

# STAR FISH FOOD PANTRY

Volume 7/Issue 4

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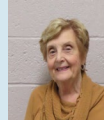
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*We welcome your comments.  
Contact us at  
secretary@starfishplainfield.org*

## OUR MISSION

To provide emergency food assistance to people of Plainfield who find themselves in need.

## HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM PATTY

As we embrace the spirit of the season, we are reminded of the importance of gift giving and the profound impact it has on our community. At Star Fish, we are deeply grateful for the thoughtful gifts and support we have received throughout the year.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated volunteers and generous donors. Your contributions have made a significant difference, and your commitment inspires us every day.

During this season of goodwill, we wish you and your loved ones good health, happiness, and a New Year filled with hope, peace, and laughter.

Patty Bixel and the Board of Star Fish Food Pantry

*“So thankful and glad to help whenever we can. We have taught our kids that service is the rent you pay for the space you occupy on earth. Thank you for all that you do for so many. Continued blessings 🙏”*

Joe Incarnacion – Food for Thought, Inc.

## WE ARE NOW PLATINUM!!

We work hard to be good stewards of your donations, whether they are foodstuff or your hard-earned money. Our overhead costs are minimal and solely used to fund operating expenses. We have no paid employees but rely on volunteer service. We are rated at 4 Stars on Charity Navigator and at the Platinum level of transparency on Candid, a leading nonprofit information service. You can trust us to use your donations wisely.



## FAITH LUTHERAN FOOD DELIVERY

We are so blessed to have our legion of supporters who step up when the call goes out for help.

Every year our friends at Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence bring us donated food collected from their community.

This amazing effort results in hundreds of boxes of food, sorted and packed by Church volunteers and brought to us on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

We don't have an origin year, but volunteers at Faith Lutheran and at our Pantry have experience with this act of love and kindness going back at least thirty years!

And when our call goes out for help receiving, sorting by year and re-packing into crates or boxes, we have so many wonderful people respond that the entire process is completed in just three hours!

We cannot name every individual who pitched in (some may not want to be named), but rest assured you are held in the highest regard and esteem by all of us at Star Fish. We will thank the following organizations whose teams came to work:

Wardlaw+Hartridge School

Wilson Memorial Church Youth Group

PSI Psychology Honor Society, Union College

Snyder School of Nursing and Medical Imaging

In God's Image

Renga Family

Humane Society of Union College

Food Pantry weekly volunteers

The folks at Faith Lutheran invested years ago in their own folding delivery ramp with rollers to bridge the gap between the truck outside and the tables and workers inside. This enables them to quickly unload the boxes and get them to the volunteers with the least physical strain.

We offer our sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved who made this project a success. We truly could not have done it without all of you!



The truck arrives with hundreds of boxes of food. The ramp is set up from truck, down the stairs, and into the basement. The boxes are then unloaded and slid down.

## MORE FAITH LUTHERAN FOOD DELIVERY



Some of the items are taken off the ramp to go directly to the Pantry (cereal, paper goods, pasta, for example). The rest are pushed along to waiting volunteers lining the tables who take the marked boxes to sorting stations around the large meeting room.



Volunteers are stationed at tables marked for specific items, like soup, beans, peanut butter, vegetables, etc. They open boxes, sort items by date to go either to the Pantry or to storage.



A happy picker and packer from the Rotary Club. Crates are used because they are more stable in stacking for storage. But when they are filled, we resort to re-filling boxes.

## MORE FAITH LUTHERAN FOOD DELIVERY



Volunteers opening boxes, checking dates, sorting into crates or boxes.



Many hands make light work, and we did have many hands. As always, Patty Bixel made sure to have drinks and Munchkins and snacks to refresh our workers.

## A “RETIREMENT” TRIBUTE TO OUR FAITHFUL VOLUNTEER ROGER IDLAND

Roger recently retired from his volunteerism at the Pantry. This tribute was submitted by Rich Gewirtz.

*Roger’s life has always been defined by service. After dedicating 20 years to managing the delivery of packages with FedEx—a career marked by reliability, hard work, and genuine care—he entered retirement not with rest in mind, but with a renewed commitment to helping others.*

*At Star Fish Inc., Roger brought that same spirit of dedication to the Plainfield community. Week after week, he volunteered to deliver food packages to families in need, ensuring that no doorstep was missed and no neighbor was forgotten. But his contributions went far beyond the driver’s seat. Roger sorted eggs with precision, assembled delivery bags with care, cut through frozen chicken packs with practiced hands, checked food dates responsibly, and still found time to brighten the room.*

*What truly set Roger apart was the heart he brought to every task. Tuesday volunteers knew that if Roger was there, the day would be lighter. His great attitude, warm smile, and endless stories became a source of joy and energy for everyone around him. He showed that service isn’t just about the work—it’s about the kindness you bring with you.*

*Roger didn’t just volunteer; he uplifted. He didn’t just deliver groceries; he delivered hope, dignity, and connection.*

*His legacy is one of quiet, consistent generosity—a reminder that a life of service is a life well lived.*



The solicitation poster at Faith Lutheran

Star Fish, Inc.

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E-mail us at:

[secretary@starfishplainfield.org](mailto:secretary@starfishplainfield.org)

Donate at

[tinyurl.com/starfishplfdinc](http://tinyurl.com/starfishplfdinc)

or [www.starfishplainfield.org](http://www.starfishplainfield.org)

Visit our website and click on the Contact or Donate menu item, and then click on the “Donate” button as shown below.



Use the QR code to donate

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**



**THANKS FOR YOUR FOOD DONATIONS**

Here are a few photos of recent donations in addition to the once-a-year truckload.



A very large donation of food, donated by the children and families in St. Mary's Church religious education program.

The drive was spearheaded by Diana and Jennifer, pictured with Patty (left).



This donation of food came from the members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in South Plainfield. The food was brought to us by Nancy Nardi, representing the Rotary Club of the Plainfields.



Last but not least, we see Elissa and Sophia of Clark. Elissa walks in Tamaques Park and solicited donations for us from anyone she met along the way.