



**FISHERMAN'S  
MARK** SOCIAL  
SERVICES

HELP WHEN HELP IS NEEDED

# ON YOUR MARK

NEWSLETTER OF FISHERMAN'S MARK

SPRING 2024

The mission of Fisherman's Mark 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.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Of all the services we provide, Fisherman's Mark is best-known for our food support programs. Our iconic red barn, home to the Free MARKET food pantry, meets a very tangible need - food for individuals and families in our area that are struggling to make ends meet. If affording a basic need like nutritious food is challenging, it's likely that there are other needs to be met and additional ways we can help. Once someone becomes a recipient of our food support programs, we open the door to social services.

But what, exactly, are social services? The focus of our social services manager, Chayln Fisher-Watson, is to aid disadvantaged, distressed or vulnerable people. She does this in countless ways and no two cases are alike. Chayln provides whatever is needed to ensure basic needs are met. She spends much of her time assisting program participants with efforts like securing transportation, filling out necessary paperwork, and explaining complicated benefits. Our bilingual staff provides translation when necessary. She makes connections to housing opportunities, County, State and Federal Assistance programs, and identifies other charitable and social services agencies that can help. She also advocates by speaking on their behalf, acting as their representative and

communicating with decision-makers when needed.

I am so thankful for Chayln and her compassionate guidance that fosters stability for so many of our Fisherman's Mark neighbors. And I'm thankful for our community for generously supporting Fisherman's Mark. When a community steps up to help their neighbors in need, everybody wins.

With Gratitude,

Jennifer Williford,  
Executive Director



## GETTING TO KNOW SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGER, CHAYLN FISHER-WATSON

*What drew you to this line of work? I have always enjoyed helping people. Social work has always been something I was passionate about. I received my BA in Child and Family Development and started my career as a Technical Assistant traveling to daycare/childcare facilities throughout the county.*

*What do you enjoy the most about what you do? I really enjoy watching a program participant make progress in something they have been trying to accomplish.*

*If your department had unlimited resources, how would you appropriate them? That can change given the circumstances at the time. Currently, if we had the resources, I would provide appropriate housing for the people within our community struggling with inadequate or substandard living conditions, and those with no place at all.*

*Describe a recent success story: We recently had a longtime program participant who had been looking for handicap accessible housing in a safe environment. After*

*over a year of searching, a place was secured for her. Fisherman's Mark helped with the security deposit and one month's rent to guarantee the house's availability.*

*If someone was hesitant about using your services, what would you tell them? I would present them with the services we offer and try to make them feel as comfortable as possible by explaining they have a right to the services they are applying for.*





## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: QIGONG AT LAMBERTVILLE ACADEMY



Qigong (pronounced chee-gong) is an ancient Eastern practice that combines movement and breathwork intended to create health and spiritual balance in the body. As young as age three, the students at Lambertville Academy's Early Childhood Learning Center have the opportunity to participate in weekly qigong classes taught by Bob Lavin, known to them as "Mr. Bob".

After the horrific events of 9/11, Lavin, a retired firefighter of 39 years from

Elizabeth, New Jersey, suffered from post traumatic stress disorder. Bob sought therapy to deal with his diagnosis and was recommended qigong as part of his treatment. He became an avid proponent of the practice. "I never heard of it, but was open to it," he said. He later got certified and has been teaching ever since. "It's helpful in so many ways: mental, physical and spiritual. It's been a savior to me and I want to share it with others."

"It's incredible what Mr. Bob achieves with the students," said Lisa Milisavna, Director of the Lambertville Academy. "They're all so calm, relaxed and focused after his classes. We are so grateful that he donates his time and talent to our kids!"

*"Fisherman's Mark leads the way in helping people. The more I find out about it, the more I appreciate how they help the community."*

~ Bob Lavin

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RENE MARINICH

Fisherman's Mark appreciates our vast number of dedicated volunteers who enthusiastically support our work in countless ways. As a thank you for donating their time and talent, we held our annual Volunteer Appreciation event on April 17th. The event was generously hosted by HollyHedge Estate in New Hope. (We are so grateful to HollyHedge for the fabulous spread!) Each year, we present the "Linda Meacham Excellence in Volunteerism Award", to a stand-out Fisherman's Mark volunteer. This year, we recognized and honored Rene Marinich, whose contribution to the organization is simply immeasurable.

*"You feel good about volunteering, but it's also fun and enjoyable. I've met a lot of smart, nice men and women."*

~Rene Marinich, Volunteer of the Year

After moving to Lambertville ten years ago, Rene quickly discovered that Fisherman's Mark was the heart of the town. Following her retirement in 2019, she began working as a Free MARKET volunteer. In addition to her Free MARKET shift, Rene supports and attends special events such as the Pride Parade, ShadFest, the Holiday Meal Program and others. However, Rene's most valuable contribution started after Hurricane Ida. Since the devastation of the storm, Rene has been keeping the Fisherman's Mark Volunteer Program staffed and running smoothly. She creates and maintains the schedule,

communicates with and organizes volunteers, finds substitutes when needed, and everything that goes along with managing volunteers.

