

Lake Township FISH

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Editor: Jan Moore-Dwenger

FISH'S Food For Thought

*You will find as you look back upon your life,
the moments that stand out are the moments*

when you have done things for others. -----Henry Drummond

FISH Has Found A New LAKE Site!

After months of planning, preparation and prayers, Lake Township FISH has made the big move! Since February 5, 2013, this emergency assistance organization has been distributing groceries from the renovated former Hartville Hardware. There have been other significant changes with this organization. Clients no longer need to call the day before to pick up groceries. They can show up at the pantry located in the back of the new GentleBrook Centre during the hours of operation which are Tuesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 AM and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 PM with a valid photo ID to receive a grocery order. While Lake Township FISH will retain its name, some clients living outside Lake Township will now be able to receive groceries. Residency needs to be in these areas: any part of Lake Township or within these additional boundaries: as far north as Route 224 in Springfield Township, south to Applegrove Street in North Canton, west to I-77 in Green Township or east to Marlboro Avenue in Marlboro Township. Those who seek help from Lake Township FISH who do not live in these areas are encouraged to call 211 for reference to other food banks and assistance in their areas. Since we have broadened the area for client residency to receive help, we are hoping to expand requests for donations from churches, businesses and individuals that also are in these qualifying areas.

FISH has been partnering with the Akron-Canton Food Bank since the second week in February as a source to procure groceries at lower prices than at retail stores. This has been going well. Kami, the FISH Director, has been able to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen and refrigerated items such as meats, cheese, and juice, as well as canned and boxed food, paper products, cleaning agents and toiletries. Many of these items have been free or bought at a minimal cost. The Pantry Coordinators, Jan and Tom Dwenger and Kami have been pleased for the most part with the variety, prices and content. Because the products that are distributed every week to the clients are not available consistently, brown bag drives and monetary donations will still be needed and appreciated to fill in the gaps in the supplies and will be used to purchase groceries and to provide financial help to those who live in Lake Township who are in need of emergency assistance. To receive help, the FISH Hot line, [330-877-1845](tel:330-877-1845) is still available.

Along with the other changes FISH has made, we have decided to make a change in our phone service. Previously, we had operators answering the phones from 8-noon Monday-Friday. The operators would do this from home and our phone service was forwarded out of Adventure Place. Since our clients no longer have to call to place food orders, we have decided to go to a voicemail system. This will be more convenient for clients to be able to call whenever they have a need for emergency assistance, and not have to wait to call during certain hours. When a message is left on the voicemail it will be e-mailed to our FISH e-mail so that the client can get a prompt response.

Lake Township FISH operates well because of your generosity. We could not help so many people so many ways without your donations. We are grateful for the sponsors who support this organization (listed on the bottom of the newsletter). If you would like to become a sponsor call the FISH Hot-line for more information. All donations, including groceries and monetary, are tax deductible.

Recap of January-February

Food Orders—Jan	67
Food Orders—Feb	126
Electric—\$677	4
Housing—\$1600	4
Gas—\$321	2
Oil—\$1141	3

FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS:

- Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta
- Noodles
- Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Cleaning Products

Lake Township FISH

PO Box 611
Hartville, OH 44632
330-877-1845

Kami Sommers
laketwpfish@gmail.com

Faithfully

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Serve

Him



Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

There were so many who helped in the FISH remodel and in the move. We appreciate all of you but there were a few who really stepped up and made the work load a lot lighter on the rest of us.

These vital volunteers were Ed Glaze, John Raber, Glenn Coblentz and John Elsey. Also there was one man who volunteered to oversee the whole project and FISH is extremely grateful for all he did. His name is John Hershberger and the FISH remodel turned out great because of him.

Initially, the Advisory Council and Director thought we would need a trailer for transporting the food from the Food Bank to the FISH pantry. This idea was revised when volunteers, Joel and

Suzy Becher, offered the use of their time and pick-up truck to deliver the groceries from Akron. They also load and help unload the hundreds of pounds of products that are ordered every week. We are most grateful for their assistance.

Because of the increase in refrigerated and frozen products at the pantry, two new refrigerators were purchased and another freezer was donated. These appliances are well stocked each week for the clients.

The response to the request for volunteers has exceeded our expectations. Many folks in our community including Girl Scouts, church groups and individuals have stepped up in performing different

roles of assistance in making this first month at the new address go quite smoothly. We are continuing to ask for volunteers. If you would like to help out, call the FISH Hot Line and Kami will get back with you. Thanks for the wonderful response.

Church Representatives: If your congregation would like to have a brown bag drive to help out with FISH, please call Jan Moore Dwenger at [330-877-9996](tel:330-877-9996) to find out what products are needed. Also, you may bring the groceries to the cupboard anytime it is open to clients. (see above) You may put them in the back room on the pallets or call Jan for a time to meet to deliver the groceries.

Congratulations - On February 26, 2013, Lake Township FISH Director, Kami Sommers, received the Lake Township Chamber of Commerce's Community Impact Award at its annual Leadership Awards Presentation and Dinner. According to Chamber President, Chris Kozy, "This year's five winners recognized, all shared a common theme — "they are passionate about volunteerism and assisting the community's nonprofit organizations." Thank you, Kami, for your hard work in helping the needy in our community!

Coming Events:

If you did not get to the Lake Township FISH Open House on February 22, you have another chance to see this organization's "new home" at The Lake Township Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours Event at 5-7 PM on April 4th, at the GentleBrook Centre. Tours will be held from 5-6 and then there will be some short presentations. There will be appetizers and door prizes. Tickets are \$5 per group/business. This whole complex includes Lake Township FISH, The Hartville Thrift Shoppe including the Front Porch and the GentleBrook Habilitation Workshop and will be open with personnel on hand to answer questions. Come and see this outstanding non-profit facility!

The next General Meeting of Lake Township FISH will be on April 9th at 7 PM at East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren. Please come and give us your ideas.

The 5K Walk/Run will be held July 20, 2013. Keep watching for further information.

The Sixth Lake Township FISH Annual Benefit Dinner will be held at the Hartville Kitchen on September 19, 2013. This is FISH'S main fund-raiser and we hope to have a full house for an evening of great food and entertainment.

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.