

YEAR 2024



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Fellowship
in Serving
Humanity in
Pennridge

WWW.PENNRIDGEFISH.ORG

Highlighting
FISH
Programs

PREPARED BY:
PAIGE M. NEUMAN,
DIRECTOR OF
OPERATIONS





A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I cannot express how overwhelmed and thankful I am for the support and generosity of this community. Thanks to your help and your donations, FISH has been able to provide food, clothing and emergency financial aid to many of our less fortunate neighbors (over 700 fellow Pennridge families). And perhaps more importantly, together we have been able to provide a sense of hope to others in our community who are hurting. With your assistance, we have made a meaningful impact on the lives of those in the Pennridge School District who face food insecurity, homelessness, unemployment and underemployment.

Every single donation, and every single volunteer hour help contribute to our ability to fulfill our mission and provide support for our community. FISH is committed to expanding our services, reaching more people, and ensuring that no one in our community goes without the essential resources they need. Please help to spread the word, that we are here.

There have been many changes at Pennridge FISH over the past year. This includes reworking how food is distributed, to new leadership, to new volunteers, to an expansion of property with the purchase of a nearby building to improve operations. We are growing. FISH could not do what we do without your help!

Thank you to each and every one of you for your empathy and compassion for your neighbors.

WITH GRATITUDE,
LORI ROUSCHE ZIMMERMAN, MD
PRESIDENT, PENNRIDGE FISH

Board of Directors

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Lori Rousche Zimmerman, MD

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Lauren Bahry

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Daryl Hackman

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David Conley

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Souderton Bretheren in Christ volunteers

VOLUNTEERS ARE AT THE CORE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THOSE IN NEED IN PENNRIDGE

Penndridge FISH has served the Penndridge Community for more than 53 years! Incorporated in 1972 as a 501[c]3 non-profit, volunteer organization, FISH continues to faithfully serve its neighbors in need with emergency food, clothing, financial assistance, and special children's programs like Christmas, summer lunches, and school bags and supplies.

As we continue to look to the future growth of our organization, the role of our volunteers must be acknowledged and honored, as they are the absolute backbone of what we accomplish each year.

For forty years, Penndridge FISH was run entirely by volunteers! In 2011, they hired their first part-time employee to assist with government reporting and compliance. Currently, while FISH now has a full-time operations director, one part-time building/IT person, and a new part-time director of development, the brunt of the work is still done by our amazing group of 80 or so core volunteers, as well as teens, church, business, and scout groups who pitch in throughout the year. We are blessed by the more than 15,000 hours they put in last year ensuring many needs of our Penndridge neighbors were met with kindness, grace and commitment.

Core Programs at FISH

Choice Food Pantry

FISH served approximately **1906** individuals last year with a wide array of food choices offered in our walk-through food pantry. This number represents **695** households, **639** children, **1,012** adults, and **255** seniors. Nearly **407, 000 pounds** of food was distributed, along with diapers, cleaning products, paper products and other needed items.

In 2024, we did away with the drive thru method of distribution and invited people to once again come inside and “shop” for food and other necessities their households could use. We find this builds a better sense of community, enabling our volunteers to offer support, a kind word, and relationship to the souls in our care. A true living out of our motto - Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Clothing and Housewares Room

On average, 60 households are helped each month in our clothing and housewares room. In 2024, **1,956 bags of clothing and other items were distributed**, free of charge, to families in Pennridge.

Financial Assistance

Our emergency financial assistance program acts as a bridge until our clients can find more assistance through LIHEAP or other organizations. We assist mainly with utility bills where there is a shut off notice and security deposits for rentals.

In 2024, we assisted **104 households with \$31,000 in assistance**, with the majority going toward utility payments to help keep the heat and lights on.



Special Programs for Children and Families

Pennridge FISH has a special interest in projects related to improving the lives of children in need in our community. By providing toys and food at Christmas, bonus Summer Lunch food in the summer, and School bags and supplies each fall and spring, we aim to make things a little easier for the more than 600 children ages 0-18 that we serve each year.

