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**Emergency Food, Clothing and Information/Referral for People in Crisis**

November 2005

Dear Friends,

Chances are in recent months you joined other Oregonians in making a generous donation to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Given what those poor people endured, who among us could turn away?

However, in our own backyards, there are storms of need that don't get a lot of television coverage. In the Portland metropolitan area, Fish extends a helping hand to folks who have nowhere else to turn. Their lives are devastated or they simply can't find the means to feed their kids or make a rent payment.

**We really need your help this holiday season.** It has been a very tough year for local nonprofits. Our cash donations are down 14.5 percent compared to last year. We have had to dip into our reserves to pay our bills.

For 38 years, Fish has provided emergency food boxes, clothing, personal care products and referrals to families and individuals experiencing temporary crisis situations. As a direct service agency, we help an average of 1,913 people each month, 40 percent of whom are children. Truly the need is staggering. Families simply cannot meet their most basic needs: rent, utilities, food, health care, health insurance, prescription medications, etc. Plus heating costs are soaring, and it promises to be a very cold winter for many.

Any help you can provide is critical. As a private, nonprofit organization, Fish does not receive regular, tax-based funding, so we depend on your donations to help others. Fish is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Fish is an amazingly efficient organization, so you can be confident that your donation is going where you intended: 95 percent of all contributions go directly to help people in need.

If you can lend a hand with a check, please do. If you can stop in with a food box, we'd be pleased to see you. We also have two new options for giving — by credit card or by monthly bank withdrawal. Please send a gift using the envelope provided, or call us at 503-233-5533 and find out how you can help.

Wishing you warmth, peace and blessings this joyous season.

Thank you,

Gloria B. Colvin  
Executive Director

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