



# FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING



Jim Peckham, ext. 1019

## Executive Director Update

2020 was a year that many want to forget, but let's do a little review of what 2020 was like at FISH. First and foremost, thank you to all of our fantastic staff, volunteers, donors and shoppers who have supported us over the last year. Many donated their "stimulus checks" and much more, as they realized how COVID impacted our clients on fixed incomes and those who lost their jobs/businesses, etc. Without all of their help/support, and all of our community's medical, and human services support; the last 12 months would have been unbearable.

Thankfully, we are not aware of any formal diagnosis of COVID amongst our employees or volunteers, though a few had bouts of illness that quickly went away, or resulted in a negative COVID test. Most of our volunteers who are seniors, have limited their time spent here in favor of online shopping/donating. Those who use Amazon, have been encouraged to use "[SmileAmazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)" and choose "FISH-Friends In Service Helping" as their charity. That way, 0.5% of the purchase price comes to FISH from Amazon profits... without additional cost to the purchaser.

To help protect our staff, volunteers, clients, patients, and shoppers, we have installed UV virus-killing units in all of our Carson City and Douglas County HVAC systems. This kills 99.9% of airborne viruses (flu, COVID and others). We have also purchased sanitizing equipment and introduced sanitizing protocols that exceed our state mandates.

We worked very closely with our Health Departments and Carson Tahoe Hospital with the two dozen clients who had positive test results. Sadly, one client with underlying health issues did pass away. But for others, we created quarantine housing, home delivery service for quarantined clients, and to-go meals from our dining room to provide a hot meal for anyone who was hungry...while complying with governmental mandates. The Carson Nugget also helped us pull off a scaled down, to-go, Thanksgiving banquet.

All of our thrift stores have reopened with capacity limits, but all in-person fundraising (Celebrity Waiters, Empty Bowls, Nevada Day, Postal Food Drive...) have been canceled. It appears that most of fundraisers will be canceled for two years in a row, so we thank you in advance for your financial support until we can re-initiate our fundraisers.

Contrary to recent history when FISH only funded 1% of its budget with government grants; in 2020, we took advantage of the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) and several other COVID and food-related programs to keep people safe, fed, and housed.

If you recall, just as COVID restrictions went into effect, FISH finalized the purchase of the Whistle Stop Inn. Our plan is to completely renovate the site creating housing and training space to help move families "from minimum wage jobs to meaningful careers". Our "Fast Forward 4 Families" program is a collaborative effort with WNC, CIRCLES, NNDA, ROADS, Rural Housing, Carson's Health & Human Services and others to provide technical and life-skills training moving families out of generational poverty (more info on our web home page: [www.nvfish.com](http://www.nvfish.com)). With these skills, clients can accept higher-paying, essential jobs that have been going unfilled. The people part of the process is slowly moving forward despite COVID challenges, and our Revitalization program (demolition/reconstruction) is also on track. We expect to replace out dated water/sewer lines under Park Street this year, and start demolition/reconstruction by mid-year 2022. So far, we have commitments for just over half of our \$9.25M budget.

**If you have learned something new after reading this newsletter, we encourage you to share that information with a friend. And if you and your friends are interested in a quick 20-minute tour of our Carson City Complex (medical clinic, food bank, dining room, etc.), just let us know. You will be amazed at what you learn regarding our sophisticated, multi-faceted services, staff, volunteers and clientele.**

The IRS is still finalizing their Publication 526 on charitable donations, but they indicate that just as it was in 2020; in 2021, people who itemize deductions can donate up to 100% of their income to charities like FISH, and those who do not itemize, can donate up to \$300 as single filers, and \$600 as joint filers. These donations reduce taxable income. Check with your tax professional and/or learn about this and other COVID related issues at [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

FISH provides food, training, clothing, shelter, and medical aid to the under-employed, homeless, and hungry within our community, with the objective to train and refer families and individuals so they may become self-sufficient.



