

Fall 2011

Volume 15, Issue 2



COOL Food Pantry East, Waukegan
123 W. Water Street
Waukegan, IL 60085
847-662-1230

COOL Food Pantry West, Ingleside
25519 W. Highway 134
Ingleside, IL 60041
847-270-0411

COOL Family Housing
127 W. Water Street
Waukegan, IL 60085
847-662-1340



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COOL TALK

A SEASON OF GRATITUDE

Luke 6:20-21 – “Then looking up at His disciples, He said: Blessed are you who are poor, because the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are hungry now, because you will be filled...”

Each morning at COOL, staff and volunteers prepare for those who come looking to them daily for food for their families. Breads are sorted and bagged, boxes are filled, shelves are stocked and donations arrive. With each donation we give thanks at COOL. We are thankful for every item, each can, every box and every loaf He has provided through your helping hands.

Here at COOL we witnessed the devastation of our community by severe storms causing power outages and food losses for many families who were already struggling. Businesses all around COOL were without power for several days. Yet the COOL Food Pantry in Waukegan never lost power and continued serving those who needed help throughout the crisis. The power at Pantry West in Ingleside did go out, but not during business hours, and it came back on long before any of our freezers began to thaw. At COOL housing, one home did lose power, but it just happened to be vacant that week.

As we prepare for a long winter, we are grateful for our church partners, for every donor, the grants we are awarded, and every gift we receive. We are thankful for each volunteer who gives their time at COOL Pantries and at COOL Family Housing.

We have witnessed firsthand His blessings on this ministry. Though we face a difficult economy, made worse by an increasing need for our services, we have faith that this ministry is blessed as we look forward to each day with joy and hope in the knowledge that this is God’s work. Thank you for all that you do!

Diane Thackston
Executive Director

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

As I drove down St. Mary’s Road in Libertyville I went by Holy Cross Lutheran Church and the church sign read, “Do the Math – Count Your Blessings”. How true! We all have been showered with abundant blessings. My hope is that COOL can continue to be a blessing in the lives of the clients that we serve, a visible reminder of God’s love in a world that is full of uncertainties.

If we at COOL were to count our blessings they would include: willing volunteers, dedicated staff, appreciative clients, willing donors of food and money to support our mission.

As you reflect on your blessings, ask yourself if there is “one more thing” you could do for COOL: organize a food drive, speak to a group at your church, talk to someone at your work for matching funds, send a monetary donation. If each of us can do “one more thing,” we will have the ability to serve all of our clients.

As I reflect on my blessings I thank God that he has provided me with the opportunity to serve COOL with my time and talents. Come join me in sharing this blessing.

Dave Ross, President
COOL Board of Directors

PANTRY EAST HOURS:

Monday
1:00-5:00 PM
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
One Saturday per month
(Call 847-662-1230 for
details)

PANTRY WEST HOURS:

Monday
1:00-5:00 PM
Wednesday
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
One Saturday per month
(Call 847-270-0411 for
details)



Shopping List

- . Rice
- . Pasta
- . Dried Beans
- . Cereal
- . Soup
- . Canned Vegetables
- . Canned Fruit
- . Tomato Sauce
- . Spaghetti Sauce
- . Beverages
- . Peanut Butter
- . Pork and Beans
- . Canned Meats
- . Tuna
- . Macaroni and Cheese
- . Diapers
- . Baby Food
- . Formula
- . Toiletries
- . Paper Goods

COOL FOOD PANTRIES

I would like to thank those who donated school supplies to the pantry. Had it not been for your support, there were children who would have had nothing for back to school.

A little girl who was in first grade came into the pantry with her mom on a Monday afternoon. Her book bag was tattered and torn. It was probably last years' bag or maybe had belonged to an older sibling. She looked sad and was surely not the happiest first grader I have ever met. When I gave food to the family at the counter, the little girl whispered to me, "Do you have any school supplies? My mommy and daddy don't have the money to buy me any."

I looked around the corner and there was a box of school supplies that had just arrived. I picked her out a cute little book bag, crayons, pencils, colored pencils and paper and I put them in the bag and handed them to the little girl. The family started to leave the pantry, but a few minutes later this little girl came running down the hallway with a big smile on her face. "Thank you for the book bag and the school stuff!" she said, "now I will be like the rest of the kids at school." This is what COOL is all about and why I love my job!!!

As autumn quickly approaches I sometimes wonder how we will make it through another holiday season here at COOL. Will we get the donations needed to serve the hungry people of Lake County who come to our doors for help? However, when those thoughts occur I remind myself of what I have witnessed here during my 6 years at the pantries.

COOL has always been blessed with generous donors who are always there, right when we need them. There have been times that we did not know what we were going to do, or what we were going to serve families the next day at the pantry. Then, a donor just happens to walk in the door with just the items we need. No matter how many times I see this happen I am always amazed. The Lord always provides for our needs. Whether it is cereal, fruit or peanut butter, it always seems to appear when we need it the most and for that I am forever grateful.

The Food Pantries are looking for donations of turkeys for the holidays. Turkey donations can be dropped off Monday 9-5 or Tuesday through Friday 8:30-3:30. As always, monetary donations are gratefully accepted. Thank you for your support. *Gayle Olson, Party Operations Manager*

COOL IN THE NEWS

(Excerpted from *Chicago Tribune*, July 17, 2011) After the fast-and-furious storm of July 11th that knocked out power to dozens of area food pantries, the COOL Food Pantry in Waukegan was fortunate enough to have power and was inundated by families that usually rely on other food pantries. The pantry saw up to a 50 percent increase as families struggled to find food while the power was out. Northern Illinois Food Bank sent all the food it collected from retail grocery stores to COOL in an attempt to replenish its quickly-emptying shelves. Diane Thackston, COOL Executive Director, noted that "we were really blessed here in the middle of this power outage, right on the front lines of Waukegan."



