

# Lake Township FISH

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2014

Editor: Jan Moore-Dwenger

**Recap of Jan. — Feb.**

Food Orders.....	459
Housing - 8.....	\$3165
Electric - 2.....	\$340.58
Gas - 4.....	\$572.73
Heating Oil -2.....	\$799



- Food Pantry Needs:**
- \* Soups
  - \* Helper Meals
  - \* Noodles
  - \* Deodorant
  - \* Facial Tissue
  - \* Cleaning Products

## *FISH'S Food For Thought*

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

----Galatians 6:2

What a winter we have been through! Broken water pipes, cars that won't start, high heating bills, being snowbound, icy and snow-covered roads. Times that try our souls! On the positive side, in Lake Township, we have many folks who have been there to carry the burdens of others by providing food for the hungry, and housing and utility payments for those in desperate situations in our community. Of course, this organization operates year round and the severe weather didn't stop the volunteers from being at the pantry for clients, delivering groceries to the pantry from the Akron-Canton Food Bank, shopping for groceries and having food drives to keep the shelves stocked with a great variety of needed items. We are very grateful for the dedicated service of all the helpers for FISH.

## *Changes "a-comin"*

Most of us are glad the months with cold, ice and snow will soon be gone and we can look forward to the warmer weather and thoughts of spring. Perhaps more than any other season, spring brings many changes. Likewise with Lake Township FISH, there are changes "a-comin." As we told you in the last issue of the FISH Newsletter, Kami Sommers, the Director, is stepping down in March to spend more time with her children.

Another difference that is being implemented at the pantry is a computerized system that is the result of partnering with the Akron-Canton Food Bank in 2013. The volunteers have been working diligently the last month to become proficient with this program. We expect the facilitation of it to provide FISH with data to operate more efficiently.

## ***Spring Cleaning***

Does the idea of spring coming make you think of a thorough house cleaning and maybe re-decorating and painting your home? In the past, one of the rituals of spring was getting rid of winter's grime. It's hard to believe, but FISH has been in its new "home" for slightly over a year. We have settled in nicely, but with all the "company" we have had over the last twelve months, some special cleaning and other work needs to be done. Some of the tasks are as follows:

1. Products need to be removed from shelves and the shelves cleaned.
2. Appliances need to be cleaned by washing and sanitizing.
3. All products need to be restocked and checked for expiration dates.

4. Furniture such as chairs and tables need cleaning.
5. Doors need to be washed.

We are looking for a group to take on these cleaning tasks. If your church or organization is willing to do this service project, please call the FISH Hotline 330-877-1845 and the director will get in contact with you. All cleaning supplies will be provided and there will be someone at the pantry from FISH to give directions.

### PAINTING:

In 2013, FISH'S Advisory Council selected a Mission Statement for this organization. We are now looking for an artist or someone with an artistic bent to write (paint) this statement on a wall of the pantry. If you are interested in volunteering for this job, please call the FISH Hotline (330-877-1845).

## ***We Don't Need the Horses, But We Do Need The Carts***

On Tuesday mornings, 10-11 AM and Thursday evenings, 6-7 PM when the clients come to get groceries, FISH borrows eight carts from the neighboring Thrift Shoppe to use at our grocery store. With the increase of shoppers at FISH and the Thrift Shoppe on these two days particularly, there are not enough carts. Therefore, we are appealing to anyone who can supply FISH with 8 -10 grocery carts that are in good condition or can give FISH a source where they can be purchased reasonably. Please call the FISH Hotline 330-877-1845 if you have that information.

## **Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!**

Soon to be mounted on the wall at the pantry will be a large fish symbol. Early disciples and followers of Jesus Christ were forced into a secret society and used the drawing of a fish to identify their allegiance to Christ. Our fish symbol can be classified as Word Art, popular these days in advertisements and other forms of communication to convey in words an image that comes to mind when you see it. This particular artwork has many words on it that represent what we believe encompasses the philosophy of Lake Township FISH. We would like to thank **Emily Meraj** for sharing her talents of creating this beautiful wall hanging.

