



## FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING

### From the Executive Director



We need help! Please help us correct the “rumor mill.” Many people that I talk to about our Family Student Housing project in Carson City say, “Oh, I thought that was another homeless shelter,” and, “What are you going to do with your other buildings in Carson.” Please help us debunk any circulating myths with the details that follow.

For years, FISH has trained Medical students and Nursing students from UNR and Social Work students from several regional and online colleges. These students, our staff, and other volunteers help FISH provide services to the Quad Counties and beyond. We focus on stabilizing people going through a crisis, and then provide more resources to those that are willing to put in the work that it takes to change their habits and behaviors, so they can eventually change their lives. That’s why we say it’s “a hand-up not a hand-out.”

About four years ago, we realized that Nevada had a talent shortage. Many high-paying jobs were going unfilled. Talent from other states could not find housing and locally we did not have folks that could fill jobs in healthcare, labor trades, IT, trucking, etc. So, we began meeting with government agencies, NNDA, WNC, and various non-profits to chart a course of action. We determined that we needed to find potential students with good academic skills, a good work history, and an interest in the jobs in our region that require more technical training.

FISH was the only one who was willing and able to take on the housing portion to help qualified candidates transition from “affordable/workforce” housing into our housing (initially at the Whistle Stop Inn, that we purchased). The students could then focus on getting the college-level technical training offered by WNC, the electrical union, various HVAC organizations, auto repair shops, etc. Following our pilot program, we found that 80% of those willing and able to qualify for training were single-parent families. Shortly after they were employed, using their technical studies, these families were able to afford more traditional housing in the area.

As a result, FISH began the construction of our Family Student Housing project near downtown Carson City, which should be ready for occupancy when Fall classes begin. Less than 1% of our current clients will qualify for this regional training effort. We have expanded our client base to those who are working multiple jobs in order to support their families. Our intention is to move them from “minimum wage to meaningful careers.”

In summary, FISH is expanding its services and client base. We will continue to use our existing properties/locations to provide services to our traditional clients and these students. We will provide training to all family members, not just the ones attending technical classes. After gaining employment in their new career field, we will develop individualized plans to gradually transition these families from our “dormitory” to more traditional permanent housing.

Anything that you can do to help support this regional project is greatly appreciated. Some may only be able to help correct the rumor mill. Others can provide financial assistance to the project or support FISH as a volunteer. Still, others may be able to truly invest in our region by donating at one of our seven levels of donor recognition that are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.

As always, thank you for your support! We could not do any of this without the great support of our community.

FISH provides **F**ood, **I**nstruction, **S**helter, and **H**ealthcare to community members in need, so that they may improve their self-sufficiency through life-changing experiences.



	<b>Locations</b>	
Carson Client Services & Thrift:	138 E. Long St.	775-882-FISH (3474)
Minden Thrift:	1561 US Hwy 395 N	775-783-FISH (3474)
Gardnerville Ranchos Services:	921 Mitch Dr.	775-265-FISH (3474)
Mound House Thrift:	10126 US-50 E	775-721-FISH (3474)



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# THE FISH EFFECT

*“For the first time in over 20 years, I no longer feel pain. My happiness has returned and I feel my aura is light and free. Finally, I feel blessed.”*

**Sergio Tejada**, a FISH client who recently received two dental extractions through the FISH dental assistance program exclaims his joy to FISH staff this past March 2023. Tejada had been experiencing an uncomfortable pain that had lasted for over 20 years, led to high anxiety, low mental health, and a decrease in hope. That is until FISH was able to provide the oral care needed through local dental office partnerships.

Now, in his late 60’s and a retired furniture maker in the High Sierra, Tejada is currently staying at the FISH Focus House men’s shelter and spends his days feeling joy and gratitude for his new found relief.

“I was feeling so low after my dad passed away. We were due for a big frost last fall, so I had to rip out my whole garden. It was way more than my family could use. I made a call to your dining room, and was told in a very cheerful manner that they would be happy to have the produce. When I arrived, I was warmly greeted by two staff members. There were warm and welcoming smiles from the clients, as well. It made me feel loved on a very hard day. Thank you for your kindness!”

