

Winter 2021

The FISHline



'It was an amazing show of teamwork...'

by FISH Board Member Midge Stewart

Dear FISH volunteers and supporters, the year 2020 has been one we won't forget.

At our food pantry, we had an incredible group of eight-plus volunteers who worked hard every Tuesday, for the first six months of COVID, to ensure there was no gap in feeding our neighbors. There wasn't.

It was an amazing show of teamwork and comaraderie, that I personally will never forget.

As we close out the year, Ron Wood, our head of purchasing, reports that our pantry is the FULLEST it's been since the last Postal Workers food drive in May, 2019. (*Ron is pictured on the left, dressed as he was on May 5 surprising clients who came to the pantry to pick up their food order on Cinco de Mayo.*)

Ron reports that we had between 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of food at the pantry as the year came to an end, primarily as a result of large food donations from Oxford and Lake Orion schools and others. This puts us in good shape to help meet the needs of our clients as they face the winter month ahead amidst the COVID crisis.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your generous donations and continued support. The spirit of giving is definitely alive in Oxford and Lake Orion.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all of you!

What you can do to help

- * To volunteer: go to FISH's website: (oxfordorionfish.org), click on "Volunteer", then on the icon below



- * To donate financially: go to FISH's website click on the "Donate" tab then on the donate icon

- * Food donations now accepted at the pantry's drop-off bin in back

Pantry is located at
1060 S. Lapeer Rd.
Oxford, MI 48371

Hotline: 248-628-3933

Behind-the-scene contributions

Support to our hundreds of clients comes in many ways. Volunteers working at the pantry provide the most visible and necessary support. But many other behind-the-scene contributions make it possible for the food distributions to continue. Among them is the donation of an attractive food drop-off bin built by Eagle Scout Ian Davidson (photo). The bin is at the back of the food pantry where individuals can drop off their food donations at any time. Among the items currently needed are ranch dressing, manwich, pancake mix, boxed spaghetti and cornbread muffin mix.



Dozens of individuals, families, churches and businesses made generous donations to last month's AngelFISH program, which was FISH's 18th year of Christmas gift-giving to the children of its clients. More than 50 families and 124 children were gifted by donors such as Dana Abbasse (photo), presenting Michelle Behm with a generous donation from the Scripps Middle School National Junior Honor Society.

'Fill the bus' campaign

Santa's helpers at the FISH food pantry



FISH's Ron Wood reports that Santa's helpers at Oxford and Lake Orion schools (*photos*) brought a number of large unexpected food donations to the pantry in December. "We received half of the donations collected by the Lake Orion High School Leadership Group," he said, "which was about 6,500 items. In addition, the Oxford school district had a 'fill the bus' campaign which brought five buses filled with more than 11,000 items to the pantry."

The pantry also received a pickup load of food from the Lake Orion Fire Department and seven boxes of food from Blanche Sims Elementary School. Ron adds, "For the first time since last year's postal carrier drive, we filled every crate we had in our inventory!"

The Prayer Line

For protection of all FISH clients, volunteers, and supporters in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

For the gift of Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest food pantries.

In thanksgiving for all acts of love and kindness.

For our FISH clients, volunteers and their families struggling with cancer and other major hardships.

Almighty God, whose great commandment is that we shall love our neighbors as ourselves, and who has taught us that we should do to others as we would have them do to us, we ask your blessing upon the work and growth of the FISH movement throughout the world. As our purpose is to help our fellow persons, and to promote all that is good in the life of our community, so we pray that you will strengthen our hands in all our undertakings, and that your work may spread the spirit of fellowship and goodwill among all people.

**Oxford/Orion FISH
P.O. Box 732
LAKE ORION, MI 48361**

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