This winter has been a messy one for sure. Everyone who came into the pantry unavoidably had dirt of some sort on his or her boots or shoes. **Mark Hearn**s, a volunteer, has worked very hard to keep the pantry floors clean and safe. In addition, Mark monitors the temperature of the pantry and the refrigerators and freezers among his many other jobs. We really appreciate your good work, Mark.

## Acme Receipts for FISH

Many, many thanks to everyone who turned in Acme receipt for the Acme Cashback program. We received \$850.60 from the receipts this year. A big thank you to Julia Besenyodi for her “terrific tallying” of the receipts. Look for the program to start up again next September.

## “Check-out” Hunger

Lake Township has partnered with the Akron Canton Foodbank for the past year. Each week dedicated volunteers pick up and deliver food that we get for free or at a greatly reduced cost.

We can all help by supporting the Foodbank by participating in their “Check-out Hunger” campaign. Simply tear off a \$1, \$5, or \$10 coupon at the checkout of your neighborhood Buehler’s Fresh Food, Dave’s Supermarkets, Fishers Foods, Giant Eagle or Heinen’s Fine Foods. Every dollar donated will provide four meals for the hungry. This campaign will run from March 2—April 13.

## Saying Goodbye

When Kami Sommers took on the job of FISH Directorship from retiring Glennis Lautzenhiser five years ago she had some big shoes to fill. Glennis and her helpmate, Glenn had set new standards of excellence for this organization. Their hard work benefited hundreds of needy folks with compassion, courtesy, and careful management of funds for the fifteen years of their tenure. When they retired, a good groundwork had been established for their successor.

Kami came in and hit the ground running and never stopped. Her strong work ethic, visionary skills, and deep faith in God made a wonderful fit for this job. We have been blessed with Kami’s leadership qualities, her smiles and sense of humor. She, too, sets a precedent of high performance just as the Lautzenhisers did. And that’s a good thing. While we’ll miss Kami, we appreciate her answering God’s call to serve. Thank you, Kami and have fun with your family and continuing your faith’s journey.

Now let’s meet FISH’S new Director.

## Saying Hello

In January, when Kami gave notice of resignation of FISH Director, the Lake clergy put out applications for filling this position. After prayerful consideration, they chose Kathleen Schenck, a retired teacher for the Canton City Schools. She is the fifth person to serve as director in the organization’s 42 years. Kathleen and her husband, Donald, have been married for 34 years, reside in Lake Township and are the parents of three grown sons.

Donald is a co-founder of Pegasus Farm, a local therapeutic equestrian facility, which serves people with disabilities.

The director’s post comes with a modest stipend and is the only paid position in the otherwise all-volunteer organization. However, few persons - if any - would take it on strictly for the money. It is a demanding and time-consuming job. However, this new director has been doing on-site volunteering at the GentleBrook FISH location for the past two months to learn the different hats she must wear at this new occupation.

“I have been blessed and look forward to being a part of serving others,” said Mrs. Schenck. She is an active and long-time member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Uniontown. We welcome Kathleen and our prayers go with her and with Lake Township FISH as it continues to strive to fulfill the mission of

***Living Christ’s love by serving our neighbors.***

## Lake Township FISH

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Faithfully

!

Serve

Him

## Coming Events

On **March 10<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a Lake Township FISH General Meeting at St. Jacob's Lutheran Church, 1460 State Street NE at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to come and meet Kathleen Schenck, FISH'S new director, and see what the future plans for this organization are for 2014

Lace up your shoes and start training for the 4th annual Lake Township FISH 5K Run/Walk to be held **July 26, 2014** at the Lake High School Blue Streaks Stadium. Keep watching for further information.

Mark your calendars for the Seventh Lake Township FISH Annual Benefit Dinner to be held at the Hartville Kitchen on **September 23, 2014**. This is FISH's main fund-raiser and we hope to have a full house for an evening of great food and entertainment.

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