

# FISH Newsletter

Autumn 2022

## FISH Bids Fond Farewell to Sweet Joe

This past summer, we sadly had to say goodbye to our beloved Joe. For 28 years, Joe dedicated his Tuesday and Thursday mornings as a loyal volunteer at FISH of McHenry Food Pantry in each of the various locations throughout the years. He always showed up with a smile on his face and a twinkle in his bright blue Irish eyes! Joe still came to visit and work at the pantry up until he turned the golden age of 100, thanks to his daughter, Ann. In March of 2022, he turned 101 years old. Joe was a true gentleman in every way and will be dearly missed by his entire FISH Family. We all love you, Joe, and you will continue to remain forever in our hearts.



*“Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance.”* Eckhart Tolle



## A Heartfelt Message of Holiday Hope...

With one of the largest rises of inflation in decades, FISH of McHenry is experiencing a challenge that has been unfamiliar to us for many years...a drastic decline of both monetary & food donations. Storage shelves once brimming with food are now half empty. Though the demand for services remains high at FISH, we are currently noticing a shortfall of donations after a few years of pandemic-inspired generosity. The recent increase in demand may be due to people exhausting the personal resources they had been relying on as well as the high costs of child-care and rising costs of food and supplies. So many of these factors have caused us to cut back on the amount of food we are distributing. In addition, the variety of food available from the Northern Illinois Food Bank has diminished while costs are rapidly increasing. We will continue to help anyone who is struggling and needs to turn to us for supplemental food. As Thanksgiving approaches, our hearts are humbled & grateful for the support from our many loyal donors. Now, more than ever, we consider each & every donation we receive a sincere blessing.

## A Time for Togetherness & Gratitude



Each Holiday Meal Box is valued at over \$40 but our cost is \$20. Our goal this year is to purchase 500 turkey meals for Thanksgiving and 500 ham meals for Christmas so that we will have plenty for the many individuals and households we continue to serve each month.

*Please get into the spirit of giving & help us provide Holiday Meals for our hungry neighbors this holiday season by making your donation today at [www.fishofmchenry.org](http://www.fishofmchenry.org)*

This Thanksgiving may look very different for many neighbors in Northern Illinois. After struggling for months to make ends meet, a festive meal just may not be in the budget for many families this year. FISH of McHenry Food Pantry will be offering each household that comes to visit a complete holiday meal for Thanksgiving. Through our partnership with Northern Illinois Food Bank, we are able to purchase a frozen 12-14 lb. turkey that will include bags of fresh sweet & russet potatoes and a pre-packed box with all the trimmings for an entire holiday meal.



**In August of 2022**  
FISH served a total of:  
**575 Households**  
**September of 2022**  
**529 Households**  
**October of 2022**  
**487 Households**

The Food Pantry is open on  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**9:00am – 11:30am**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month**  
**4:30pm – 6:30pm**  
3515 N. Richmond Rd. (Rt. 31)

Please contact FISH at:

**815-344-4717**

Mail donations to:

**FISH of McHenry**  
**P.O. Box 282**  
**McHenry, IL 60051**  
[www.fishofmchenry.org](http://www.fishofmchenry.org)

FISH is partnered with:

