

Lake Township FISH

Est. 1972

JANUARY—VOL. 5

ISSUE 1

FISH'S Food For Thought

A New Year With the Lord

A new year is about to unfold with new opportunities to explore. Doors will open for new experiences, new adventures with the Lord. Remember that God's loving guidance has led us this past year. And the Lord will do even more new things, many more than we are aware. For he will make a way for us as we put our trust in Him. And He will guide our every step by His presence we have within. What God has placed within our hearts, we find we'll be able to do. If we look for the opportunities, we'll see the door to go through. We mustn't let anything hold us back but rise up and take our place. And be all that God wants us to be with a fresh touch of His grace.

---- M.S. Lowndes

The past year, 2012, was quite an eventful year for this community and Lake Township FISH because of new opportunities presented by our Lord. When Hartville Hardware moved to a new location, its former building was vacant - but not for long. The Hartville Thrift Shoppe purchased a part of it followed by Gentle Brook, a day habilitation workshop for people with developmental disabilities. To complete the non-profit status of the building, Gentle Brook donated two thousand square feet of it to Lake Township FISH.

With this donation, plans were made and work was started to convert this section to a food pantry. All the while this was going on, FISH continued to use the pantry at Maple Grove Mennonite Church to supply grocery orders to the needy in Lake Township. In fact, 628 food orders were distributed in 2012, which was an increase of 16% from 2011. The downturn of the economy affected the number of clients we were helping and the amount of donations we were getting in from the community. FISH purchased over \$21,000 worth of groceries from retail stores in 2012 to keep the pantry shelves full. After much discussion, meetings with personnel from the Akron-Canton Food Bank were arranged and a tour of that facility convinced the FISH Board of Directors which is the Lake Clergy, and Kami Sommers, FISH Director, to form a partnership with this food bank as a source from which to purchase groceries. The cost of the food will be much, much less, resulting in a wiser use of the money we have in the treasury to provide for the clients. Purchasing groceries from the food bank is a change FISH will make when it moves to the new space; however, FISH will still maintain its own treasury and treasurer. FISH will still also accept grocery donations from brown bag drives and other collections.

Another change for Lake Township FISH has been to appoint a Lake Township FISH Advisory Council made up of volunteer representatives from the Lake clergy, businesses, and present FISH volunteers. The members of this Advisory Council are: Kami Sommers, Tom Besenyodi, Brian Karmie, Andy Pressler, Ross Miller, Mike Sleutz, Jess Adkins, Jan and Tom Dwenger. Two meetings of this Council resulted in the following decisions that were made concerning the new pantry: Day-time and evening times were chosen to accommodate schedules of the clients. The hours for operation will initially be for one hour, 10-11 AM on Tuesday mornings and one hour, 6-7 PM on Thursday

Recap of November-December

Food Orders	129
Gas—\$187	1
Electric—\$968	5
Housing—\$2350	9
Oil—\$397	1

FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS:

- Tuna
- Toilet paper
- Cereal
- Baking mix
- Bar Soap
- Dish Soap
- Shampoo

evenings. Each client will be permitted to get groceries every other week. All clients will need to show a photo identification and complete paperwork to receive groceries.

Some of the volunteers for Lake Township FISH will be helping in different ways than they do now and new volunteers have come on board. Kami Sommers will be the volunteer coordinator, Tuesday Morning Supervisor, temporarily, and do all the ordering of groceries from the Food Bank. Jan and Tom Dwenger will continue being the pantry food coordinators. Pat and Mark Hearn will be the Thursday evening supervisors. Nikki Ciolli Hetrick is the Client Coordinator and Jen Geiser will do the data entry, logging the statistical activity at the pantry. Additional volunteers who are still needed are: screeners who will help clients with paperwork that is necessary to have on file before they receive groceries, a Tuesday morning pantry supervisor, warehouse workers, stockers, shoppers to help clients as they move about the pantry "grocery store", a pantry cleaning crew, and a driver with a pick-up truck to pull a trailer to haul groceries from the Akron-Canton Food Bank. FISH will still use the present Operators to answer the calls from clients who need emergency assistance other than groceries. Packers will no longer be needed but we hope they will continue helping out in another capacity with FISH. The opening day for the new pantry for clients to receive food orders is planned for February 5, 2013.