- Debbie B

You may remember reading **Randall Jackson’s** story in the FISH Fall 2022 newsletter. Recently, he and his girlfriend, **Laura Paez**, stopped by FISH to share how they are doing since they utilized the FISH shelters in 2022.

**Randall:** My girlfriend, Laura, demanded I reach out to FISH for shelter and support after being released from jail and it was the best choice I ever made. After working as a FISH truck driver for more than 8 months, I moved on from FISH to join a garage door contractor in Northern Nevada where I now oversee the region and parts of California for the company. We now have our own apartment and get to enjoy trips together up to Lake Tahoe and Truckee. I thank God every day for bringing us to FISH and for what FISH was able to do for us both.

**Laura:** When I was dropped off at FISH in early 2022, I had no belongings; just an orange jumpsuit. FISH Wylie House took me in for a longer than standard period of time. I enjoyed volunteering extra hours in the food bank and now consider FISH my friends. My health and well-being has improved.



## CLIENT SERVICE REPORT

Your contribution goes a long way here at FISH. Here’s a peak into the number of community members who have received service in the past six months because of you.





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# FISH Interns Prepare for Graduation

FISH Client Services Interns, Nohely Montes and Anna Vannucci (pictured on the right) are wrapping up their internships with FISH and preparing to graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno this Spring with a Bachelors in Social Work.

We sat with them to learn more about their experience here at FISH. Here's what they had to say.

### What is your favorite part about being involved with FISH?

**NM:** Seeing the changes and improvements for clients. I enjoy being able to help someone in need and watching them succeed.

**AV:** The community. I am surrounded by people who want to help others just as much as I do. Everyone is so kind and welcoming and don't mind me asking questions.

### What lessons have you learned since joining FISH?

**NM:** That people are not defined by their choices and everyone has the ability to change for the better.

**AV:** A lot about myself and the ways in which I can still grow.

### What challenges have you faced?

**NM:** Working with vulnerable populations was at first a challenge for me but I have enjoyed finding my comfort zone

**AV:** My biggest challenge is constantly putting my foot in my mouth. It's been a massive learning experience and I accept that making mistake is the best way to grow.

### Do you have a favorite FISH Memory?

**NM:** My favorite memory was when I was able to help a client pick up furniture and household items for their new apartment.

**AV:** Every time a client comes into share their story, it is so rewarding to see how impactful FISH is in the community and I am so grateful to be a part of that.



## FISH FUN-RAISER IS THIS MAY!

FISH's Annual Fundraiser returns in 2023 to the site of the new Family Student Housing Project in downtown Carson City. We are excited to have you join us for food, fun, and a ton of great prizes. Bring a guest or a group of friends. Together we will revitalize this community!

Get your tickets here!  
[www.nvfish.com/page/haveaheart](http://www.nvfish.com/page/haveaheart)  
Or scan the QR code



Saturday May 20, 2023  
4:30PM-9:00PM  
1421 N. Carson Street  
Carson City NV 89706





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Fresh Produce Donated by  
**The Greenhouse Project**  
 In 2022: **888 lbs.**



Total Food Donations by  
**Northern Nevada Food Bank**  
 July 2022—Feb 2023: **\$58,195.28**

## The Snow Never Bothered Us Anyway



After a long unanticipated winter and numerous snow storms, construction is still making way at 1421 N. Carson Street in downtown Carson City. By Fall 2023, Family Student Housing Tower #1 will be open to 18 qualified low-income families/individuals who will take part in technical certifications at WNC and TMCC and make their way from poverty to prosperity through education. This will lead them to high-pay high-demand jobs in this region. Careers such as HVAC, IT, nursing, electrical, plumbing, construction management, diesel mechanics and more. And when the kids see their parents doing the work, they'll be inspired to do the same.

This program is the first of its kind to be implemented by a non-profit organization in the state of Nevada. More than 90% of the funding for this project comes from the community members in support of the effort. No federal funding, minimal localized grants, and a whole lot of community.

