

A Guide to the Records of Arlington County FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 1967-2000

Records of Arlington County FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 1967-2000
1967-2000

A Collection in Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History RG 176
Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History
2009

Title Statement

A Guide to the Records of Arlington County FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 1967-2000

Subtitle: Arlington County FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), Records of

Collection: RG 176

Author: Heather Crocetto

Publication Statement

Date: © 2009 Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Publisher: Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Gregory Pierce, 6 October 2020

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

RG 176

Language

English

Creator

Arlington County FISH

Extent

1 box.

Repository

Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Donald Hall, member of the North Arlington FISH, in 2009.

Preferred Citation

Records of Arlington County FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), Collection # RG 176, Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

For more information on local churches, see [RG 6, Arlington County Churches](#), and on one of North Arlington FISH's founding members, see [RG 123, Rock Spring Congregational Church Records](#).

Historical Information

The organization FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) was founded by church members in Oxford, England in 1961. The purpose of the organization is to provide short term emergency assistance to neighbors in need such as: information and referral, assistance with transportation and essential errands, emergency baby-sitting, emergency housekeeping, financial assistance, and handling suicide calls.

North Arlington FISH began as a cooperative program of the North Arlington Parish Council in 1966. The first five churches to participate were: Christ United Methodist, Little Falls United Presbyterian, Rock Spring Congregational, St. Peter's Episcopal, and Walker Chapel Methodist. Many other churches have participated in North Arlington FISH since its inception. South Arlington FISH was founded in 1969 and shared a newsletter, *Fishnet*, and an answering service with North Arlington FISH.

Scope and Content

Record Group 176 is made up entirely of textual materials, including publications and correspondence created by FISH. The Miscellaneous FISH Papers File (in *Series 1*) includes correspondence with church members and others concerning volunteer staffing and a 1999 news article about changes to the program, as well as brochures and anecdotes about services provided in the program. The Board Minutes and *Fishnet* provide information about day to day activities, banquets and dinners, statistics, participating people and churches, and changes in policies and social services. The date range for the collection is 1967 to 2000, but the bulk dates from 1980 to 1995. This collection measures .4 linear feet.

The FISH volunteer manuals provide a comprehensive overview of the kind of social services performed by FISH from the late 1960's to the mid 1990's. The manuals also contain lists of participating churches and Arlington County and non-profit organizations providing social services. The North Arlington FISH Manual, November 1983, pp. 4-1 to 4-3, includes a geographical listing and hand drawn map of volunteer organizations similar to FISH in Arlington County, the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County. Special arrangements with other organizations and businesses are mentioned as well.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Charities.

Church charities -- United States.

Arlington (Va.)

Arlington County (Va.)

Arrangement

Record Group 176 is arranged into four series based on originating organization, splitting material into FISH as a regional organization (*Series 1*), North Arlington FISH (*Series 2*), South Arlington FISH (*Series 3*) and material generated by both organizations working together (*Series 4*). Arrangement within each series is by type of material and then chronological. Folder titles were created by the processing archivist due to unlabeled and unfiled materials in the original donation.

Contents List

Series 1: Subject Files

File 1: Origin of FISH in Arlington

Box 1

File 2: Miscellaneous FISH Papers

Box 1

Series 2: North Arlington FISH Files

File 1: North Arlington FISH Board Minutes and Membership Lists, October 1977 - January 1985

Box 1

File 2: North Arlington FISH Board Minutes, January 1986 - December 1988

Box 1

File 3: North Arlington FISH Board Minutes, January 1989 - December 1991

Box 1

File 4: North Arlington FISH Board Minutes, January 1992 - November 1994

Box 1

File 5: North Arlington FISH Manuals, 1967, 1974

Box 1

File 6: North Arlington FISH Manual, 1977/78

Box 1

File 7: North Arlington FISH Manual, 1986, 1988

Box 1

Series 3: South Arlington FISH Files

File 1: South Arlington FISH Miscellaneous [Annual Reports, Meeting Agendas, Membership Lists, Schedules], 1986-1999

Box 1

File 2: South Arlington FISH Manual, 1978

Box 1

File 3: South Arlington FISH Manual, 1995

Box 1

Series 4: North and South Arlington FISH Subject Files

File 1: Fishnet Newsletter, January 1979 - December 1989

Box 1

File 2: Fishnet Newsletter, December 1990 - Winter 1999/2000

Box 1

File 3: North/South Fish Annual Potlucks, 1994-1999

Box 1

