



## FISH Creates Partnerships to Combat Hunger in Vancouver

Tackling hunger takes teamwork. FISH of Vancouver proudly develops partnerships with local organizations to help ensure that no one goes hungry. Two of our partnerships are tackling food issues with very different groups of people.



*Glenn Hess filling bags of food for residents of Central Park Place*

### Serving Veterans and Others at Central Park Place

Every Thursday, FISH volunteers fill bags with nutritious food for Central Park Place residents. The 123-unit housing program provides studio apartments for people with extremely low-incomes, including units for 70-80 veterans plus clients from Columbia River Mental Health Services, YWCA Clark County and Community Services Northwest. Many have been chronically homeless.

On Fridays, volunteer Evelyn Hallett and others deliver the food bags to the residents. Each bag is labeled with a resident's name and the content is based on the resident's dietary restrictions.

FISH is a life-saver for many. Some residents receive as little as \$16 in food stamps and \$70 a month in income, reports Resident Advocate Tony Bartholomew. By the second half of the month, many residents are out of food. When the Friday food delivery arrives, the residents gather in the first-floor communal kitchen to pick up their FISH bags and other food. This helps get residents out of their rooms and provides sustenance for improving health. This is a partnership with multiple benefits.

### Fixing Healthy Dinners at the Boys and Girls Club O.K. Clubhouse

Later on Fridays, a lively crowd of 6th through 12th graders, are gathered after school at the Boys and Girls Club O.K. Clubhouse. In a small kitchen with music blasting, dinner preparation is underway.

Boys and Girls Club staff member Ryan Griffith is showing Da'Rius, a tenth grade student from Ft. Vancouver High School how to make a tomato pasta sauce and cheese-covered focaccia bread. A large pot of pasta is cooking as students pop in to see what is on the menu.

Twice a week, Ryan stops by FISH to pick up healthy foods plus snacks for Friday night dinners. Ryan and students make dinner for 20-40 kids. A colorful sign at the Club says it all "Additional Food for Snacks and Dinners Provided by FISH Food Pantry" with details about FISH for families needing food.



*Da'Rius and Ryan fixing dinner at the O.K. Clubhouse*

Partnerships with Central Park Place and the Boys and Girls Club are two of our outreach programs. Whether providing food for veterans, students with growing bodies and minds, or hungry families, FISH is proud to support a diversity of community organizations and individuals. It's our passion and our mission.



## A Miracle on Harney Street

Like many great ideas, it began with a dream...

FISH volunteer executive director George Kaufer was convinced that, after 40 years of operation, FISH of Vancouver truly needed more room than 1,500 sq. feet of rented space in St. Paul Lutheran Church. He dreamed of FISH buying a home of its own.

When a handful of volunteers first started FISH in a residential garage, they fed 100 families per month. Forty years later, 90 volunteers were distributing hundreds of thousands of pounds of food to hungry families and individuals from the tiny rented church space. They worked elbow to elbow handing out food, much of which was stored a mile away in a donated warehouse and transported daily to the food pantry. A much-needed clothes donation program closed due to lack of space for food. It truly was time for a change.

### The Dream: A New Food Pantry in West Vancouver

Then, in 2013, a miracle happened. Encouraged by the advocacy of Rep. Jim Moeller, the State of Washington allocated a \$1 million capital grant to FISH to purchase a building. The grant was the impetus for our capital campaign. That is when our supporters rallied to help us create our Miracle on Harney Street!

Because of the continuing support of the C.E. John Company and other generous donors, we made our final mortgage payment in September and celebrated our first anniversary in the new pantry in late October. Our building, which also houses a commercial tenant, is now 100% owned by FISH and dedicated to providing food and clothing to families and individuals in need.

### Planning for the Future

And this is just the beginning. We are now working hard to build a strong financial foundation to keep FISH sustainable and meet the needs of hungry residents well into the future. Thank you for believing in our mission!

## The FISH COUNT

### Our Latest Annual Statistics - July 2015-June 2016

Total Pounds of Food Distributed **497,942 lbs.**

Total Households Served **16,210\***

Total Persons Served **44,741\***

Volunteer Hours **20,744**

Children Served **31%**

Elderly Served **20%**

\*Includes duplicated households and individuals

## FISH OF VANCOUVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Operations Manager

Plus 90+ dedicated volunteers



Find us on:  
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Visit Us on Our Website at  
[www.fishvancouver.org](http://www.fishvancouver.org)

## Meet Our New Operations Manager, Wendy Bukoski

We are pleased to announce that we have hired our very first paid employee as our part-time Operations Manager. Wendy Bukoski has a passion for community service and commitment to providing nutritious food to families in need. She is a



Wendy Bukoski

founding member of the metro area Free Hot Soup program, which serves food to those in shelters and living on the street in Vancouver, Portland and Gresham. Through her work with Free Hot Soup, she has extensive experience in coordinating volunteers and soliciting donations. She is also active with the Felida Elementary PTA, currently serving as secretary and donations chair. She resides in the Felida area with her husband and two daughters.

*Welcome, Wendy!*

## Thank You to *The Columbian* for Our Free Community Service Ads

You may have noticed our large, blue display ads in *The Columbian* over the past few months. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to *The Columbian* for selecting FISH as a recipient of FREE public service ads for three months. They are donating thousands of dollars of advertising, including six different sizes of display ads, to help ensure that families and individuals do not go hungry. Special thanks to Lori Reed of Reed Creative for designing the ads and thank you, *Columbian*, for your wonderful support!



## The FISH NET – You Can Get Involved! – Please Help Combat Hunger

There are many ways that you can get involved with FISH. Donations and volunteer time are always needed to ensure that families and individuals do not go hungry or cold this winter.

### Current FISH Needs

- **Most Needed and Effective Way to Support FISH:**  
Financial donations to support FISH operations
- Volunteers to work 3-hour weekly shifts between 9 am and 3 pm weekdays
- Peanut butter and tuna fish
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned and dried beans
- Baby food, formula and diapers
- Warm gloves, mittens and hats
- Heavy socks and weatherproof shoes
- Blankets, sleeping bags and coats
- Bike rack for the FISH parking lot
- A new or low-mileage cargo van
- Locations for FISH food donation barrels

**Financial donations:** Please mail to FISH of Vancouver, P.O. Box 585, Vancouver, WA 98666 or make online at [www.fishvancouver.org](http://www.fishvancouver.org) through our secure PayPal or Bloomerang online accounts.

**Other donations:** Please deliver to FISH at 906 Harney St. between 10 am and 3 pm Monday through Friday.



FISH volunteer receptionists Elna Cobb and Phyllis Burger

**100% of your donation will be put to very good use!**  
**Thank you for your support!**





FISH of Vancouver  
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*Feeding Families,  
Nourishing Children.*



## *FISH in Action!*

*Clockwise from the left: Joe Ann Kaufer and co-volunteer, Evelyn Hallett, Jim Pederson, volunteer sorting party, Tom Nichols and Stephen Burks*