"Rene stepped up during a very difficult time," said Jennifer Williford, Executive Director of Fisherman's Mark. "We were so severely impacted by Hurricane Ida, that we needed extra help managing the Volunteer Program. Rene jumped in and has remained in that role ever since. There are simply no words to describe my deep appreciation for all that she has contributed."

"The community's heart is with Fisherman's Mark," said Rene. "We are supportive and inclusive, and Fisherman's Mark is a critical piece of that by providing food, social services and education."

In addition to her work with Fisherman's Mark, Rene also leads the team in Lambertville that provides tax preparation through United Way of Hunterdon County. She bridges the two organizations and ensures a strong partnership.



## FISHERMAN'S MARK NEWS BULLETIN

### FISHERMAN'S MARK PARTNERS WITH CARVERSVILLE FARM FOUNDATION

Fisherman's Mark will now be receiving regular food deliveries from Carversville Farm Foundation (CFF) for the Free MARKET food pantry. CFF has provided food to many area community kitchens/free farmer's market partners and Fisherman's Mark will now be a recipient. The items received will include fresh, restaurant-quality organic produce, eggs, meat and poultry. "We are very excited to be providing our food to Fisherman's Mark," said Tony D'Orazio, Co-Executive Director of CFF. "Fisherman's Mark is a natural fit for our mission of delivering nourishing food at no cost." Jennifer Williford added, "Everyone deserves access to healthy food. It's wonderful when our community steps up to provide for those in need."



### A NEW WAY TO DONATE: AMAZON WISH LIST

Fisherman's Mark has established an Amazon Wishlist, whereby donors can purchase and ship items online directly to Fisherman's Mark. "It's a super convenient way for our supporters to be aware of what we need and make a donation accordingly," said Jennifer Williford, Executive Director of Fisherman's Mark. "So many people use Amazon, so if they're ordering something for themselves, it only takes a few seconds to view the list and order items that will ship directly to the Free MARKET. Every donation makes a difference for our food support program participants."



### WELCOME LISA SHIPPY-WOODS, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT!

We are thrilled to have Lisa Shippy-Woods join the Fisherman's Mark team as Director of Development! She brings seventeen years of event management and donor relations experience to our organization. Welcome, Lisa!



*"Fisherman's Mark's commitment to making a positive impact resonates deeply with me. I'm honored to work alongside this dedicated team of staff and volunteers!"*

~ Lisa Shippy-Woods

### FUNDRAISER SPOTLIGHTS AUTHOR, CALVIN TRILLIN

Legendary journalist and novelist, Calvin Trillin, spent an afternoon with his fans and Fisherman's Mark supporters at Cradle Valley Farm in New Hope. The event was sold out. We are so appreciative that he would donate his time, bestow his wisdom, and share his experiences while raising funds for our organization!





### Case Management

An issue-resolution program teaching clients to identify and define issues, set self-defined goals, and develop skills to achieve those goals.



### Community Outreach

A community-building program offering the Fisherman's Mark resources and programs to all members of the community, as well as reaching out to increase awareness of our services, broadening the scope and effectiveness of our programs.



### Fisherman's Mark Free MARKET

Program addressing the issues of food insecurity by offering nutritious food and other necessities free of charge, along with educational programs to promote healthy eating habits.



### Information, Resource & Referral

A gateway of resources to assist community members in becoming self-sufficient, providing tools to help them along the way.



### Lambertville Academy

NAEYC accredited, offering Preschool, School-Age and Summer Camp Programs. Open 7am-7pm, Monday-Friday.

### Los Puentes

A Latino advocacy program that recognizes the unique needs of Spanish-speaking communities and bridges them to Fisherman's Mark resources as well as the community-at-large.



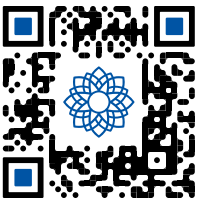
### Volunteer Program

Provides an opportunity for everyone to become involved in their community by contributing their time and talents to many of the Fisherman's Mark programs.



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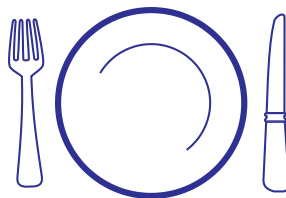
## YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER.



### MAKE A DONATION

Under 10% administrative costs ensures 90% of your funding goes towards our programs.

Donate online at  
[fishermansmark.org/donations](http://fishermansmark.org/donations)



### DONATE PANTRY SUPPLIES

Food, personal hygiene items, diapers, fresh produce, etc. can be donated to our food pantry at:

262 North Main Street  
Lambertville



### DONATE TIME

We couldn't help all of the people that we do without the support of our volunteers.

Sign up online at  
[www.fishermansmark.org/get-involved](http://www.fishermansmark.org/get-involved)