHale also served as chair of the Social Committee for the Sanctuary Golf Club, Commissioner for the Sanibel Public Library, and as a board member for the Sanibel Community House. She has been elected as Secretary of the FISH Board.

Your 2023 FISH Board of Directors:

Jim Metzler, Ph.D., **Chair**; Maggi Feiner, **President & CEO**; Ellen Sloan, Ph.D., **Vice Chair**; Greg Blurton, **Treasurer**; Nicole McHale, **Secretary**; John Morse, Esq., **Board Chair Emeritus**; Sheridan Snell, **Board Chair Emeritus**

Directors:

P. James (Jim) Brady; Melissa Congress; Jane Majeski; Lisa Ann Miller, M.D.; John Morse, Esq.; Susan Ryckman, MSN, RN, CPNP; Kathy Samson; Ann-Marie Wildman



WELCOME SEAN PIERCE, ACCOUNTING DIRECTOR



Sean Pierce brings over 25 years of accounting acumen to the F.I.S.H. team. His expertise includes both private sector and public accounting experience. Raised in a military family, Sean lived on many Air Force bases around the world, with roots planted in the Florida Panhandle. An Alumni of Florida State University, he received a BS in Finance and has overseen many unique projects in accounting services, consultations, and tax preparations. Sean moved to Sanibel 12 years ago for his daughter to attend the Sanibel School, transplanting his roots to Southwest Florida. A longtime Sanibel community member,

he is a familiar face on the island, with ties to local businesses and non-profit organizations. Sean served 6 years as the Treasurer of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum during the building expansion, and was a member of the Sanibel Sea School Finance Committee. He provides F.I.S.H. an enriched wealth of experience in both the non-profit and for-profit sectors. Sean is looking forward to continuing his island service in his professional role with F.I.S.H. When not in the office, you will see him paddle boarding our local waters, riding a bike down periwinkle way, or volunteering his time to a worthy cause.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT . . .

We continue to assist those impacted by Hurricane Ian from our Sanibel sites and from our temporary Fort Myers office space by providing essential food, water and personal hygiene products, recovery resources, application assistance, housing/job search and more. To view first hand how our assistance helps so many, we hope you enjoy two short videos showing how we assist our community. Provided by, and with special thanks, to Nick Adams.

[Onward & Upward Video 1](#)

[Onward & Upward Video 2](#)



onward & upward
AFTER HURRICANE IAN



2022 YEAR END RECAP

Happy New Year and welcome 2023! While the last quarter of 2022 was nothing anyone expected, FISH has continued to serve our island communities in ways we never imagined! Thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers, partners and advocates for always being there for us and for allowing our team to do what we do best -- enrich the lives of all people in Sanibel and Captiva Islands by neighbors helping neighbors with social services, education and assistance. We hope you'll enjoy the following photos highlighting our services and celebrations during the last quarter of 2022.

FRIENDSGIVING





HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT CIELO





GIFT DISTRIBUTION





WE NEED GREAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

As we continue to re-establish our core programs, we are in need of volunteers to assist with various programs. Please contact Kim Ouellette, Operations and Volunteer Manager to sign-up as a FISH volunteer or to answer any volunteer questions you may have. Our immediate needs include:

- Product pick-up, load/unload
- Food Pantry stocking, inventory
- Medical equipment volunteers
- Meal and grocery delivery

Thank you for your continued support, we appreciate all of our volunteers!



ABOUT FISH

FISH of SanCap is a nonprofit, staffed by more than 150 volunteers. Professionals staff our Sanibel site and our temporary Fort Myers location 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**
- **Disaster Assistance**
- **Limited Food Pantry**
- **Medical Equipment Loan (coming soon)**
- **Hot Meals Program (coming soon)**
- **Kid's Food Backpack (coming soon)**
- **Youth Scholarships**
- **Referrals & Resources**
- **Furniture Distribution**
- **VITA (Income Tax Preparation)**



VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERS IN ACTION

Thank you to all of our wonderful, dedicated volunteers and partners. We could not do what we do without you!





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