(Excerpted from *Waukegan News Sun*, September 14, 2011) COOL, which has fed the poor since 1983, closed briefly after running out of staples last month, which sent tremor and rumor through the food pantry circuit. Diane Thackston, Executive Director, noted "Donations are down. People are still donating but maybe not quite as much. Funders are still funding, but there's been a decrease." People who have exhausted their unemployment benefits make up the bulk of the extra people fed by COOL since August 2010. Since January 1, the food pantries (both in Waukegan and Ingleside) have provided 238,668 meals. COOL spent \$5,700 on groceries in August, most purchased through Northern Illinois Food Bank.

VOLUNTEER CORNER



North Suburban Mennonite Church-Libertyville
Clean up at our Zion property



Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
Vacation Bible School (5th Grade) Food Drive

COOL is grateful to all the volunteers who have given of their time either by working at the food pantry or helping out at our transitional housing units. We could not do it without you!! As the holidays approach we continue to need volunteers as it is one of our busiest times. For information on volunteering please contact Gayle Olson at golson@coolministries.org or call 847-662-1230.

COOL Family Housing Changes Lives

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Some days my job is very challenging; the life stories are overwhelming. So much pain, hurt and heart break. Some days, I can only cry out and say “Why God?”, but I always come back to the fact that we live in a fallen, messed up world where we have walked away from God and His truths. That is when we have to remember that we have the answer – His name is Jesus. Whatever our needs are, He is the “I AM”. As much as we experience heartbreak, we also get to experience miracles as we watch lives transformed right before us.

Since I joined COOL in March of 2011, I have been blessed to have witnessed 4 families graduate and move into permanent housing, Two left to fulfill other dreams in different states, and two remain in our program and continue rebuilding their lives! Now we have four new families beginning their journey into self-sufficiency, and two more to be added soon!

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

To our volunteers: You are my heroes! I could not do this without your help, encouragement and inspiration! I am in dire need of some gardeners to tend to the beautiful gardens at our Zion property that are growing out of control due to lack of TLC. If anyone is interested, please call 847-662-1340 X 2. Thank you in advance.

Last, but not least, I am putting together a fundraiser, to raise money, specifically for repairs at our Family Homes and for the new “COOL Chat” mini-workshops we have once a month for the guests and their children. I would like to encourage you to contact me to find out how you can hold this fundraiser at your church. Thanks to all who support our wonderful work all for the Glory of our Lord!

In His Service,
Shari Shaver,
Case Manager Family Housing

Family Housing Wish List Items

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Beds and Dressers | Silverware and utensils | Toasters |
| Kitchen Tables and Chairs | Pots and Pans | Mixers |
| Couch and Living Room Chairs | Cups and Glasses | Microwaves |
| End and Coffee Tables, Lamps | Plates and Bowls | Coffee Pots |

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Pantry Volunteer I

Assist pantry staff with sorting, packaging, and distributing food to visitors.

Pantry Volunteer II

Assist pantry staff with unloading truck, moving boxes, and general support for large pick-ups and deliveries. Heavy lifting required. Times vary.

Unit Prep Crew

Individuals or groups to assist in preparing housing units for new guests. Times vary based on need. Tasks include cleaning and painting units, lawn care and minor repairs.

Furniture Volunteers

Volunteers needed to pick up donated furniture items and deliver to our storage garage or to one of our family housing units.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Check our web site at www.coolministries.org for the latest information on upcoming events.

Chili Supper for COOL, 3:30-7 PM
Carry Outs Available
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Waukegan
November 17, 2011

COOL 5K Run & Walk
Board Fundraiser
Old School Forest Preserve
Libertyville, IL
November 26, 2011

COOL Family Housing
Christmas Celebration
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Waukegan
December 10, 2011

Spring Plant Sale
Board Fundraiser—Public Invited
Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee
May 12, 2012

Annual COOL Golf Outing
Board Fundraiser—Public Invited
Early Summer 2012

FOODSTOCK
Lake Bluff Village Green
July 1, 2012



COOL
 127 W. Water Street
 Waukegan, IL 60085

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Diane Thackston	Executive Director
Linda Morgret	Executive Assistant
Cathy Melville	Finance Manager
Shari Shaver	TH Program Manager
John Gonsalez	Grant Writer
Gayle Olson	Pantry Operations Manager/ Volunteer Coordinator
Adelaida Lopez	Pantry Aide

COOL Board Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the 4th Thursday of each month at Bethel Lutheran Church on Grand Ave in Gurnee.

MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFT TO COOL

We are always seeking new and additional ways to fund our services. Does your employer provide any of the following?

- Matching funds for contributions that you make to a non-profit organization.
- Contributions or grants to community organizations for which you volunteer.
- A foundation that provides grants to community organizations.

If the answer is YES, then please consider COOL as the recipient of your employer's generosity. We are willing to provide assistance, if needed, in making the application to your employer. Please let us know if your employer has a foundation that requires a formal grant application.

This year to date COOL has received \$19,500 in donations through corporate employee giving campaigns and company matching fund programs.

Donations to COOL through Thrivent Choice this year to date total \$9,428.00.

To make a credit card donation to COOL, please go to our website at www.coolministries.org and click on the box that reads "Donate now using Just Give.org". You will be directed to their website where you can make a donation.

A copy of our most recent 990 may be viewed on the COOL website: www.coolministries.org

Thank you to the COOL Angels at Haapanen Brothers for printing services. You are the best!!!

COOL would like to extend a special thank you to Help Them To Hope, Inc., The News Sun, and NorStates Bank for their generous support .