Christmas gifts, new coats and gift cards valued at \$39,960 were distributed to 367 children in 2024. Their families (287) also received holiday food packages valued at \$35,700.

School bags and supplies were distributed to 339 children throughout the school year. A value of more than \$16,000 to our local school children.

FISH has been distributing special **Summer Lunch bags** in July and August for several years as a way to support families during the summer months when subsidized school meals aren't available. We strive to provide healthy choices for kids' including fresh dairy and produce along with staples like tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, soup, juice, snacks and more. In 2024, we were able to not only serve school age children but expanded the program to include children as young as one year old. In this way, **more than 500 children benefitted** from this bonus food meant to support their energy and nutritional needs throughout the summer.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Pennridge FISH relies on the incredible generosity of the Pennridge Community and others who have a passion for fighting hunger and poverty in our neighborhoods.

Our incredible donor base, to whom we are eternally grateful, has kept us in a position to continue serving households in need in Pennridge for a long time to come.

With the purchase of a second building at the end of 2024, we are working even harder at being good stewards of the resources we have been blessed to receive.

In 2024 we received \$290,966 in donations from the community toward operations.

The value of food received through the state and federal food programs was \$45,100.

Food donations from the community, local stores, Bucks County Opportunity Council and Philabundance is valued at \$1,309,146. With another \$60,000 worth of food being purchased with grant funding and other donated funds.

Administrative and Building costs for 2024 were \$271,052. This is an increase over 2023 due to the hiring of a full-time operations director. Equipment purchases and capital improvement projects were completed at a cost of \$84,046, which included a new walk-in freezer to improve capacity to store and distribute fresh food, and a kitchen improvement project which involved a much-needed floor replacement and new commercial sink and worktable.

Notable is the \$23,738 electric cost in 2024 for running multiple freezer and refrigeration units which are essential to our operations. Client and program cash expenses were at \$65,713 which includes payments made through our emergency financial assistance program, food purchasing, school bags and supplies, and Christmas gifts and gift cards. (FISH has a financial review each year with a CPA. For a more detailed look at our financials, our 990s can be found online.)





A few interesting stats...

9,218

The number of times local Pennridge households requested food in 2024 at the FISH food pantry.

7%

Increase in number of children being served in our food pantry - 639 children over 596 in 2023.

15%

There was a 15% increase in 2024 in the number of households being served at our food pantry. 695 HH over 603 HH in 2023.

\$587,190

According to the current market value of a volunteer hour (\$37), our FISH volunteers, through their 15,870 hours of service contributed nearly \$600k back to the community.

Looking forward...

We are grateful to the Pennridge community - individuals, churches, businesses, community groups, schools, and more - for having faith in our mission to serve income-constrained households in Pennridge with food, clothing and so much more.

As we head into 2025, we have our strategic sights set on doing even more to improve the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. This includes seeking more grant funding for the purchase of fresh produce throughout the year, something our pantry guests often request, which aligns with our participation in Philabundance's Healthy Pantry initiative. With the purchase of the adjacent building, we will be making more room for our Christmas and School Bag program distributions, as well as working toward hosting fun and informative events for our donors and the community to learn more about food insecurity, poverty, homelessness, etc. We will also be working on several much-needed capital improvement projects like paving our driveway and expanding our waiting room to better serve our guests and donors.

We are hoping to increase our volunteer base by at least 15% in 2025 as we seek to improve our ability to serve our pantry and clothing room guests with dignity and care.



Pennridge FISH
800 West Chestnut St.
PO Box 9
Perkasie, PA 18944

Our hours of Operation:
Monday and Wednesday 3-5pm
Thursday 6-8pm
Friday and Saturday 9-11am

For information about donating, client services, programs or volunteering, please contact Paige Neuman, Director of Operations at 215-257-7616

For more information about Pennridge FISH
please visit our website at
www.pennridgefish.org
Or follow us on Facebook or Instagram

Client quote...

“You have not only fed us physically but provided mental and spiritual sustenance. For that we are deeply grateful.”