



## September 2025 Newsletter

### From the Executive Director

As summer winds down, we feel the natural shift of the season here at Fisherman's Mark. Our Farm Stand closes, school programs begin again, and we prepare for the busy months ahead. Fall and winter bring both celebration and challenge — and our community counts on us more than ever.

This newsletter highlights just a few examples of how we've responded to that call: distributing thousands of pounds of fresh produce, serving nutritious meals to children while school was out, sending students back to school with brand-new backpacks, continuing our ESL program despite funding uncertainties, and lifting up volunteers whose time and talents strengthen everything we do.



What remains constant through each of these stories is you. The compassion of our neighbors ensures that when families face hardship, there is a place to turn — not only for food, but for care, dignity, and connection.

As we look ahead to the season of giving, I am reminded daily that this community is our greatest strength. Thank you for standing with Fisherman's Mark, for showing up for one another, and for helping us carry forward a tradition of resilience and hope.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Williford  
Executive Director

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## Volunteer Spotlight:

# Sherry Campbell

When Fisherman's Mark needed extra support in our social services program, Sherry Campbell stepped in without hesitation. With a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling and nearly 40 years of experience as a licensed professional counselor, Sherry brought a wealth of knowledge in mental health, addiction, domestic violence, and vocational rehabilitation. She has worked in hospitals, agencies, and private practice, and first connected with Fisherman's Mark through SAFE in Hunterdon before becoming a pantry volunteer in 2019.

## Helping When Help is Needed



*Thank you, Sherry!*

Earlier this year, when the organization faced a gap in staffing, Sherry served as our interim case manager for more than two months. In that role, she provided day-to-day support ranging from organizing files and managing calls to helping participants with both simple and complex needs. "I was surprised to find that many needs were very simple ones: managing bills, clarifying applications, screening mail, helping with basic technology," Sherry shared. "The more complicated issues almost always involved a lack of financial and/or legal resources or knowledge. There also seemed to be a lot of loneliness—sometimes people just wanted someone to talk to."

Her presence was deeply felt by both staff and participants. Executive Director Jennifer Williford described Sherry as "upbeat, with a can-do personality that was a true gift to all of us." Jenn added, "Sherry's background and skill set were invaluable in working with our participants. She was able to quickly analyze someone's situation and assist in the most kind and caring way." Sherry also supported the hiring process for our new social services manager and worked alongside Lauren to ensure a smooth transition.

Reflecting on the experience, Sherry emphasized the importance of seeing each individual not just as a social services participant, but as a neighbor. "We have a tremendous opportunity to help our community members, especially the more vulnerable ones," she said. "We must remember that these people aren't just participants—they are our neighbors who need respect and acceptance, a helping hand, a welcoming smile, and a chance to grow."

Jenn echoed that sentiment, noting her gratitude: "I'm forever grateful that we could use Sherry and her skill set during a challenging time for us. Her willingness to fill in allowed us to take our time to find the right fit in our next social services manager. This is a great example of us using volunteers to their fullest potential—with a very positive outcome."

Sherry continues to serve as a member of our Social Services Committee and remains a cherished part of the Fisherman's Mark community. "I was glad to be

able to 'help when help is needed' and to use my skills to help our clients," she said. "I strongly support Fisherman's Mark's mission, and love being a part of this growing organization."

**Learn More: Social  
Services**

## **Program Spotlight: Utility Assistance from The Bridge, Lambertville**

A new collaboration with The Bridge Lambertville, supported by Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church, is helping Fisherman's Mark respond to one of our community's greatest needs: utility assistance. This initiative will provide urgent support for families struggling with heating and electric bills—needs that surfaced at the very top of our recent Community Needs Assessment.



**Learn More: The Bridge  
Program**

## **News and Updates**

**Summer Recap** 



This summer was full of growth, nourishment, and community spirit at Fisherman's Mark.