Connecting with community members is our biggest focus with the new Family Student Housing project. Recently, from December to March, FISH conducted a matching campaign of \$250,000...and it was met! All donors who contributed to the matching campaign had their donation matched by an anonymous local donor, making the total amount raised \$500,000. And we aren't stopping there.

Those who would like to take part in this massive community project have the opportunity to sponsor a portion of the apartment towers and commercial building, which includes recognition and naming rights. Your involvement in this project means that fewer families in our community will need to rely on low-income housing in order to thrive. Rather, they will have stable, high-pay and high-demand, careers that will support themselves and their families.

Be a part of the future of the Northern Nevada workforce and help FISH take a bite out of generational poverty. Donate today at [www.nvfish.com/donate](http://www.nvfish.com/donate) or call 775-882-3474 for more information.

### SPONSORSHIP & RECOGNITION LEVELS



- \$25K+**  
Name on Group Plaque
- \$50K+**  
Engraved name on Granite Pillar of Commercial Building
- \$200K**  
Sponsor Wall of Honor on 3rd Floor Training Room
- \$300K**  
Sponsor Catering Kitchen of 3rd Floor of Commercial Building
- \$1,000,000**  
Naming rights to the Commercial Building 3rd Floor Training & Development Floor.
- \$2,000,000**  
Naming rights to Student Dormitory (apartment tower).
- \$3,000,000**  
Naming rights to Commercial Building located on N. Carson Street.





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# FISH FOR DAYS

What we have been up to in the past six months



**From Top Left to Right:**

- 1) Director Jim Peckham joins KOLO 8 Monday Morning News with Katey Roshetko (01-23).
- 2) FISH Client Service team heads to Nevada State Legislature for Mental Health Day (02-23).
- 3) El Dorado Savings Bank donates to FISH Student Housing matching campaign. (2-23)
- 4) FISH Drivers get ready for an afternoon pick up.
- 5) A 10-day food grant for a family of 4 from the FISH food bank.
- 6) Jim Peckham and Genevieve Frederick, Founder of Feeding Pets of the Homeless in Carson City (03-23).
- 7) FISH Client Service team at UNR for Career Day (02-23).
- 8) Side paneling gets installed on the Family Student Housing Project on N. Carson Street (03-23).



## FRIENDS IN SERVICE HELPING

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

A "FISH Member" is a family that donates at least \$500 a year,  
or as an organization that donates \$1,000 a year.

Berger North Foundation	First Christian Church of Carson City	Hilltop Community Church	National Association of Letter Carriers	Starbucks Coffee Co
Blue Adobe Foundation	First Presbyterian Church	The Hop & Mae Adams Foundation	Nature's Bakery	St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
Briggs Electric	Food Bank of Northern Nevada	Jackson's	Nichols Consulting Engineers CHTD	Tee Jay's Corner Café
Carson City CIRCLES Initiative	FoodMaxx	JCK Trust	NV Energy	The Dean Seeman Foundation
Carson City Toyota	Funds2Orgs	Jim & Midge Breeden	Pax Christian Church	The Human Fund
Carson City SDA Church	Genoa Community Church	Keyser Foundation	Pets of the Homeless	The Nara Fund
Click Bond, Inc.	Great Basin Consulting	Kopfhammer Charitable Fund	PetsMart	US Bank
Coleman Electric	Grocery Outlet	LifePoint Church	Plenium Builders	Valley Christian Fellowship
Curl-Winne Family	Helen Close Charitable Foundation	Marilyn Lewis Insurance Agency	Raley's	Walmart
Eden Managements		Mountain Vista Baptist Church	Save Mart Supermarkets	Water In Motion
El Dorado Savings Bank			Simon Family Fund	Wavedance Fund
			Southwest Gas Corp Foundation	

John & Kathy Abizaid	James & Helen Brady	Nicholas Cook	DeChristopher	Bradford Harris	Karen Hagstrom
Jessica & Andrew Abrass	Kathleen Brady	Rober & Elizabeth Coombs	Richard Dernbach	Barry & Virginia Hensler	Tom & Martha Keating
Mary Adams	Jim & Midge Breeden	John Copoulos	Patrick Drudge	Timothy & Patricia Higgins	Norman & Carolyn Kellogg
Michael Alexander	Russell & Joni Brewer	Thomas Cotton	Fred & Julianne Dugger	Rachel Hill	Mary Kay Kinne
James Allen	Charles & Diane Broughton	Nancy Cox	Guy Farmer	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Holmlund	Michael & Lisa Kriby
George & Barbara Allison	Skip Brown	Alvin Craig	William & Marie Rose Feltner	Robert Hooper	Timothy & Cecilia Kness
Richard & Cheryl Arguile	Molly Bundy	Cindy Crowder	Brian & Shelley Ferenz	Tom & Terry Horgan	Mary Ellen & Robert Komac
Richard & Sharron L. Baldwin	Molly Bundy	Marcia Bernard Cuccaro	Ruth Fox	Brian Hutchins	Carole Kumaishi
Jeanne Baret	Al & Chris Butson	Daniel & Barbara Culbert	Richard & Jan French	Eric & Carolyn Ingbar	Robert Latzy
Robert Bastien	Douglas Carlton	Alice Cunningham	Patrick Ghan	Irma Jay	Joseph Gerardi & Lawrence J. Fowler
Teresa Benitez-Thompson	Patricia Carpenter	Barbara D'Anne	Robert & Patricia Giomi	Richard & Linda Johnson	Sarah Layer
Brandi Benson	Anne Christenson	Paul & Bernice Dahl	Sandra Gosting	Cullen & Melissa Jones	Locke Lesch
Debra Best	James Clark	Sean & Nancy Davison	Geoffrey Hall	Paul Jorgensen	Michael & Mary Lewis
	PJ & DJ Clarke	Ellen	Vernon & Patricia Hamilon	Elmer & Elisabeth Kanago	
	George & Michele Congor				



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Joe Lushina	Tracy Muscari	Mary T. Robertson	Jaime & Severin Stevenson	Tom & Nancy Wall
Charles & Anne Macquarie	Anthony Niemczyk	Mark & Bonnie Robinson	Robin Stevenson	John Walsh
Janet Maitland	Charles & Carolyn Orvis	David & Julie Ruf	Donna Stock	John & Mary Warden
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Sharlene & Richard Mason	Dennis & Mona Deirdre Pederson	Gary & JoAnn Sheerin	Lilliam Tallman	Larry & Marie Werner
Janet McCausland	Yoland Perez	Paulette Sherrell	Rodger Thompson	Monica Whittmore
John & Sharon McCloskey	Thomas & Ellen Perkins	Keith Shonnard	David & Elizabeth Thompson	John Wilbur
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Ian Murdock	Lennoe Quillnan	Glen Southwick	Brian & Allison Underwood	Warren & Claudia Wish
Patricia Muscari	Linda Rice	Dee & Craig Steele	James Vilkitis	Roger & Marena Works
	Stacey Rich			& All Who Wish to be <b>Anonymous</b>
	Charlene Rio			

### FISH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair - Larry Werner** - Retired Engineer, City Manager

**Treasurer - Brad Harris** - Vice President, Southwest Gas Corp

**Secretary - Doug Carlton** - Chief Standards Engineer, Click Bond Inc

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**Roger Works** - Retired, Veterinarian

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#### Board Members continued..

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**Jessica Prunty** - Attorney, Prunty Law

**Michele Norton** - HR Director, Carson Valley Medical Center

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**Teddy Barham** - Branch Manager, Greater Nevada Credit Union

**Barb D'Anneo** - Health Care Development, Retired



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**Friends In Service Helping**

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Carson City, NV 89706  
Permit No. 194

Return Service Requested

## The FISH Manifesto

FISH believes hope is the most empowering approach to self-sufficiency. Without it, there is no igniting the fire underneath each one of us.

We believe that goals, action plans, and accountability can help our clients that are willing to help themselves.

With our “hand-up” mission, our clients find renewed hope. With this hope, clients can better assess their behaviors and skills, and, in turn, develop a willingness to change behaviors that lead to self-sufficiency.



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

@NVFISH | @CarsonValleyFISH