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

In other FISH happenings, in November, Lake Township FISH was awarded \$5000 from a nationwide grant offered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation "for being an effective organization in America, helping those in need in their community with food, clothing and shelter in these difficult economic times." As a recipient of that grant, FISH was then given the opportunity to receive more money via a challenge grant. Donations made to FISH that were received between October 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 would be supplemented fifty cents for each dollar given, up to a total amount of \$5000. (i.e. raise \$10,000 for FISH, receive \$5000 more). The community rose to the occasion and worked very hard to achieve this goal. The Hartville Fire Department kicked off the campaign with \$2500 from a Community Thanksgiving Dinner and the Lake Township Y followed with close to \$1000 from a 5K Chal-

lenge Run/ Walk. Large and small donations came from individual and business sponsors, social groups, and churches. Every bit was appreciated and the efforts paid off as over \$25,000 cash was donated within the designated time frame! FISH is most grateful to Thrivent Financial for the \$10000 and to all who made this possible. What a blessing the money is at this time of transition! The money will be used to purchase building supplies and furnishings to serve more clients who are facing desperate situations.

Thanks also to all who provided groceries and cash donations throughout the year. We would also like to recognize those who have supplied FISH with certain grocery items throughout the past year: Andy and Jill Pressler-hot dogs, Glenn and Glennis Lautzenheiser-margarine, Steve and Holly Miller-eggs, Brian Sprang, cases of soup, Agape

Bread Ministry with Rich Kinley, Annabelle and Don Fearon and Marty Myers-bakery products, Pizza Hut-pizza and pasta, R Grocery Outlet-detergent bottles, and Neo Fill-laundry detergent. We appreciate your devoted service to Lake Township FISH. For those who gave gifts and food for the holiday baskets and those who sponsored families and made Christmas brighter for many, we thank you. The following are some of the clients' thank you notes:

Dear FISH,

Thank you so much for your help this Christmas. This time of year can be really tough on families, especially with layoffs and making ends meet. It is a great feeling knowing that there are amazing people like yourself out there able to help. God bless you. Thank you so much from my whole family.

Family K

Uniontown United Methodist Youth Group, Sponsor

Lake Township FISH

PO Box 611
Hartville, OH 44632

330-877-1845

Kami Sommers
laketwpfish@gmail.com

*Faithfully I Serve
Him*



Dear FISH,

You really have no clue what you have done for someone you may never meet. I was laid off from work two months ago and had no idea what we were gonna do. Stress builds up and then depression sets in. You have been a shining light in a very dark time for me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you sevenfold. Merry Christmas and once again, thank you very much.

Family C

Giant Eagle Pharmacy, Sponsor

To our Christmas Angels,

Finding words perfect enough to express the depth of our gratitude would be impossible...it means so much to us that you care.

Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Family B

Buckeye Plumbing, Sponsor

Dear FISH,

Thank you soooo much for everything

you have done. It is appreciated more than you will know. May God bless you and keep you safe in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Family O

Howard Miller Family, Sponsor

Dear FISH,

Thank you for your kindness and generosity this Christmas season. Your thoughtfulness and gifts will be greatly appreciated well beyond the Christmas season! Merry Christmas!

With best regards,

Family F

Lake Community Credit Union,
Sponsor

Other sponsors of holiday baskets and gifts were Kathryn Penny and Family, Adventure Place, Maple Grove Children's Church, Creative Learning, Jim & Michele Varga Family, the Hartville Fire Department and Jeff and Lisa Zellers.

Coming Events

The ACME cash back program is ending February 9th! Please turn all receipts in by February 17th to your church representative to take to the pantry. The receipts also can be mailed to PO Box 611 Hartville 44632. Julia Besenyodi does all the tallying of these tapes and we thank her for her efforts. This is a great way to earn money for FISH .

Lake Township FISH will be holding a Community Open House February 22 from 5-7 PM at the new FISH pantry. We hope we will see you there.

The next General Meeting will be April 9th at 7pm at East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren. Everyone who is interested in this organization, please join us.

As we enter into 2013, we hope you will continue to support us with your prayers and loving benevolence. Although there will be many changes for Lake Township FISH, our purpose and mission of this organization remains "Faithfully I Serve Him." Thank you again for your sharing spirit.

Sponsored By:

Hartville Kitchen, Hartville Hardware, NeoFill, Ramsburg Insurance, Rembrandt Homes, Uniontown Lions, Dutcher Door, Forever Lawn, Impulse Training, Senior Sitters, Yoder-Bontrager Insurance, Countryside Plumbing, D.R. Miller Design Build, Advent Lutheran, Adventure Place, MJ Miller and Co. and Hartville Health and Wellness—Thank you to all these sponsors for their support.