Your donations have directly helped...

- a father support his family of four after a long struggle with unemployment. VAC utilized FISH Funds to pay for a commercial driver's license to help him start a new job.

- a woman with ten children fleeing domestic violence. The FISH Fund provided her with much needed gas to get to work. She and her kids flourished. One son even made the honor roll and became a star basketball player at his school.

- a single woman who moved to Boone County from South Africa and was diagnosed with diabetes. The FISH Fund helped her afford test strips to monitor her glucose levels and stay in control of her health.

- a homeless single mother of three acquire birth certificates for her daughters to get approved for Section 8 housing. Thanks to the FISH Fund, they were off the streets and living happily and safely in their new home.

How your faith community can help!

Include donations to the FISH Fund in your annual budget, and make monthly, quarterly, or annual payments.

Encourage direct donations from members of the congregation.

Consider hosting a FISH fundraiser.

Your contribution to the FISH Fund will ensure this vital service continues for those in need in our community.

Additional VAC funding sources include:

403A Vandiver Drive, Columbia, MO 65202
Phone: 573-874-2273  Fax: 573-874-9172
vac@vacmo.org | www.vacmo.org
The Faith in Service to Humanity (FISH) Fund was started in 1981 by the Interfaith Council of Churches to address widespread problems church staff were experiencing with needy persons and to determine how to be good stewards of limited resources. Churches decided services would best be provided through a central location employing social workers to which churches wishing to assist the needy could send allocated funds. Social workers are trained to accurately determine and verify needs so funds can be used more effectively and fairly for those truly in need.

Voluntary Action Center administers the FISH Fund, providing this service at no charge to the funders. VAC provides reports on all FISH Fund income and disbursements on a monthly basis to the Interfaith Council and to each donor as funds are received.

Every year the FISH Fund provides thousands of dollars in goods and services to needy people in the Columbia and Boone County area. The needs of low-income families continue to grow each year. We invite you and your congregation members to support this important effort of our faith community.

What is the FISH Fund?
The Faith in Service to Humanity (FISH) Fund was started in 1981 by the Interfaith Council of Churches to address widespread problems church staff were experiencing with needy persons and to determine how to be good stewards of limited resources. Churches decided services would best be provided through a central location employing social workers to which churches wishing to assist the needy could send allocated funds. Social workers are trained to accurately determine and verify needs so funds can be used more effectively and fairly for those truly in need.

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What services are provided by the FISH Fund?
When an individual comes to your church requesting assistance, refer them to VAC. The following are services VAC provides through the FISH Fund:

- Prescriptions
- Medical needs
- Dental care
- Food
- Hygiene items
- Driver’s licenses
- State I.D.’s
- Emergency shelter
- Bus tickets
- Birth certificates
- Uniforms for work
- Funeral expenses

What are the benefits of giving to the FISH Fund?

- Ensure that your church’s charitable giving will be used effectively and efficiently.
- Allow church staff to work with social services professionals when assisting those in need.
- Ensure that funds are readily accessible for those in need.
- Save time for those seeking assistance by offering resources through one agency.
- Avoid duplication of services to those in need by offering assistance at one central location.
- Increase overall accountability.
- Put those in need in contact with social service professionals who can provide appropriate information and referrals that will address their underlying needs.

We need your help!
All faith communities and individuals in the Columbia area are invited to help with this important effort by contributing to the FISH Fund, which is much needed and much appreciated in our community.

Please mail donations to:
Voluntary Action Center
403A Vandiver Drive
Columbia, MO 65202