

Fall/Winter 2016

Volume 18, Issue 2



COOL Central Offices
800 W Glen Flora Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085
847-662-1340

COOL Pantry East
800 W Glen Flora Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085
847-662-1230

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

COOL Family Housing
800 W Glen Flora Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085
847-662-1340



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COOL TALK

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.
Matthew 25:40

COOL Transitional Housing Without HUD Funding

Since the late 1980's the COOL Family/Transitional Housing Program has offered a new beginning for parents with children who find themselves homeless with nowhere to turn. Over the years, this program has assisted nearly 250 families to move from poverty to self-sufficiency. While participating in the program COOL families receive structured case management, budgeting classes, constant monitoring, and learn to work and save money for the future. Many of our former participants are now living debt free lives. Some are homeowners, many have college degrees, own businesses and a surprising number find ways to give back to their own communities in order to help other struggling families to make a new life.

In a recent shift in priorities at the national level, HUD will no longer provide funding for the majority of our nation's Transitional Housing Programs. Instead, the new HUD priority is funding immediate permanent housing for the homeless. With many years of experience we have seen that most of the families who are homeless lack the skills, education, resources and tools necessary to get themselves back on their feet, even if they are given a home, unless real change occurs within families. We know that transitional housing works because it requires residents to participate in life changing activities, opening bank accounts, working, budgeting, saving and more.

Fortunately for COOL Family Housing, HUD funding has historically been a very small part of our program. In fact, even though COOL will close 2 HUD-funded housing units effective October 1st we will continue to operate our program with 10 transitional housing units at scattered sites located throughout Waukegan and Zion. While that is indeed good news, the downside is that both of the HUD-funded units scheduled to close are 3-bedroom homes. Without those units our program will have only 2-bedroom and 4-bedroom units. Many applicants for our program include parents with two or three children. For them, a 3 -bedroom is ideal whereas occupying a 2 bedroom simply won't work, especially when the children are of mixed genders. Likewise, placing those families in a 4-bedroom unit would not make good use of available space.

In the upcoming year, we will look for new community partners, corporate grants and foundations willing to help us continue transforming lives and moving families from permanent reliance on government assistance and poverty to true self-reliance and self-sufficiency. In the meantime, we are thankful that COOL Transitional Housing will continue to be here to help many families in the year ahead like our most recent program graduate. (see story on page 2). During her stay at COOL she saved enough money to become a 1st time home buyer!

Thank you for helping COOL to feed the hungry and house the homeless!

Diane Thackston
Executive Director

PANTRY EAST HOURS:

Monday -Friday
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
One Saturday per month
(Call 847-662-1230 for details)
Visitors must arrive 15 minutes prior to closing to receive food!

PANTRY WEST HOURS:

Monday
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Wednesday
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
One Saturday per month
(Call 847-270-0411 for details)
Visitors must arrive 15 minutes prior to closing to receive food!



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

When I think about Fall I think about CHANGE! Change is a word that means something different to everyone. Some change is good and some is bad. There has been so much change here at COOL this year and that makes me thankful! Let's talk about the new location! What a blessing this is to our pantry staff and guests. Unless you have worked at the pantry, you have no idea what kind of an impact this has made in our ability to feed our hungry neighbors more efficiently. Last year when I sat down at my desk to write my article, I was in the middle of the packing room, trying to collect my thoughts. There were people everywhere interrupting my every thought. This year I am thankful for my office with four walls and a door so I can collect my thoughts without interruption. I am also thankful for our new walk-in refrigeration. It has been amazing to be able to order fresh milk and produce to give to our guests; something that is expensive but necessary when feeding a family!

It's been a great year for change at COOL and I am so thankful for that! Please remember our families in need this year by purchasing a Holiday Meal Box or two for our hungry neighbors. (see insert for details)

Gayle Olson

COOL Family Housing

"Making Impossible Dreams Come True"

A single mother of four was fleeing a domestic violence situation and had been staying at a shelter for several months. Her time at the shelter was up and she was unable to afford a place of her own for herself and her children due to the high cost of market rent in Lake County. The mother was then referred to COOL and became a guest of COOL's Transitional Housing Program where she has accomplished life changing goals.

This busy mother worked with COOL's Case Manager to develop a budget, which she faithfully stuck to for her entire stay with COOL. She maintained full-time employment and saved every penny that she could. In just fifteen short months she had saved over \$13,000! The money she saved was enough to put a large down payment down on a lovely house in her hometown of Round Lake. The children are returning back to their beloved community and will be living in a home of their very own. The kids are so excited to be back with their friends and near their schools. Owning their own home is truly a dream come true for this family and they are so grateful to everyone who helped them achieve this dream.



COOL Transitional Housing changes lives and makes dreams that once seemed impossible come true. By helping families gain the life skills needed to be self-sufficient and successful in life, the COOL Transitional Housing helps the neediest among us to thrive and succeed so that they may one day give back to their communities.

