

APRIL 2023

FISH LINES

NEWSLETTER

onward and upward

FISH OF SANCAP, YOUR LONG-TERM RECOVERY AGENCY



As we continue with disaster recovery more than seven months after the storm, many are weighing out the costs of repair versus the costs of tear down and rebuild. Some received assistance from FEMA while others were denied; many are experiencing issues with insurance settlements, particularly those with high deductibles while others did not have insurance at all.

The needs of every member of our community are plenty. Only a handful of businesses have reopened; others are planning for a reopening in the future; many will not be returning. Job opportunities have diminished significantly, and our workforce continues to seek employment opportunities, a safe and secure place to live and means to take care of their families. Through communication, surveys, meetings with the City and other organizations, FISH is assessing the needs of our community residents and workforce which changes frequently.



We've listened to the cry for help to obtain rebuilding supplies and furnishings and have formed the appropriate partnerships to distribute necessary items for folks to begin their recovery process. We continue to provide emergency financial assistance for rent/mortgage, utility and medical purposes. Since landfall we've been supplying islanders with shelf stable food, water, cleaning supplies and other essentials for day-to-day living. Looking to the summer months and the beginning of another hurricane season, we are rolling out our hurricane preparedness packet, reinstating our children's food backpack program and providing assistance with youth summer scholarships.



Our target population is anyone who lives or works on Sanibel and Captiva Islands, including our most vulnerable senior population. Many of those requesting assistance for Hurricane Ian recovery have never had to ask for assistance before. Some are working household families, others are retired seniors – all have been affected in some way by Hurricane Ian's destruction. FISH is answering all requests for assistance that include minor asks such as providing a bicycle to someone who lost their vehicle to more significant requests such as emergency financial assistance, providing rebuilding supplies and assisting with medical and mental health referrals and resources.

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





FISH FURNITURE AND REBUILD PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION

Every Friday from 1-2pm, we are distributing furniture and rebuild products through the Hurricane Ian Point of Distribution Program (POD), thanks to our United Way partnership. The program is available to Sanibel and Captiva Island residents and workforce, on a first come, first served basis, while supplies last. For additional information, contact Manuela at FISH, 239-472-4775 or manuela@fishofsancap.org.

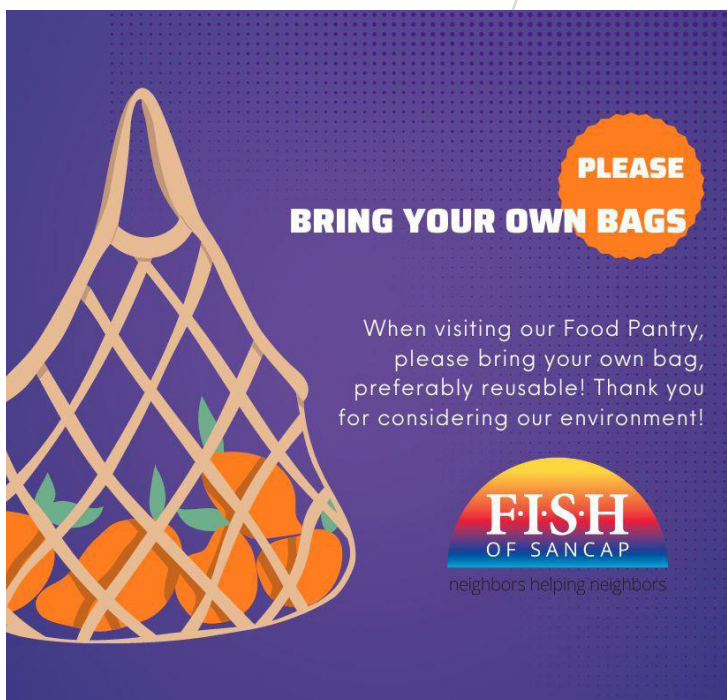




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FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM

Our Food Pantry is growing with more items arriving daily! Thank you FISH volunteers for keeping up with the deliveries and stocking our shelves for those who need. While we are unable to stock cold or frozen items, we do have many shelf-stable products and fresh fruits & vegetables, thanks to our partners at the Farmer's Market. We're on-site at 2430 Periwinkle Way Monday-Friday from 9:00-3:00! Please remember to bring your own bags, preferably reusable, in consideration of our environment.





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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR APRIL EVENT AT CIELO!

We appreciate and thank you for your generous support of FISH, that allows us to support our neighbors as we face tough times and remain vigilant towards recovery and re-growth. To view all photos, [please visit our website](#)



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



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EASTER ON THE ISLANDS

Thanks to many partnerships, including the Sanibel Public Library, the Sanibel Farmer's Market, MacIntosh Books & Paper, Jerry's Foods and donations from community members, our islanders were treated to a very special Easter! We cannot thank you enough for your support.





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NONPROFIT EXPO

A Thank you Charitable Foundation of the Islands and BIG ARTS for organizing and hosting the Nonprofit & Volunteer expo! We saw so many new faces and connected with some we haven't seen for a while! What a great evening for our community



THANK YOU SEA OATS DAY SPA

Earlier this month, Sea Oats Day Spa hosted an open house and food drive to benefit FISH. Guests toured the spa and enjoyed shaved ice, a mobile bar from Tap Truck Fort Myers, and a gift basket raffle from Sea Oats, and food donations were accepted to benefit our pantry and prepare for the upcoming summer.





WE NEED GREAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

As we move toward summer months and some of our volunteers return to their 'up north' homes, we are in need of additional volunteers to assist. Please contact us to sign-up as a FISH volunteer or to answer any volunteer questions you may have. It's a great way to connect and serve the community!



ABOUT FISH

FISH of SanCap is a nonprofit, staffed by more than 200 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**
- **Hot Meals Program**
- **Kid's Food Backpack (coming soon)**
- **Youth Scholarships**
- **Referrals & Resources**
- **Furniture Distribution**
- **VITA (Income Tax Preparation)**





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VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERS IN ACTION

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



neighbors helping neighbors