

Fall/Winter 2015

Volume 18, Issue 2



**COOL Central Offices**  
127 W. Water Street  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
847-662-1340

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

**COOL Pantry West**  
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

*But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

Matthew 19:26

Last Spring COOL was thrilled to announce that we were preparing to move. A very generous donor had purchased a building just for our use and was also helping to renovate it. This is surely a tremendous blessing.

As anyone who has visited Pantry East in downtown Waukegan can tell you, COOL outgrew this space long ago and the situation is only getting worse. Last year staff and volunteers moved over a million pounds of food through our doors. This had to be done by hand and cart as all of the building doors are too narrow to allow a pallet to pass through.

Though we still need to relocate to a larger and more productive space, all of our efforts to comply with zoning requirements seem to have failed. We've met with the Alderman, the Mayor, our neighbors, and attorneys. Yet our move is on hold indefinitely. We have found ourselves wondering what more we can do. But there is a solution. We know from the scripture that "with God all things are possible."

We must remember that COOL is not about any one of us, or about a building, a new office or a productive storage space. This ministry is about doing God's work. Our mission is about helping those who cannot help themselves, to feed the hungry and house the homeless while encouraging self-sufficiency. So please take a moment as you read this newsletter and say a prayer for our move while we wait to see how He will work this out for His work at COOL.

We are reminded this season to give thanks for the many blessings as there is so much to be thankful for at COOL. Despite a shrinking budget, COOL has more food than ever to distribute to those in need and never have we had so many volunteers willing to work at Pantry East. Last year our housing program increased from 8 to 10 units, increasing our impact on the problem of homelessness. More families than ever before can find a place at COOL to begin life anew as they work, save, and learn the skills necessary to lead productive and self-sufficient lives.

Although it is only August, we have received our first donation for holiday food! Once again this holiday season donors can purchase an entire holiday meal box, complete with a turkey and all the trimmings, for only a \$20 donation. The holiday season is a wonderful time at COOL Ministries as donations from so many sources arrive every day that it's difficult to thank everyone who helps. We have much to look forward to this season as we witness so many neighbors willing to help their neighbors in need!

Thank you for your prayers and support,

Diane Thackston  
Executive Director

## 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)



**Feeding the  
Community**

## Shopping List

- . Rice
- . Pasta
- . Canned 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

With God all things are possible! As I think of how this verse speaks to me, I realize that there are many ways He shows me this on a daily basis. Four years ago when I accepted this position, there were two paid employees and an occasional volunteer to help in the pantries. I ran the computer myself with the help of a family member now and then. As the pantry became a busier place, I often wondered how the few of us were going to handle all of this on our own. Then the phone rang and volunteers started pouring in. Today there are many helping hands every day in the pantry. Some days I have trouble keeping everyone busy! Many are volunteers from other agencies including SER and DHS and those agencies actually pay the volunteers to go and do God's work at the pantry. I had worried and prayed for help and God provided just when the time was right and in his own way.

With our "MOVE" to a new building on hold, I hope and pray that this too will happen in "God's time". Waiting seems like an eternity especially at the Pantry when we are so overcrowded. Please join me in praying that our move becomes a reality soon so that we can continue to feed more of our hungry neighbors in a more efficient and spacious environment as we do God's work daily at the COOL Food Pantries.

Gayle Puetz-Olson  
Pantry Operations Manager

## COOL Family Housing

What happens to families when disaster strikes? The loss of a job, an unexpected illness, fire or other disaster, or even unexpected car repairs can mean the rent or mortgage can't be paid and homelessness can happen quickly. The COOL Family Housing is a program designed to give working homeless families an opportunity to establish their lives anew with time to find permanent housing and build a better future.

During their stay with COOL, families may obtain educational training, find better employment, gain life skills, learn to budget and save money, receive counseling and explore personal and spiritual growth. At the end of their stay with COOL, guest families exit the program and maintain self-sufficient living!

There are many reasons to celebrate at COOL Family Housing but none more joyful than celebrating a changed life.

### Items Needed for Family Housing Units

Beds, Dressers  
Couch/Chairs  
End/Coffee Tables  
Kitchen Table/Chairs  
Vacuum Cleaners  
Linens/Blankets  
Toasters/Coffee Pots  
Plates/Bowls  
Pots/Pans  
Mixing Bowls  
Utensils  
Microwave  
Throw/Area Rugs

## With Hope by Diana Fishman

Weekly we cast seeds of hope when we submit letters of inquiries, proposals, and applications to foundations. We tell the stories of our successes and the ever growing needs in our community. We offer our prayers that our plea for funding will be acknowledged with money to support our program. Each grant is received with excitement and gratitude.

Earlier this year we were able to pay off our line of credit, and it is with hope that we will make it to the next fiscal year without borrowing again. It is with hope we enter the new fiscal year that this will be the year we begin to grow in financial strength while continuing to provide those in need with the best services we can provide.

**Thrivent Financial**

Thrivent Financial is shifting focus from granting large dollar amounts to organizations and congregations to providing seed money to help start a project via Thrivent Action Teams. Thrivent Action Teams will bring together a volunteer team of friends, family, and people in the community to have a bigger impact. Thrivent will provide any Thrivent Member with a \$250 gift card to use as seed money and it's an investment to help get projects started or gain awareness for a cause. All Thrivent benefit members are eligible to lead two Action Teams per calendar year which means a total of \$500 for your cause.

In FY 2013 *Thrivent Care Abounds in Communities* granted COOL Ministries \$4,000 in supporting funds for several of our major fundraising events. Beginning in January 2016 we will no longer receive funding from this source. If you are a Thrivent Benefit Member please consider leading an Action Team to support COOL Ministries. Not sure what to do or how to do it? Contact Diana Fishman at 847-662-1340. She can assist you with activities for your team and assist with submitting paperwork. It takes a community to end hunger and homelessness.

**Thank You**

The COOL Food Pantry, Veteran's Aid Program and Family Housing would like to thank the students and faculty of Lake Forest High School and VFW Post 4308 in Lake Villa for their donations. The overwhelming generosity of these fine institutions helps us to keep the pantry shelves full and enables us to provide toiletries and cleaning supplies for 75 to 100 food stamp eligible veterans per month.



**Lake Forest High School Students Helping Feed the Hungry**  
 Thank you to sponsors Maggie Harmsen, Kathy O'Hara and Athletic Director, Tim Burkhalter.



**VFW Post 4308 Lake Villa**  
 Thank you Post Commander Tom Denman and Doreen Lesch of the Ladies Auxiliary



**COOL 13th Annual Golf Outing**

Golfers —Mark you calendars now for the 13th Annual COOL Golf Outing to be held at Midlane Golf Resort., Wadsworth, IL on Friday, June 17, 2016. If you are not a golfer, consider enjoying the event by being a volunteer. Silent auction donations will also be appreciated. Point of contact at COOL is Diana Fishman at [dfishman@coolministries.org](mailto:dfishman@coolministries.org).

**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](http://www.coolministries.org) for the latest information on planned events and latest news .

**Fall/Winter Scheduled Events**

Chili Supper for COOL, 4-7 PM  
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
 3350 Delany Road, Waukegan  
 Public Invited  
 November 12, 2015

COOL 5K/10K Run and Walk  
 Sponsored by St. James Lutheran Church  
 Old School Forest Preserve, Libertyville  
 November 28., 2015

COOL Transitional Housing Families  
 Christmas Celebration  
 December 2015

Save the Date!

COOL 13th Annual Golf Outing  
 Friday, June 17, 2016  
 Midlane Golf Resort



**COOL**  
 127 W. Water Street  
 Waukegan, IL 60085

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Gurnee, IL**  
**Permit No. 337**



*If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail please reply to [lmorret@coolministries.org](mailto:lmorret@coolministries.org)*

<u>Board of Directors</u>	
Larry Neumann	President
Tom Meyer	Vice-President
Kurt Kolseth	Treasurer
Michelle Ramon	Secretary
Rev Richard Grudt	Pastoral Advisor
Jennifer Clark	
Tim Douglass	
Evelyn Elbe	
Guy Gersich	
Richard Gunnell	
Diana Knoble	
Rebecca Patrick	
Rick Pearce	
Michael Ranieri	
Kenneth Swanson	
Georgia Williams, DDS	

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

  

<u>COOL Staff</u>	
Diane Thackston	Executive Director
Linda Morcret	Executive Assistant
Vacant	Family Housing Manager
Diana Fishman	Grant Writer
Gayle Olson	Pantry Operations Manager
Tera Redman	Finance Manager/ Pantry Assistant
Adelaida Lopez	Pantry Aide

**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 fiscal year to date COOL has received an amazing \$19,815 in donations through corporate employee giving campaigns and company matching fund programs.*

Donations to COOL through **Thrivent Choice** this fiscal year to date total **\$6,547**

**Donations to COOL** may be made via our website at [www.coolministries.org](http://www.coolministries.org). One-time donations can be made via PayPal by clicking on the "Donate" button. Ongoing donations can be set up through Thrivent's "Simply Giving" no-cost program. More info and application forms are available on the COOL website.

A copy of our most recent 990 may be viewed on the COOL website: [www.coolministries.org](http://www.coolministries.org)

**Our heartfelt thanks to Haapanen Brothers, one of COOL's most faithful neighbors, for their generous donation of printing services**

**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 .**