
FISH NEWS

A Brief History of Friends in Support of Humanity (FISH)



Thirty-three people launched FISH in 1970 to help Newberg area people in need of assistance. FISH began with a telephone help line that was maintained by volunteers 24-hours a day. During that first year 60 telephone calls were received asking for transportation, at least half of the requests were for rides to and from hospital or doctor calls. The volunteers fulfilled requests for babysitting, home repairs, meals, used clothing, gasoline, moving furniture, mowing lawns, cleaning houses, and visiting lonely people. In addition, volunteers sent sympathy and get well cards, started a clothing closet, held a rummage sale that netted \$40, and distributed 13 food boxes

**Current FISH
headquarters:**

**125 S. Elliot Rd.
Suite A, Newberg,
OR 97132**

for Thanksgiving. Soon after, the Newberg Police Department started handling the late night calls.

During the first five years FISH reached out to other partners to help meet the needs of Newberg citizens. The Newberg Ministerial Association encouraged churches to donate food, a bus service for senior citizens was launched by the Yamhill County Red Cross, people donated turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes, the Newberg Adventist center took over clothing distribution, FISH partnered with Loaves and Fishes for food distribution, and the Newberg Thrift Store gave clothing and items for emergencies. In 1971, Newberg High School students launched a community-wide

food drive that brought in over a ton of food. FISH obtained two freezers for storing food and Buckley's Lockers also stored food. FISH launched newspaper and glass recycling by setting up collection locations around town. These efforts increased resources.

During the last 54 years the services offered have ebbed and flowed as additional organizations emerged in Newberg to help meet the needs of a growing community. However, there are some aspects that have remained constant at FISH:

1. FISH has always operated as a completely volunteer organization;
2. FISH has always partnered with other organizations;
3. FISH has always provided food to people in need, including special Thanksgiving and Christmas meal boxes;
4. Citizens and organizations in the Newberg area have always been very generous with their time, money, food contributions, and other resources.



Currently, FISH distributes food from 10-1 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.. Citizens can call 503-538-4444 once a month to request food boxes.