- Our Wednesday Farm Stand welcomed 376 visits and distributed more than 6,100 pounds of fresh produce, thanks to the generosity of Rolling Harvest Food Rescue, Carversville Farm Foundation, America's Grow-a-Row, and Hungry Work Organic Farm. For low-income families, access to fresh food isn't just about nutrition — it's about dignity, choice, and opportunity.
- Through our FLY (Feeding Local Youth) program, we were proud to serve 1,600 balanced meals to children while school was out. For the first time, meals followed USDA MyPlate guidelines, offering grains, proteins, vegetables, fruits, and dairy — all overseen by our dedicated dietetic intern from Cedar Crest College.
- And thanks to our community's generosity, 222 backpacks were distributed through our 2025 Back-to-School Backpack Program, ensuring local students from preschool to high school started the year ready to learn. [Read more about the program.](#)

We are deeply grateful to our partners and supporters who make this work possible. Together, we're building a healthier, stronger community!





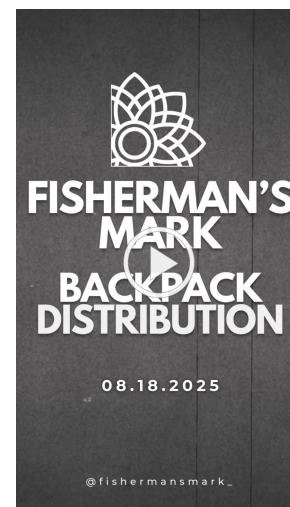
## Back to School Success!

Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers and community partners, more than 200 local students started the school year with backpacks filled to the brim with grade-level essentials. From carefully packed supplies to frozen treats and live music, our 2025 Backpack Program was a joyful celebration for kids and parents alike!



[Read the Full Story](#)

Read the full article, and check out the fun video recap!



## Powered by Partnerships

At Fisherman's Mark, we know one simple truth: we couldn't do what we do without our partners. Every day, we see the impact of the many farms, churches, schools, businesses, grocery stores, restaurants, and countless

community groups that stand beside us. Together, they form the fabric of a compassionate and giving community.

Over the past few weeks, we've been spotlighting some of these incredible partners on Facebook — a small way to say thank you and share their stories. But the truth is, our list of partners is long, and each one makes a difference. From donations of fresh produce to hygiene products, from providing space for programs to educating our participants, from offering meals to hosting food drives, our partners show up in countless ways. Farms, churches, schools, civic groups, local businesses, restaurants, and nonprofits all play a role in keeping Fisherman's Mark strong. Together, they help us nourish families, expand access to social services, and build a community rooted in compassion and care.

We invite you to visit our [Community Partners page](#) to see the many organizations and individuals who stand with us. And to all of you who give your time, resources, and support: thank you. Fisherman's Mark is stronger because of you.

**Learn More: Community Partners**



## ESL Program Continues with Board Support

When members of our Latino community asked for structured, leveled English classes, Fisherman's Mark responded with an ESL program designed to meet that need. Since launching, the program has empowered dozens of adult learners with essential language skills.

The program was originally offered in partnership with the Hunterdon County Education Services

**Thank you to our Board  
for supporting the ESL Program!**



Commission. However, with funding uncertainties and to ensure that the classes remain open and accessible to all, Fisherman's Mark has decided to move forward by running the ESL program as our own.

We remain grateful to our dedicated instructors, partners, and participants, and we look forward to strengthening this program as we move forward.

**Learn More: ESL  
Program**

## Volunteer Supermarket Sweep

What happens when volunteers race through the aisles of Giant with only \$150 to feed a family of five—or create a diabetic-friendly meal plan on a shoestring budget? Our first-ever Volunteer Supermarket Sweep was as eye-opening as it was fun, giving participants a firsthand look at the tough choices our neighbors face every day.



Now, we're inviting your group—business, club, or community organization—to host a Supermarket Sweep of your own! It's the perfect mix of team building, community service, and impact.

**Read More: Volunteer Supermarket  
Sweep**

**Learn More: Schedule a Supermarket  
Sweep**

## Keep in Touch!



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