

Lake Township FISH

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Editor: Jan Moore-Dwenger

FISH'S Food For Thought

*The Christian is called to sympathy and action,
not in the first place by his own sufferings,
but by the sufferings of his brethren, for whose sake Christ suffered.*

---Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What a remarkable spring this has been for Lake Township FISH due to the actions of many benevolent folks who have continued to serve the needy in this area and beyond! The new space at the GentleBrook Centre is working out quite well, as is the partnering arrangement with the Akron-Canton Food Bank. The clients like the variety of groceries that now includes fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and frozen meats in addition to groceries from nineteen other categories. Because the clients get to choose the groceries they want, rather than receiving a pre-packed order, there is less waste and chance of their getting something they might not use. Each client does have limits to amounts from each category based on the size of their family.

We have had a wonderful response to our request for volunteers and continues to be a program run totally by volunteers. There are no salaried workers. Joel and Suzie Becher transport groceries from the Food Bank every Wednesday and Annabelle and Don Fearon deliver hundreds of bakery items from the Agape Bread Ministry each month. Volunteers from different church groups, Girl Scouts, and other interested and dedicated individuals have become food pantry stockers, screeners and assistants to the client shoppers. In addition, we have church representatives who help arrange brown bag drives and deliver the groceries from the drives to the food pantry. Then there are the donors of groceries and money. They have relieved the suffering of others with their resources. As a result, FISH was able to distribute more than 500 food orders since its opening day on February 5, 2013! How exciting this all has been for our whole community!

While the food pantry is probably the better known part of Lake Township FISH, it also gives financial assistance to residents of Lake Township FISH who cannot pay their utility and/or housing bills and gives holiday help at Christmas and Thanksgiving. So far this year, FISH has paid out twice as much in financial assistance than for the same period in 2012. As you can see, FISH needs many grocery and monetary donations to keep up with the demand. Beginning in June, we hope you will join the Lake Township FISH Sponsorship program. The program has three levels that donors can choose from. A \$1000 donation is considered a Platinum level sponsor, a \$500 donation is a Gold level sponsor and a \$250 donation is a Silver level sponsor. Each sponsorship level includes perks and we are seeking businesses, families and individuals who are interested in becoming sponsors. Please consider becoming a sponsor and if you are interested, contact Kami Sommers at 330-904-7614 for more information.

Recap of March—April

Food Orders	318
Housing—\$1550	5
Electric—\$1854	9
Gas—\$478	5
Water—\$30	1

FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS:

- *Cleaning Products*
- *Meals-in-a-can*
- *Noodles*
- *Soups*
- *Pasta Sauce*
- *Shampoo*
- *Deodorant*
- *Laundry Detergent*

Lake Township FISH

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

Kami Sommers
laketwpfish@gmail.com

Faithfully

*I
Serve
Him*



Coming Events:

Lake Township FISH'S 3rd Annual Benefit 5K Run/Walk - This important fundraiser for FISH will take place July 20, 2013 at 8:30 at the Lake High School Stadium and is a Subway Series certified timed Run/Walk. The registration fee is \$20 for adults, \$10 for 18 and under and \$25 if you register the day of the race. Please register at www.rsracingsystems.com or you can call our hotline and leave your address and we will mail you a form that you can mail back to us. There will also be a free Kid's Fun Run, just under 1/2 mile, that will take place at 8am. We hope to have over three hundred runners/walkers. If you do not wish to participate in the running or walking, come to watch and support the participants and enjoy the excitement.

Shredding Recycling Day - Also on July 20, 2013, from 9am-1pm, the Village of Hartville will provide the equipment to shred unwanted papers for recycling. This event is free, but you are asked to bring a donation of canned or boxed grocery items or money to benefit Lake Township FISH. This event will take place at the Giant Eagle Plaza near the gazebo. Do your part to Recycle Resources and to Replenish FISH'S shelves!

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

If you haven't seen the new FISH food pantry, call the Dwengers at 330-877-9996 for a tour. The organization is helping a lot of folks in desperate situations. This would not be possible without your prayers and generosity. We are most grateful for both. We also appreciate the sponsors who help support this organization (listed at the bottom of this page). Keep in mind that all donations are tax deductible.

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.

Just for your information!

The FISH Advisory Council met May 9th to discuss the website, develop a mission statement and to review FISH'S cash flow by Tom Besenyodi, FISH'S Treasurer. There were significant increases in expenditures due to the costs of remodeling the new pantry location, the purchase of two new refrigerators, a new computer, additional insurance costs and a 46% increase in grocery distribution costs. Most of these expenses are one-time costs and will not have to be duplicated for several years.

On the inflow side, the income from Jan 1, 2013 through May 8, 2013 was also more than for the same

period last year. This was due to a \$5,000 Challenge Grant from Thrivent Lutheran Financial plus other income related to the grant. Because the needs are greater now, more income has to be generated and the Advisory Council discussed ways to appeal to additional individuals and businesses to join the sponsorship program that has existed for more than 2 years. A letter explaining sponsorship levels and benefits will be sent out to the community.

Much of the time was spent on the creation of a mission statement for the Website and will be painted on the walls of the pantry. After much discussion, a mission

statement was approved by all members of the Council and will be shared with the community soon. Likewise, a new and improved website will also be finished soon.

In other news, Lake Township FISH was recognized for their patriotic service at a ceremony April 3, 2013 as being among the 2013 Everyday American Heroes by the Canton Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. They also gave Lake Township FISH a monetary donation. Kami Sommers, FISH Director, and Jan and Tom Dwenger, FISH Pantry Coordinators, were present to accept the honor and award.