



FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING

Executive Director Update



It has been kind of a crazy year with ongoing COVID and evacuations from the fires... on the positive side, most stock and real estate portfolios grew. We want to remind potential donors that we accept vehicles, real estate, and securities. Many of our donors need to take "forced distributions" from their 401k's or IRA's. If they donate securities directly to FISH, it benefits them more than selling the securities and then donating cash. For example, if someone had \$5,000 of a given stock and donated the stock directly to FISH, they would have a tax deduction of \$5,000. If the stock is converted to cash, it could be taxed at that time, and the tax amount would reduce the donation/available tax deduction; it may only be worth \$4,500 as a donation. If you have questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at Jim@nvfish.com.

Challenges this year have been similar to most local businesses; it has taken a lot longer to find qualified staff. Successes also have to do with the labor market. FISH will have seven underemployed families getting technical training at WNC, HVAC school, cosmetology school, and an over-the-road truck driving school. Our Fast Forward 4 Families program takes away all the barriers from those interested and able to move from "minimum wage to meaningful careers." Be sure to refer your friends and family members who have had academic success in the past and are interested in pursuing technical jobs that are in high demand in our region.

FISH has also been successful at adding medical providers to our Ross Clinic. Our clinic director, David Johnson, MD, has been joined by Colleen Lyons, MD; and Kelly Fluitt, APN, has moved back to the area and is again volunteering at the Clinic. In addition to training UNR medical and Orvis School of Nursing students, these health professionals are helping uninsured patients with low to no income. Those eligible for Medicaid or Medicare are helped to get insured to transition to a primary health provider. For the most part, all prescriptions and medical services are free to the patient. Thanks to the help of Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center, most outside testing is also free.

Next Spring, we expect to begin our construction project at the Whistle Stop. We will put out Facebook and press releases just prior to breaking ground.

As always, we are humbled and thankful for all the financial and volunteer support from the community. We could not do it without those who donate time, talents, and treasure through FISH to better our community and the lives of our neighbors in need.

FISH provides Food, Instruction, Shelter, and Healthcare to community members in need, so that they may improve their self-sufficiency through life-changing experiences.



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

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775-721-FISH (3474)



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Client Spotlight



My name is Johnny Cortez. I am an ex-gang member from Southeast Los Angeles. I dropped out of school at an early age and started gang banging at 14. This continued throughout my entire life. In the summer of 2017, the violence got out of control, and I finally decided to change my life. I found my salvation with Jesus Christ and walked away from gang violence that summer. I packed everything up and came to Carson City in the winter of 2017 and found FISH and the Focus House. I am currently the House Proctor and a full-time

employee at FISH. FISH helped me get on my feet, and I am grateful for all their help and looking forward to getting my GED and furthering my education.



My name is Teddy Taylor. I set on to better myself because I saw our economy sinking, and it forced me to make a decision. I needed to change my career to one that offered better financial security because if I simply stayed as a maintenance man, I would never be able to afford a house, and I was worried that I would still be working by the time I was eighty.

I took a huge risk, made some tough decisions, and sacrificed so much to become a truck driver. I left my full-time job, my home, and my piece of mind behind to try and secure a brighter future for myself.

I first drove out to Texas to attempt to start a new life in a place I believed was safe. I lost my birth certificate, and due to the pandemic, I had a hard time getting a new one so I was forced to drive all the way back from Texas so I could physically obtain it. My vehicle wasn't in the best condition, so I decided to stay in Nevada which in the end was the best decision.

I wasn't at a loss as the state of Nevada offered a nearly unheard-of amount of support. I received shelter, food, and gas vouchers. Not to mention that my school was paid for with the help of the Community Chest. Not only did the Community Chest help me attend my CDL school, but they also put me up at the Nugget Casino in Sparks. I was only given a week or so, and my schooling was not finished yet. I had a week and a half to go. The Community Chest had done all they could for me at this point at which I then turned to other resources.

I called FISH for help because I had heard of them by dialing 211 to ask for help. I called them and told them about my situation. After hearing that I was trying to better myself they reached out to help. I was given a unit to live in, they provided me with food, shelter, gave me blankets, and allowed me to receive hot meals daily. Because of the peace of mind that they provided I noticed an improvement in my training, and I was able to obtain my CDL.

Despite the long drives that I needed to undertake I never worried about gas because I received gas vouchers from a worker development program. It really did feel like all of Nevada was supporting me at every turn throughout my journey. I owe this state, FISH, and the Community Chest more than I will be able to repay.

I love my country, I love Nevada, and because of the help that I received I can help my country with at least one of its problems-the trucker shortages. At the time of my writing this I am awaiting a drug test to begin working for Knight Transportation. I know I will pass, and I hope I will be able to at least contribute to the recovery of our country's economy.

Thank you, FISH, for giving me a hand up, and thank you Community Chest for giving me so much.

-Teddy Taylor, a proud citizen of Nevada.

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New Services at F.I.S.H.