Carson Admin & Thrift:  
Minden Thrift:  
Gardnerville Ranchos Services:  
Mound House Thrift:

### Locations

138 E. Long St.  
1561 Hwy 395  
921 Mitch Dr.  
10126 Hwy 50E

775-882-FISH (3474)  
775-783-FISH (3474)  
775-265-FISH (3474)  
775-721-FISH (3474)



## Client Spotlight



**Virginia**, a retired mother and grandmother, moved to Carson City in the summer of 2020 in hopes of having a fresh start. Ready to move into a new place, Virginia was hit with COVID causing her to lose her housing opportunity. She became homeless and hopeless.

She was introduced to FISH when someone referred her for food and other services. After speaking to staff about her situation, she was admitted into the Wylie House. During her stay at the shelter, Virginia proactively worked hard to improve her situation and keep a positive outlook. She soon began volunteering at FISH and always showed a willingness to help in whatever she was able to do. After about two and a half months in the shelter, Virginia won the thrift store staff's hearts with her hard work and positive attitude, so when a position became available, she was hired. During this time, Virginia went through a long and challenging process to obtain housing but ultimately moved into her apartment.

Virginia is now happily in her place, loving her job at the thrift store, and living her best life in Carson City. Virginia is an excellent example of what success can look like when you allow someone to give you a hand up but put in the effort to lift yourself with the other hand. We love to see growth, and we are so happy she is part of our team.

"I want you to understand what FISH did for me. Not only did it give me housing, but it helped me to have some hope. FISH taught me something very important, people will care, people will support you, and people will stand by you." - Virginia



Author: Lorena

**Dave** is a Nevada Native and now a recovering alcoholic. He comes from a very troubled childhood and suffered many roadblocks along his path. After a divorce and leaving town for 15 years, Dave came back to Carson City, searching for a new start. He was lost and angry but familiar with FISH, so he came back for help.

Dave was sick and barely coherent, often getting upset with people on our property and in the dining room. Dave got constructive feedback on his people skills, but he stated, "no matter what I did, FISH never stopped providing services to me."

Dave has maintained his sobriety and mended relationships between his two adult sons in the last two years. He has the companionship of his dog, Cinnamon, who completes him emotionally and physically. He now has his own place and lives in gratitude all of the time. He said, "If it weren't for food, showers, and moral support from FISH, my success would have never been possible."

You are an inspiration to many people around you, Dave! We are so proud of your success!



Author: Jayme

### FISH Board of Directors

#### **Valerie Cooney**

*Chair*

*Retired Attorney*

#### **Brad Harris**

*Treasurer*

*Vice President*

*Southwest Gas Corp*

#### **Barbara D'Anneo**

*Retired*

*Healthcare Development*

#### **Greg Dye**

*General Manager*

*Briggs Electric*

#### **Doug Carlton**

*Vice President Standards*

*Click Bond, Inc.*

#### **Jenny Treece**

*Ad Director*

*Carson Now*

#### **Selina Giesler**

*Relationship Banker*

*City National Bank*

#### **Larry Werner**

*Retired Engineer*



## FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING

### New Collaboration with Water In Motion

We're no longer a FISH out of water. Many people know that we help with electric and gas utility bills, but now we can help with water too. In addition to Southwest Gas and NV Energy, we've most recently partnered with Water In Motion to provide water bill support to our Carson City, Douglas, and Storey County clients. Water In Motion is a group of water professionals who spent all of 2020 raising money for social service partners in Northern Nevada to help families struggling to pay their water bills. "At Water In Motion, we want to keep water in motion even when customers fall on hard financial times."

Thank you, Water In Motion, for your commitment to assisting community members in striving toward self-sufficiency!



