



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The graphic features the Broomfield FISH logo at the top, followed by the text '60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!' in large, colorful, block letters. Below this, the event details are listed: 'THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023 | 4 PM - 7 PM' and '6 GARDEN CENTER, BROOMFIELD, CO 80020'. At the bottom, it says 'ALL ARE WELCOME FOR A FREE, FUN-FILLED EVENING WITH OUR BROOMFIELD COMMUNITY!' and 'WEAR YOUR TIE DYE!'.

**Broomfield FISH Celebrates 60 Years of Feeding Families and Fueling Hope!**

*What does six decades of service in the Broomfield community look like? Find out during FISH's anniversary party on Thursday, June 22nd, 2023.*

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Broomfield FISH, originally founded by women from six local churches who recognized the importance of coming together to help neighbors in need. Since its beginning in 1963, FISH has been a critical community resource helping families meet their basic human needs. In the first year, FISH helped 25 families. That number has since grown to more than 12,500 unduplicated people, or 1 in 7 Broomfield residents, in 2022! While the nonprofit began as a volunteer-run food pantry, it has since expanded its staffing capacity and programs. As a Family Resource Center, FISH now offers emergency rent, utilities, and transportation assistance, the Keeping Families Housed and No Kid Hungry programs, referrals to more than 30+ partner organizations, and strengths-based, one-on-one support to help families on their path to self-sufficiency.

As the City and County of Broomfield has grown over the past sixty years, FISH has adapted alongside it to meet the needs of residents. FISH has had several different

homes during its many years of operation—the organization was run out of the founders' houses, there were “FISH Cupboards” in local businesses, and it also operated out of the basement of the Broomfield Depot Museum. In 2017, FISH moved to 6 Garden Center, renovating the space to create a cost-free, self-shop marketplace and serve more families than ever before. The marketplace model is best-practice, offering dignity and choice so that participants can select food their families need. The City and County of Broomfield owns 6 Garden Center, but signed a lease agreement with FISH that enables it to direct more resources to neighbors in need.

FISH joined the Colorado Family Resource Center Association in 2018, becoming the only Family Resource Center in Broomfield County with a focus on whole-family, two-generational health and well-being. In 2018, FISH served 6,047 unduplicated people, distributed 889,107 pounds of food, stabilized 369 residents in their homes, and provided 103 households with utilities assistance. Those numbers have consistently grown over the past five years, with FISH serving 12,553 people, distributing 1,409,192 pounds of food, stabilizing 1,228 residents in their homes, and providing 138 households with utilities assistance in 2022 alone. One participant shares, “When I found myself struggling to make ends meet, Broomfield FISH was a true lifeline. I was embarrassed to admit that I needed help, but the staff at FISH made me feel welcomed and respected. FISH provided my wife and I with nutritious food that carried us through tough times. I will always be grateful for all the help we received!”

This summer, FISH will be celebrating six decades of service in the Broomfield community with a party on Thursday, June 22nd from 4 - 7 pm. The party will be held at FISH's building (6 Garden Center). All are welcome to join for a fun-filled evening with our Broomfield community, no registration required! There will be light refreshments, a classic car show, and a short program about FISH's history. Wear your tie dye to get into the 60's spirit. For more information, visit [www.broomfieldfish.org/events](http://www.broomfieldfish.org/events).

### **About Broomfield FISH**

The mission of FISH is to meet our neighbors' basic human needs and provide them with hope and tools to rise out of poverty. FISH is a nonprofit organization that provides food, emergency financial assistance, and one-on-one mentoring support to Broomfield residents in need. To learn more, visit [www.broomfieldfish.org](http://www.broomfieldfish.org).