Prescription Food Pantry partnership with Food Bank of Northern Nevada: Through the newly added Prescription Pantry program, patients who face food insecurity are connected with food they need to help improve their health. Physicians at our Ross Medical Clinic screen patients with heart disease or diabetes to see if they have the food they need to eat healthier, and if not, they write a prescription to come to our Food Bank and access healthier foods.



Computer Station: FISH now offers a computer station in the Client Services lobby. This service is available 5 days a week for clients to work on job applications, resumes, schoolwork, etc.

ReSupply: We have partnered with ReSupply to offer speedy and efficient donation pickups from your home. When you schedule with ReSupply, you can have your items picked up within 72 hours. Then they take everything to FISH, and we keep your donations. Remember: \$0.89 of every dollar donated goes to Client Services!



Augie Gallegos
Manager
Carson City Thrift Store

20 Year FISH Anniversary

If you've ever been to our Carson Thrift Store, you've probably seen or talked with Augie! Augie has been with FISH since December 2001. He always shows exemplary leadership, hard work, and dedication to his store. Augie is a great colleague who brightens our campus with smiles and jokes. Make sure to say hi to Augie next time you're at our Carson City thrift store location!



Why I Work Here

I have heard and seen many people discuss the reason people are homeless. Some who are full of compassion and understanding wish there were more they could do to help. Others seem to believe the stereotypes that only reflect one of the many reasons for homelessness. I will say that I have seen the full array of “the reasons” and have learned a few things along the way:

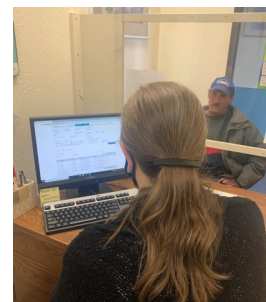
Everyone has a unique story. No one chooses this situation, at least initially. There is potential in every one of us. Many are just waiting for the opportunity to come to light and/or to recover from “hopelessness.”

While some don’t want (or don’t know how) to do better, many of the people who walk through our doors would choose to change their situation if they could. There are the people who lost their jobs due to COVID, those who suffered health issues or the loss of a loved one, and those who thought they had a solid situation until it fell apart. Some suffer from dependency on drugs or alcohol (many who have underlying issues they are trying to “fix” on their own) and those who still suffer from past traumas that affect their ability to function. There are so many different reasons, different stories. Sadly, some feel that no one can help them or understand their story. That’s where FISH comes in...we try to meet them where they’re at and help them see their potential; this is where our “hand up, not a hand-out” motto comes in.

Regardless of the “why” of homelessness, it is a very real and very complex issue that we as a society must find the answers to. The potential in each person is what makes working and volunteering for FISH so gratifying. Even one success is worth celebrating, and as we grow and refine our services, we hope to reach even more of this vulnerable population and celebrate more successes!

One of the ways we hope to effect positive change in our community is with our Fast Forward 4 Families Program, which aims to help underemployed individuals and families with training and education (provided by WNC) to help them obtain better jobs and, ultimately, self-sufficiency.

For more information on this and other services/programs that we offer (and how you can help), please visit us at nvfish.com!



Author: Renee, Client Services Manager

**Ever wonder what to do with all of your grocery bags? Egg cartons?
Donate them to our Food Bank!**



*Thank
you!*



FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING

New Fish In The Pond



Johnny Cortez
Driver



Alex Franklin
Receptionist



Bill Nixon
Assistant Manager



Lane Meyer
Operations



Brian Lucas
Manager
Mound House Thrift Store

Volunteer Spotlight

Sandy Dame

Sandy has been a kind and loyal Intake & Referral volunteer for over two years. When she moved to Carson City, she found FISH and got involved right away. She even stuck it out through the pandemic with us.

Every week Sandy spends two full days volunteering, lending an ear, and guiding our clients to the resources they need. She says, "The people keep me coming. Our clients are varied and interesting and touching. Everybody has a story, and it enlightens you to the difficulties people are facing".

Our Intake & Referral department is the true heart of why FISH exists, and we consider Sandy an integral role in our story.



Author: Megan



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A Special Thank You to Our FISH Members!

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Article.com	Click Bond, Inc.	Foursquare Church	Baptist Church	Snap On Tools
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Carpenter Family Trust	First Christian Church of Carson City	Helen Close Charitable Foundation	Pets of the Homeless	US Bank
Carson City CIRCLES Initiative	First Presbyterian Church	Hilltop Community Church	PetsMart	Valley Christian Fellowship
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			Daniel & Barbara Culbert	Mary Epperson	

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.



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& All Who Wish to be
Anonymous



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www.nvfish.com

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Permit No. 194

The First Wave of Fast Forward 4 Families



FISH has officially kicked off the first cohort of **Fast Forward 4 Families!**

Seven candidates are currently enrolled in Western Nevada College certificate programs in machine tool technology, automotive, cyber security, business administration and manufacturing.

We are thrilled to watch these individuals and families learn trades and develop skills that will lead them into meaningful careers.

To learn more about Fast Forward 4 Families, visit www.nvfish.com



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



@NVFISH | @CarsonValleyFISH