*10 Year  
FISH  
Anniversary*



John Fecanin  
Manager  
Men's, Women's, & Family Shelter



Jimbo Cox  
Cook  
Family Dining Room

*Thank you, John, and Jimbo, for the early mornings, late nights, long days, and countless hours you have put into this organization. Your commitment to FISH doesn't go unnoticed, and we wouldn't be able to serve the community at the caliber we do without fundamental team members like you.*



## Nights Off The Street

During the winter of 2016, Deacon Craig Lagier was appalled to learn four people died due to exposure to cold temperatures at night. Determined to make that number zero, he set out to create Nights Off the Street (NOTS) where homeless individuals can sleep at a church to escape freezing temperatures. From November 1st through March 31st, NOTS is a no-questions-asked refuge for those with nowhere else to go. Every night at 9:00, folks meet in FISH's parking lot to wait for a shuttle that picks them up and takes them to whichever church is hosting at that time. They are given sleeping bags, hats, gloves, socks, etc., to help keep warm. Pets are welcome as long as they aren't disturbing. At 6:30 am, they have to leave, and the church locks up. Deacon allows them to leave their sleeping bags during the day, so they don't have to haul them around town.

Deacon, a member of Carson City Sheriffs Office Homeless Outreach Specialty Team, is always around to listen and provide NOTS participants resources as soon as they are ready to change their situation. Although NOTS is a band-aid to a much larger problem, it also has saved lives.



Thanks to 248 volunteers, four churches, Deacon, and generous donations, NOTS provides momentary respite for less fortunate Carson City community members.

Author: Megan

## OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

If you have a **Smith's Rewards card**, check out [www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire](http://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire). If you choose Friends in Service Helping (FISH) (QP333) as your non-profit, Smith's will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases made with your Rewards card AND you still get all of your rewards, such as fuel points.

When shopping on Amazon, go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) instead and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible **AmazonSmile** purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Choose FISH - Friends In Service Helping, it won't cost you a cent, but it will help us a lot!

For more detailed instructions on how to sign up for **Smith's Inspire** or **AmazonSmile**, check out our website at [www.nvfish.com](http://www.nvfish.com) or give us a call at 775-882-3474.

**.89 of every dollar donated  
to FISH goes to services**







## FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING



Renee Sweeney  
Client Services Manager



JD Powers  
Receptionist



Virginia Garcia  
Cashier  
Carson City Thrift Store



Warren Chaney  
Driver  
Minden Thrift Store

### *New Fish In The Pond*

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Carol Reed

Sweet CAROLine bum bum bum!

If you've met Carol, you'll know she's one of the hardest working, most lovable people at FISH. Carol has been volunteering with us for the last six years. While she started at the Family Dining Room, she ultimately found the Food Bank has her heart. Eight hours a day, three days a week, Carol puts together food baskets for everyone from single transient clients to households of seven. Whether Carol is in the walk-in freezer or outside refilling our bread table, she is always in good spirits. Reed says, "[working in the Food Bank] gives me a chance to meet people that have different personalities...you can learn so much from people."

FISH couldn't operate at the capacity we do without volunteers like Carol.

Thank you, Carol, for everything you do!



If you're interested in volunteering, email Gillian at [gillian@nvfish.com](mailto:gillian@nvfish.com)

Author: Megan



## FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING

### *A Special Thank You to Our FISH Members!*

7-Eleven	Chris Finn Consulting	Food Bank of Northern Nevada	Kopfhammer Charitable Fund	Rotary Club of Carson City
Accupart International	City National Bank	FoodMaxx	LifePoint Church	Save Mart Supermarkets
Article.com	Click Bond, Inc.	Fountainhead Foursquare Church	Lumos & Associates	Sawyer & Williams Inc.
Bank of the West	Coleman Electric	Franco Baking Company	Majestic Marble & Tile	Sierra Foot & Ankle
Benson's Feed & Tack	Costco	Genoa Community Church	Mountain Vista Baptist Church	Smart Food Service Charitable Foundation
Berger North Foundation	Cottonwood Mobile Home Park	Gold Dust West	The Nara Fund Inc.	Snell & Wilmer Law Offices
Bill Swigert Fund	The Dean Seeman Foundation	Great Basin Consulting	Nature's Bakery	Southwest Gas Corp Foundation
Blue Adobe Foundation	Eaglemark Savings Bank	Grocery Outlet	Nevada Attorney General's Office	Starbucks Coffee Co
Briggs Electric	Eden Managements	Harley-Davidson Financial Services, Inc.	Nevada State Bank	St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
Burlington Coat Factory	E.L. Cord Foundation	High Sierra Business Systems	Nissan Carson City	US Bank
Calvary Chapel Carson City	El Dorado Savings Bank	Hilltop Community Church	NV Energy	Valley Christian Fellowship
Camp-N-Town R.V. Park	Farmers Insurance	Jackson's	Ogres-Holmes Pottery	Walmart
Carson City CIRCLES Initiative	First Christian Church of Carson City	JCK Trust	Pets of the Homeless	Water In Motion
Carson City Toyota	First Presbyterian Church	Johnson Lane Baptist Church	PetsMart	Wells Fargo
Carson Nugget			Pizza Hut	
			Raley's	

Michael Alexander	Walter Bickett	Harry & Susan Burchfield	Jim Clark	Daniel & Barbara Culbert	Patrick Drudge
Thomas Arpino	Gerrol Bittman	John & Gay Burns	George & Michele Conger	Donald & Alice Cunningham	Fred & Julianne Dugger
Richard & Sharron L. Baldwin	James & Helen Brady	Timothy Burns	Nicholas Cook	Barb D'Anne	Buzz & Janet Elliot
Dr. Rex & Karen Baggett	Kathleen Brady	John & Dyan Burroughs	Betsy Cooksey	Sandy Dame	Penelope Fairfield
Jeanne Baret	Ruth Braswell	Doug Carlton	Valerie Cooney	Rebecca Davis	William & Maria Rose Feltner
Robert Bastien	Jim & Midge Breeden	Cathy Carney	John Copoulos	Rose Dawns	John Fikkers
Robert & Pamela Bauter	Dennis & Jane Brinson	Thomas & Jean Cartier	McCoy Cosper	Dean Dilullo	Christopher Finne
Carron Baxter	Judy & Gary Brooke	Charles Chinevere	Tom Cotton	Edward & Caryn DeCarlo	Al & Mary Fischer
Micheline Becker	Chuck & Diane Broughton	Len Chmielowski	Colleen Cousins	Richard Dernbach	Keith Fleck
Mike Bennert	Molly Bundy-Toral	James Clark	A.L. Craig	Sean Dodge	Dr. Robert & Leslie Fliegler
Debra Best			Bob & Susan Crowell	Joseph & Marguerite Dolan	
			Marcia Bernard Cuccaro		

All these Donors qualify as a "FISH Member" when as a family they donate at least \$500 a year, or as an organization, \$1,000 a year.



## FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING

James & Sandy Foley	Barry & Virginia Hensler	Norman & Carolyn Kellogg	Paul Martin	Linda Rice	David & Elizabeth Thomson
Eric & Connie Forstrom	Jennifer & Oliver Herald	Jim Kelly	Todd Mathieson	Charmaine & Ray Rickard	Dianne Tobey
Brian Foster	Iris Hettrick	Ok Kim	Anne, Teresa McAdams	Charlene Rio	Jenny Treece
Lawrence Fowler	Timothy & Patrica Higgins	Fredrica King	Halina McCauley	Mary T. & John L. Robertson	Joy Trushenski
Richard & Jan French	Kevin & Charlotte Hofer	John & Patricia King	John & Sharon McCloskey	Mark & Bonnie Robinson	Peggy (MA) & Carter Twedt
Gary Fuller	Mr. & Mrs. Holmlund	James Kingsbury	Michael & Tracey McCollum	Mark Rogers	Brian Underwood
Grant & Joan Gardner	Brian & Hope Hutchins	Mary Kay Kinne	Dr. Sandra Koch & Dr. Tim McFaren	James & Jeanne Russell	Stevens Van Denburgh
Timothy & Tammie Gentry	Eric & Carolyn Ingbar	Timothy & Cecilia Kness	Cynthia Mitz	Stephanie Sander	Lisa Vanacore
Joseph Gerardi	Michele Jackson	Mary Ellen & Robert Komac	Richard Newbold	Stacey Sawyer	Daniel Vidovich
Kim Germain	Robert & Barbara Jepsen	Timothy & Elizabeth Kosier	Anthony Niemczyk	Nackey & Robert Scagliotti	Howard & Karen Vipperman
Selina Giesler	C. Johnson	Rachel & Levi Kryder	Jon & Janet Nowlin	David Schmidt	Stephen Waclo
Michael Goldeen	Dr. David & Jennifer Johnson	Donald & Sherry Kuhl	Charles & Carolyn Orvis	Larry & Paula Schneider	Tom & Nancy Wall
James Goldsberry	Richard & Linda Johnson	Carole Kumaishi	Christopher Ottaway	Ralph Schumacher	John & Mary Warden
Kathe Green	Thomas Johnson	Jean & Rodger Laird	Arthur & Karen Pabst	Roger Shaheen	Larry & Marie Werner
Michael Grulli	Michael Jordan	Deacon Craig LaGier	Beverly M. Parker & Wayne L. Kirk	Gary & JoAnn Sheerin	Dana Whaley
Brian & Holly Hall	Paul Jorgensen	Sarah Layer	Fr. Jeff & Marietta Paul	Stanley Shelton	JoAnne & Joe Whitworth
Geoffrey Hall	Jerry & Betsy Kanago	Kevan Lesch	Dennis & Mona Deirdre Pederson	Paul & Mary Sinnott	Barbara & Brad Williams
Vernon & Patricia Hamilton	Tom & Martha Keating	Locke Lesch	Thomas & Ellen Perkins	J. Dennis & Nina Small	Dean R. Wilson
Brad Harris		Marilyn Lewis	Richard & Lisa Perry	Eleanor Smith	Gwen Wilson
Ken Haskins		Michael & Mary Lewis	Calvin & Marilyn Potts	Nancy & Ronald Smith	Donald & Paula Winne
Amy Hayes		Kathryn & Patrick Lindsay	Paul & Brenda Pugsley	James Solaegui	John & Rita Wiseley
Debbie & Gary Helseth		Mary & John Liveratti	Francis & Lennoe Quillinan	Glen Southwick	Warren & Claudia Wish
		Colleen Lyons	Anne & Tom Rackerby	Michael & Jean Spell	Billy J. & Theresa Witt
		Charles & Anne Macquarie	Deloris Rathbun	Shirley & Fred Suwe	Stacy & Jason Woodbury
		Jeffrey & Susan Maples	Carol Reed	Mason Swigert	
		Anne, Dalmas, & Theresa Martin		Norman & Carole Tashman	& All Who Wish to be Anonymous
				Nathan Tobey	
				Lillian Tallman	

### In Memory Of:

Diana Marie Bookwalter





## FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING

### Friends In Service Helping

138 E. Long Street  
Carson City, NV 89706  
775-882-FISH (3474)  
[www.nvfish.com](http://www.nvfish.com)

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Carson City, NV  
89706

Permit No. 194

## Help Recruit: Fast Forward 4 Families

FISH is looking for 10 individuals/families to pay for their technical training and more, moving them from **minimum wage to meaningful careers**.

### Candidates must have:

- Solid employment history
- Aptitude to learn
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to pass college entrance exams

If you know anyone who would be interested, please have them contact Renee at 775-882-3474 ext. 1023 or [renee@nvfish.com](mailto:renee@nvfish.com)

To learn more about Fast Forward 4 Families, visit [www.nvfish.com](http://www.nvfish.com)

  
**FAST FORWARD 4 FAMILIES**



Stay up to date with FISH events, programs, and volunteer opportunities by following us on Facebook and Instagram.



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