Mindy Lindholm
Family Housing Case Manager

COOL VET Box Drive

Each Month COOL Ministries feeds the hungry at two Lake County Food Pantries. Those pantries also assist 75-100 Veterans each month who need extra help. These food stamp eligible veterans receive large grocery boxes each month filled with toiletries, paper towels, toothpaste, razors, soap, laundry detergent and more. These are also items that cannot be purchased with food stamps. A complete list of items can be found on our web page at www.coolministries.org.

In honor of Veterans Day our pantries will be collecting supplies October 1st through November 11th (Veterans Day.) Your help with collecting these items for our veterans makes a huge difference. Thank you for helping with this important mission of service to those who served our country with pride.

For further information or to make arrangements to drop of vet donations, please contact Pantry Operations Manager, Gayle Olson, at 847-662-1230.



Helping COOL Through Thrivent

Thrivent Financial has been supporting COOL Programs for over ten years through CARE ABOUND IN COMMUNITIES. Last fiscal year the program supported COOL Ministry fundraising events with \$6,788 in supporting funds and \$5,420 this fiscal year. This year marks the end of the CARE ABOUND IN COMMUNITIES program.

Last year Thrivent Financial launched the THRIVENT ACTION TEAM program. What is an Action Team? Thrivent Action Teams are member-led projects, fundraisers, service activities or educational events that can be completed within 90 days.

Here's how it works:

- Identify a need in your community (COOL Food Pantry and Family Housing Programs)
- Apply online for resources to launch your project/event
- Upon approval, gather friends, families, co-workers, etc. to participate.

Each Action Team will receive a Thrivent Action kit that includes:

- A \$250 VISA pre-paid card to jumpstart your event for COOL Ministries
- Thrivent Action Team T-shirts (please donate left over t-shirts to COOL pantries)
- Promotional Banner
- Invitations and thank you cards



Benefit Thrivent members are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year. Associate Thrivent members are eligible to lead one Thrivent Action Team per calendar year.

Not a Thrivent Financial Member? Visit <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership-and-benefits/> to learn who you can become a member.

Another Thrivent Member benefit is THRIVENT CHOICE. As a qualifying Thrivent member you can recommend where some of the Thrivent Financial charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, members have used this program to direct \$300 million to churches and nonprofits nationwide. In this fiscal year, Thrivent members directed **\$6,332** to COOL ministries through THRIVENT CHOICE.

Fundraisers and donations are an integral to our mission of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless. Support from community partners is essential to our successful fulfillment of this task. Annually individual and community partners donated nearly sixty percent of our operations funding individual donations and fundraising events.

For ideas on creating an Action Team or assistance with signing up please contact Diana Fishman at dfishman@coolministries.org or (847) 662-1340 extension 3.

Diana Fishman
Grants Administrator

A Yankee Candle Fundraiser for COOL

You can shop today at www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and COOL will receive 40% of all sales as a donation from Yankee Candle! For each large candle sold COOL will earn \$10!! Yankee candles make wonderful holiday gifts and many items are available for under \$10. **Enter group number 990099961 to begin shopping for your Yankee Candles today and earn funds to help COOL Feed the Hungry and House the Homeless!!**

This fundraiser runs through January 11, 2017.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Check our web site at 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 10, 2016

COOL 5K/10K Run and Walk
Sponsored by St. James Lutheran
Church
Old School Forest Preserve,
Libertyville
November 26, 2016

COOL Transitional Housing Families
Christmas Celebration
December 2016

Save the Date!

COOL 14th Annual Golf Outing
Monday, July 10, 2017
Glen Flora Country Club



COOL
800 W Glen Flora Ave
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 lmorgret@coolministries.org

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Richard Gunnell	Vice-President
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Guy Gersich	
John Hanson	
Alicia Kazarian	
Sara Lewis	
Kathy Ormson	
Rick Pearce	
Michael Ranieri	
Joann Schwerdtfeger	
<u>COOL Staff</u>	
Diane Thackston	Executive Director
Linda Morgret	Executive Assistant
Mindy Lindholm	Family Housing Manager
Diana Fishman	Grants Administrator
Gayle Olson	Pantry Operations Manager
Tera Redman	Finance Manager/ Pantry Assistant
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 fiscal year to date COOL has received an amazing \$14,015.49 in donations through corporate employee giving campaigns and company matching fund pro-

Donations to COOL may be made via our website at www.coolministries.org. One-time donations can be made via PayPal by clicking on the "Donate" button. When donating via PayPal there is a fee of 2.5%. Ongoing donations can be set up through Thrivent's "Simply Giving" no-cost program. More information 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

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

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 .

COOL Food Pantry has been supported, in part, through a grant from the ELCA (World Hunger) Domestic Hunger Grants Program . Thank You!