

The F.I.S.H. Line

NEWBERG F.I.S.H. EMERGENCY SERVICE
Friends In Service to Humanity – since 1970
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May 2015 Newsletter

Volunteer Spotlight



Dee Norman

Dee has volunteered with FISH since 2002. Born in Portland, Dee has lived in Oregon and the Portland area most of her life. She has 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Her late husband Kenneth worked in management at Fred Meyers then decided to open a mom and pop grocery store close to their home, so they could spend more time with their children. They owned the store for 25 years until retirement.

Dee volunteers her time with Newberg FISH because she believes in the program and likes that everything goes back to the community. "We are all volunteers and there are no paid employees. That's important to me."

"When I started volunteering I filled food boxes. We would fill about 8 boxes a day for our clients. Now we average about 30 a day." Dee now manages the warehouse and also orders food from YCAP and from local community outlets. "It has been so easy to work here. The volunteers here are a great group of people."

Open House on Friday, May 22, 9:00 – 12:00
Join us for the FILP (Ford Institute Leadership Program)
project update and tour of the FISH facility!

FISH CELEBRATES ITS 45TH BIRTHDAY!!!!

In 1970, forty five years ago, a few local people developed Newberg FISH to aid people in our community needing help. Assistance began with a telephone help line that was manned by volunteers 24 hours a day. The types of calls received were requesting transportation to medical offices, babysitting, home repairs, meals and new clothing. Thanksgiving boxes were provided and people who just wanted some company were visited that first year.

Later FISH initiated the hot meals program for seniors, called "Three Squares." Food Drives then began and allowed us to collect adequate food for the boxes distributed to clients. Christmas boxes were soon added to the program of aid.

A recycling program was started in 1974 to collect newspapers and later glass and cardboard. This raised money to support the FISH program along with rummage sales and baked goods sales. Recycling proceeds still pay for operating expenses.

Over these 45 years, Newberg FISH has been housed in at least five locations, outgrowing all over time. At first, food and services were delivered out of volunteers' homes.

FISH has worked closely with many other agencies churches and organizations during the years and tries to not duplicate or overlap services. FISH staff is not paid, so we can direct more money to helping clients.

45 years have now passed since that small group of concerned citizens first met to make plans to help local people and the programs have changed dramatically since then. This past decade was full of growth for FISH, both in the number of clients served as well as with food, grants and donations. We are so thankful for our faithful volunteers and our community which supports Newberg FISH. The future will continue to be a challenge, but with the continued support now provided us, FISH will continue to meet whatever the years ahead bring.

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Community Partnerships Go “WAY BACK” with Zion Lutheran Church

So many of our valuable partnerships go back years. Gwen Schwabe, a member of the Zion Lutheran Church and a long time FISH volunteer, shared with me why she decided to volunteer her time with FISH.

Gwen had a friend, a single mom who needed heat, lights and was low on food. She took her to FISH. At this time, Judy Christensen, was the secretary of FISH and had taken care of her. Impressed, Gwen decided that’s where she needed to volunteer her time. For 26 years Gwen filled food boxes and her husband Bill started working on the recycling program.

In the mid 1980’s Christensen, who was also a secretary at Zion Lutheran Church, knew that FISH was outgrowing their current home. She also knew the basement of the church was not being used; with her help FISH was able to relocate there. The freezers and refrigerators, previously located at the homes of volunteers, were moved to the church location and for the first time a phone answering machine was set up with helpful information. Previously volunteers took turns taking calls from their homes.

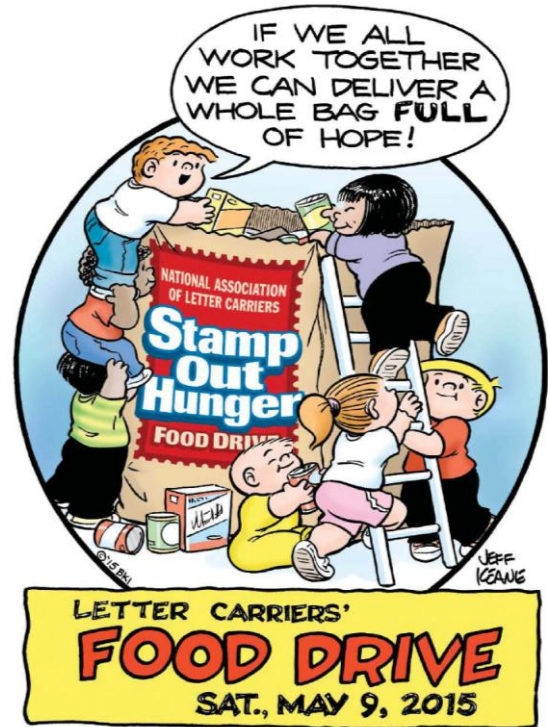
There were always hurdles that the dedicated volunteers had to deal with but they always found a solution. An example of this was when volunteers would hand boxes of food through a basement window in order to make it easier to get the heavy boxes of food in. A volunteer had an idea to rig a roller ramp into the window so they could push the food onto the ramp and into the basement.

Some clients couldn’t get down the stairs to pick up their food, so volunteers would get the orders and carry it out to their cars. At this time, FISH was providing not only food boxes but also used clothing, because there were no other free clothing sources available in the area. They also were able to offer money for utilities occasionally. Most of the volunteers at this time were members of the church.

After 10 years of occupying the church’s basement, FISH needed to find a new home because the church was rapidly expanding and we had to move from the basement. Since then, FISH has moved a few more times. Our current building was offered to us by Chehalem Parks & Recreation Department (CPRD).

Judy Christensen was eventually appointed the Executive Director and played a big role in shaping and directing the growth of FISH for many years.

Now in 2015, 45 years since our beginnings, we look back and appreciate all the community partnerships, because without them, we would not be where we are today: helping our local families in need.



PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
WE’LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

MORE WAYS TO HELP...

1. Bring us your recyclables:

-Drop off your **cardboard, newspapers and glass bottles** at our bins in the lot at 3rd & River streets.



-Bring your **refundable beverage containers** to the F.I.S.H. building. Be sure to remove caps from plastic water bottles.

2. Collect and turn in your **Nap’s Receipts**. Nap’s Thriftway donates 1% of the total dollar amount reflected on the receipts.



Open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Donations welcome 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Food boxes available 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM