

WHEN THE  
WORLD SHIFTED —  
YOU RESPONDED

2025  
OUR IMPACT



FISHERMAN'S  
MARK SOCIAL  
SERVICES

HELP WHEN HELP IS NEEDED



Recipe for Success: Skills for life!



ZERO waste!



Volunteers in action!

SUPPORT+  
GUIDANCE

HELP  
WHEN HELP  
IS NEEDED.

# RECAP OF 2025



Dear Friends of Fisherman's Mark,

As we reflect on 2025, we are struck by how much this year asked of our community—and how powerfully our neighbors responded. It was a year of uncertainty for many of the families we serve, especially within our immigrant community, yet it was also defined by resilience, creativity, and connection.

Throughout the year, Fisherman's Mark focused on showing up with flexibility and purpose. When families faced new barriers in navigating resources, legal systems, and basic supports, our team expanded ESL instruction, Know Your Rights workshops, and community outreach. When expected funding for ESL fell through, we rebuilt the program from the ground up—because language access remains foundational to safety, stability, and opportunity.

Our Food Support programs continued to serve as a lifeline. The Free MARKET, Mobile MARKET delivery routes, FLY youth meals, Zero Waste initiative, holiday distributions, Farm Stand, and pet pantry all worked together to ensure families had reliable access to fresh, nutritious food during a time of rising costs and deepening need.

At the same time, our Community Outreach and Social Services teams helped families navigate benefits, access transportation, connect with legal and healthcare support, build skills, secure identification, prepare for college, and pursue new opportunities. These behind-the-scenes efforts—paperwork assistance, advocacy, and case management—often make the difference between instability and progress.

We also want to highlight the vital role of Lambertville Academy. LA is not simply childcare; it is a foundation for family stability. Scholarships and tuition support allow parents to work, pursue education, or secure housing while their children learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment. LA remains a cornerstone of how we help families move toward long-term self-sufficiency.

As this year also marks the conclusion of Board President Jacqui Griffith's tenure, we want to acknowledge the steady leadership she has provided through some of the most challenging moments in our organization's recent history—from navigating the uncertainties of the pandemic and the aftermath of Hurricane Ida to supporting the continued growth of programs that now serve more families than ever. Her commitment to Fisherman's Mark and to this community helped position the organization to respond with strength and compassion when it mattered most.

Through every challenge, what carried us forward was our clear mission and the strength of this community. We are profoundly grateful for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in the work we do together.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Williford, Executive Director

Jacqui Griffith, Board Chair (2018 - 2025)



## Our Board of Directors:

David Minno | Board Chair

Nick Abou-Daoud  
Lynne Alexander  
Mark Ansley  
Drew Gitomer  
Tina Greenwood  
William Hargreaves

Richard Henriques  
Cynthia Jahn  
Kathleen Kennerley  
Robin Seiz  
Douglas Shaw  
Jeff Strasburg

Jacqueline Griffith | Trustee Emeritus  
Renny Reynolds | Trustee Emeritus  
Maurice U. Tome | Trustee Emeritus  
Sally Henriques | Trustee Emeritus  
Suzanne Perrault | Trustee Emeritus

## A look ahead – Leadership, planning, and long-term stability

As Fisherman's Mark looks to the future, the organization enters a new chapter grounded in strong leadership, thoughtful planning, and a continued commitment to meeting community needs.

Following years of steady guidance from Board Chair Jacqui Griffith, David Minno steps into the role with a focus on building upon a strong foundation while preparing for what lies ahead. This leadership transition reflects continuity and forward momentum, ensuring the organization remains responsive, stable, and mission-driven.

Looking ahead, Fisherman's Mark is taking essential steps to strengthen its long-term capacity to serve the community. The upcoming purchase of the Free MARKET property secures a permanent home for food support services, providing stability and opportunity for future program growth. At the same time, the organization will embark on a strategic planning process informed by data from a recent community needs assessment, guiding priorities and investments in the years to come.

Together, these efforts position Fisherman's Mark to continue evolving with purpose – ensuring help when help is needed, today and into the future.

**-David Minno  
Incoming Board Chair**

**OUR MISSION  
IS TO STRENGTHEN  
OUR COMMUNITY.**  
With responsive programs and services that promote stability, health, and education, Fisherman's Mark is an advocate for positive change in the lives of our neighbors and their families.

**6,500  
Volunteer Hours  
recorded in 2025**

## Our Volunteer Program – Turning compassion into action

Fisherman's Mark is supported by a dedicated community of 125 active volunteers who play an essential role in daily operations and program delivery. Volunteers staff the Free MARKET during open hours, assisting with stocking shelves and distributing food to neighbors. Under the guidance of Chef Jose Calderon, Zero Waste volunteers prepare meals at HollyHedge Estate, which are then distributed through the Free MARKET and Mobile MARKET. FLY volunteers also play a key role by preparing and assembling lunches for the Feeding Local Youth program, helping ensure that children in the community have access to nourishing meals. Additional volunteers support administrative operations by answering phones and writing personal notes for appeal letters, while others lend a hand as needed with projects such as landscaping and basic repairs. Together, these individuals form a vital network of support, generosity, and connection – making it possible for Fisherman's Mark to meet community needs with care and consistency.

## Volunteer Recognition:

The Linda Meacham Excellence in Volunteerism Award was presented to Cathy Lester, a dedicated Tuesday Free MARKET shift volunteer whose commitment and care have made a lasting impact on Fisherman's Mark, our team, and the families we serve. Cathy has been with us for over 10 years and generously volunteers not only on the Free MARKET shift, but also as an FM ambassador and on maintenance projects around the office.



**Cathy Lester!**

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Community Outreach Programs

**Los Puentes (The Bridges) – Connection, education, and belonging**  
Los Puentes is Fisherman's Mark's outreach framework supporting immigrant and Spanish-speaking neighbors through culturally responsive programs that promote connection, skill-building, and access to resources.

**English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes:**  
Operated as a core Fisherman's Mark program, ESL classes provide accessible evening instruction that strengthens language skills and supports education, employment, and self-sufficiency.

**Educational & Empowerment Workshops:**  
Community-based workshops offer timely, practical information to help individuals and families navigate complex systems. Topics have included immigrant rights, homeowner education, and Pathway to College, which provides Spanish-language guidance on college applications and scholarships.

**Hunterdon Community ID Program:**  
In partnership with local authorities, the Hunterdon Community ID Program provides secure identification to Latino residents, supporting safety, access to services, and a greater sense of confidence and belonging.



ESL Class



Workshop



Digital Literacy Workshop

*"Thanks for your support. In difficult moments,  
you are always there for me when I need you."  
Amelia, ESL Student*

## Other Community Outreach Programs — Building skills, stability, and connection

**Recipe for Success: Skills for Life:** In collaboration with The Next Step, Princeton Child Development Institute, and the Bridge Program of New Hope-Solebury School District, this program provides adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities hands-on experience supporting the Free MARKET while building practical skills, confidence, and community connection.

**Backpack Program:** Fisherman's Mark's annual Backpack Program supports local students by providing essential school supplies that promote readiness, confidence, and educational stability at the start of each school year.

**Adopt-A-Wishlist:** Through a partnership with the New Hope-Solebury High School Key Club, Adopt-A-Wishlist connects community donors with Fisherman's Mark participants to ensure children and older adults receive meaningful, personally chosen gifts during the holiday season.

**Volunteer Tax Assistance (VITA):** Fisherman's Mark serves as a satellite site for United Way of Hunterdon County's VITA Program, offering a trusted space where community members can access free, United Way-provided tax preparation services that support financial stability.

**Community Engagement Events:** Fisherman's Mark participates in and helps organize local events that strengthen trust, visibility, and connection—from ShadFest and Pride celebrations to community gatherings like Coffee with a Cop—reinforcing our commitment to inclusion and belonging.

Over  
**220**  
Backpacks distributed

Backpack Program



Adopt-a-Wish-List



Recipe for Success:  
Skills for LIFE!



Community Engagement Events

Coffee with a Cop!

# SOCIAL SERVICES

★ TRUST ★

## Social Services

Fisherman's Mark's Social Services provides individualized, confidential support to neighbors navigating complex life challenges. Through one-on-one case management, our case manager helps individuals and families access public benefits, healthcare, housing-related resources, and community services—offering guidance, advocacy, and steady support when systems feel overwhelming. More than a single point of assistance, Social Services is a relationship built on trust, helping people stabilize, move forward, and return whenever new challenges arise.

### With Gratitude for Utility Assistance Support

Fisherman's Mark extends sincere thanks to The Bridge, Lambertville and Veolia Water for their continued dedication to supporting neighbors facing utility insecurity. Their generosity and partnership help ensure that individuals and families can remain safely housed, warm, and connected to essential services during times of financial strain.

### Connections to FM & Community Services

Referrals to Fisherman's Mark programs and trusted partner organizations

### Healthcare & Provider Referrals

Connecting participants to medical, mental health, and specialty care

CONFIDENTIAL

### **Case Management & Advocacy**

Coordinating care, navigating systems, and advocating on participants' behalf

### **Applications & Paperwork Assistance**

Support with state, federal, and county aid forms and documentation

### **Language Support**

Translation services to ensure information and resources are accessible

### **Communication Assistance**

Reading mail, explaining complex notices, and helping participants understand official correspondence

### **Transportation & Access**

Helping participants reach appointments and essential services

**ADVOCACY**

**\$38k**

Emergency Assistance Funds Distributed

**358**

Social Services Visits

**1,900**

Program participants provided information and resources

# FOOD SUPPORT

## FOOD SUPPORT - Reliable access to food, rooted in dignity.

### Free MARKET

The Free MARKET is the heart of Fisherman's Mark's food support, providing individuals and families with consistent access to nutritious food in a dignified, welcoming setting. More than a pantry, it serves as a community hub—reducing household stress and connecting neighbors to resources that promote stability and well-being.

### Mobile MARKET

The Mobile MARKET brings nutritious food directly to individuals and families who face barriers to accessing the Free MARKET. With expanded routes in 2025, the program increased its reach across the community, ensuring transportation or mobility challenges are not obstacles to food security.

### FLY (Feeding Local Youth)

The Feeding Local Youth (FLY) program provides children with reliable, nutritious meals during times when school-based food supports may not be available. By filling critical gaps, FLY helps strengthen family stability and supports children's health, learning, and overall well-being.

### Zero Waste Program

The Zero Waste Program transforms surplus food into nutritious meals, reducing waste while expanding food access. By rescuing and repurposing usable food, the program supports environmental sustainability and strengthens the local food system—ensuring good food reaches neighbors who need it most.

### Farm Stand

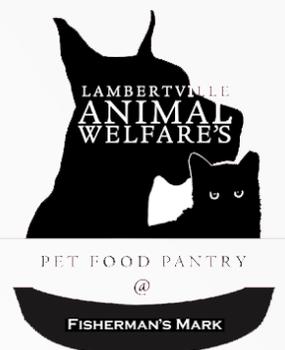
Offered weekly during the summer growing season, the Farm Stand provides program participants with fresh, high-quality produce through partnerships with local farms and community organizations. The program supports healthy eating while helping connect surplus produce to other food initiatives, including Zero Waste.

### Pet Food Pantry

In partnership with Lambertville Animal Welfare, the Pet Food Pantry helps families and seniors care for their pets without sacrificing their own basic needs. Since 2016, the program has supported household stability and helped keep beloved pets in safe, loving homes.

### Holiday Meals Program

The Holiday Meals Program helps families gather around a complete, traditional meal during Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Supported by volunteers, these joyful distribution days bring the community together—promoting dignity, connection, and celebration during meaningful times of the year.



**8,543**

Visits to the  
Free MARKET

**1,329**

Mobile MARKET  
Deliveries

**5,053**

FLY Lunch  
program lunches

**500+**

Pets served  
through the  
Pet Food Pantry

*"Fisherman's Mark helped me through one of the hardest times in my life.  
When I lost my business, they were there —  
helping me find housing and food when I needed it most.  
Fisherman's Mark has been a true blessing in my life."*

**R.D.D.**

Social Services and Free MARKET Program Participant

*"I have used the Free MARKET for a long time, and it has made my  
life a bit easier as food prices, rent and utility bills keep going up.  
The staff and volunteers have always been very welcoming and  
respectful. Fisherman's Mark's has a great team that truly  
loves making everyone feel welcomed."*

**W.M.**

Free MARKET Program Participant



# LAMBERTVILLE ACADEMY

## Lambertville Academy

Offers curriculum-based learning and nurturing support for children ages 2 to 13, providing a rich environment that fosters confidence, independence, and academic growth. Established in 1984 and operated by Fisherman's Mark, the Academy partners with families to support both children's development and working parents' childcare needs.

## Capital Improvements at Lambertville Academy:

Through funding from a New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) program that supports early childhood education as a cornerstone of New Jersey's workforce, Fisherman's Mark was able to complete critical capital improvements at Lambertville Academy. These updates included replacing aging, inoperable windows—improving ventilation, temperature regulation, and overall classroom comfort—and repainting the interior, creating a brighter, more welcoming learning environment for children and staff. Although Fisherman's Mark does not own the building, we are committed to being thoughtful stewards of the space entrusted to us, investing in improvements that directly benefit the children, families, and educators who rely on the Academy each day.

## Teacher of the Year:

In 2025, Lambertville Academy proudly named **Chris Keeton** its first-ever **Teacher of the Year**, recognizing more than a decade of dedication, leadership, and care. Since joining the Academy in September 2014, Chris has served as School Age Program Supervisor, overseeing Before and After Care for students in grades K-4, while also lending his talents as an Assistant Teacher in the preschool classrooms—most often in the Yellow Room. A true team player, Chris embodies the Academy's core values of inspiration, integrity, empathy, and belonging, and his steady presence enriches the daily experience of children, families, and colleagues alike.

## Playground:

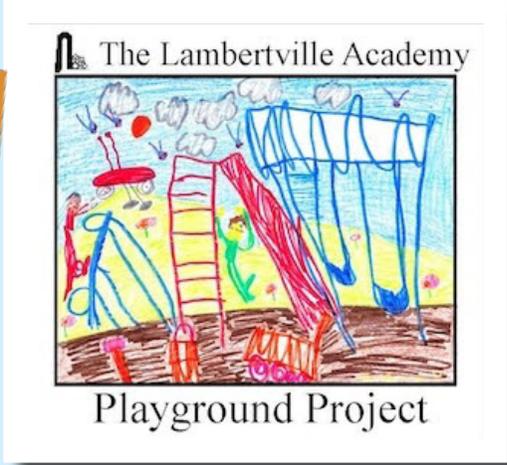
Thanks to the generous support of the **Where Angels Play Foundation**, the newly completed playground at Lambertville Academy now provides students with a safe, engaging space for active play, social connection, and physical development. Designed to support children's growth and well-being, the playground enriches the early learning experience and reflects the Academy's commitment to nurturing the whole child.

**20%**  
of our students  
receive tuition  
assistance

over  
**\$15,000**  
awarded in camp  
scholarships



*Teacher of the Year!  
Chris Keeton*



*"The Lambertville Academy tuition assistance not only helps provide our daughter's early academic foundation, but it also allows us to rest assured that she can continue going to school even during the difficult months when work and effort are not enough to cover costs."  
M.P.*

*Lambertville Academy Tuition Assistance Recipient*

*"The tuition assistance that my daughter receives for Lambertville Academy aftercare allows me to work without feeling stressed. I don't have to ask for permission to leave work early to pick her up."  
L.G.*

*Lambertville Academy Tuition Assistance Recipient*

# WITH GRATITUDE

## Generosity When it Mattered Most.

To the individuals, businesses, faith communities, schools, and organizations who organized food drives, fundraisers, and stepped forward in response to SNAP cuts—thank you. During a time of uncertainty and increased need, your generosity was immediate, abundant, and deeply felt by our neighbors. When it mattered most, you showed up with compassion and resolve, ensuring that families did not face hardship alone. We continue to be moved by the outpouring of support and by a community that consistently responds with care, dignity, and generosity.



## Ways to Give!



Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fisherman's Mark**  
60 Wilson Street  
Lambertville, NJ 08823

Online at: \_\_\_\_\_  
[fishermansmark.org/donations](https://fishermansmark.org/donations)



**Pablo Londono - 10 years of service!**

**Pablo Londono, Bilingual Administrative Coordinator** was recognized for 10 years of service to Fisherman's Mark. His dedication and bilingual support have helped ensure that neighbors can access services with dignity, clarity, and care.



**Ricardo Zapata - 5 years of service!**

**Ricardo Zapata, Director of Operations** was recognized for 5 years of service. His leadership and operational oversight have strengthened Fisherman's Mark's programs, facilities, and ability to respond effectively to community needs.

Fisherman's Mark is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) social services organization based in Lambertville, NJ. For over 45 years, we have offered help where and when needed in Hunterdon County and beyond. Our doors are open to all who need assistance, including senior citizens, veterans, single parents, individuals with disabilities, and newly arrived immigrants. Our core values of integrity, belonging, empathy, and inspiration guide our staff and volunteers.