

Fall/Winter 2017

Volume 19, 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



Food Pantries	2
Family Housing	2
Giving Knows No Season	3
COOL Volunteers	3
COOL 35th Anniversary Gala	3
Mark Your Calendar	3
Board/Staff Listing	4
Maximize Your Gift	4



COOL TALK

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Autumn has always been my favorite of the seasons. The season of my birth, the harvest, holidays with family to look forward to, and the majesty of the trees turning colors as vibrant as the Indian Summer sunshine. In God's plan we know that indeed there is a season for all things and every purpose. Like the seasons, our individual circumstances will change with time. But one thing we know as well; God's love for us will never change. He is the "Alpha and Omega; the beginning and the end" and will always be there guiding us.

My friends, you have been with me faithfully supporting this ministry since I joined COOL in the Spring of 2009. But like the seasons, my circumstances have changed and I now look forward to retirement in my home town of Cincinnati, Ohio beginning on October 1st. A job transfer for my husband, aging parents, and new grandchildren are all there waiting for me as I wind down my last few weeks with COOL Ministries.

God has brought COOL a long way in these past eight years! Surely the biggest change was the relocation to Glen Flora Ave. But we have also seen technology advance quickly giving us a new website, a new logo, a new Facebook page, internet based phones, signature pads, laptops and gadgets that make our lives so much easier making old technology like fax machines all but obsolete.

COOL has added new equipment, two trucks, a minivan, a walk-in refrigerator, and now we even have a snow blower! COOL Family Housing has grown in the best possible way! Once heavily reliant on government funding, the program is now supported entirely without government aid! While other Transitional Housing Programs were closing their homes and reducing their available space for the homeless, our program has expanded and now consists of 10 single family housing units for struggling families with children who find themselves homeless with no place to turn.

Our food pantries have nearly tripled the number of individuals receiving food. In 2008 COOL served food to 28,497 individuals. In 2016, COOL served 61,354! And with new food sources and help from partners like the Northern Illinois Food Bank, visitors to COOL receive more food of higher quality than ever before!

Along with new staff, new programs were also added. COOL now assists food stamp eligible Veterans with toiletry food boxes once per month helping them to get soaps, paper goods, and cleaning supplies that they cannot afford to purchase using food stamps.

Our pantries also offer families Holiday Meal Boxes at Thanksgiving and Christmas with all the goodies needed to make a wonderful holiday meal including a frozen turkey! Last year COOL provided more than 1,000 Holiday Meal Boxes to needy families.

Indeed God shows us his great love for the hungry and homeless in Lake County every day as we do HIS work at COOL. I am so thankful for COOL Ministries, for the friends and supporters and all of the wonderful people that make this organization so very special. As I say goodbye to COOL, I go in peace knowing that although my season at COOL has ended, God will always be with this ministry.

Thank you all and may God Bless you always,

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!



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 Pantry

Every year at this time I look at the huge invoice for the Holiday Meal Boxes that I've purchased and a panic ensues!!! The Holidays are coming fast and I worry how are we going to feed these hungry neighbors for the Holidays???

I do an extra lot of praying at this time of year; praying that your donations toward Holiday Meal Box donations will be enough to cover all the meal boxes I have already ordered. But so far, my prayers have been answered. The donations have always been more than enough to cover this expense every year and then I think....With God all things are possible!

This year Holiday Meal Boxes for a family of 4 will again be \$20.00. This will buy a pre-packed box of all the fixings to make a holiday meal including stuffing, vegetables, cranberries, dessert, potatoes and drinks. Each box comes with a frozen turkey too and I've ordered more than ever before this year! Please consider purchasing a few Holiday Meal Boxes to feed COOL's hungry neighbors this season.



Gayle Olson
Pantry Operations Manager

COOL Family Housing

Fall is an exciting time of year and a favorite for many. I have always loved that time of year when things begin to cool down and we can look forward to long, relaxing evening walks. As a kid I especially liked visiting the apple orchards and pumpkin patches and no matter how old I get, I will never forget the excitement that a new school year brings. As the season changes from summer to fall and the weather grows crisper, many children are looking forward to going back to school just as I did. However, many others are worried. Worried about where they will attend school, how they will get there and where they will be sleeping the night before.

While some children will be settled into their cozy beds the night before the first day of school, others will be sleeping in cars. When I think of all the blessings that fall brings now, I also think of those less fortunate families that we serve. Families with no place to call home may not revel in the change of season the way that some of us do because for them a crisp autumn evening really means a long, cold night in the car and signals the oncoming winter. For families who have been displaced from their homes, the start of a new school year can bring on a lot of stress and it can be hard to see the blessings through the struggles.

That is where COOL comes in. For a small number of families that are experiencing homelessness, COOL can provide them with the shelter and stability that they so desperately need. I take great pride in knowing that my work here at COOL provides a warm place to call home for the children in our program as they start their new school year. I know that the night before the first day of school will be spent sleeping in a cozy bed for the children in our program. I know the parents will rest easier too and this year perhaps they will be able to catch a glimpse of all the blessings that come with the changing of the seasons.

Blessings,
Mindy Lindholm,
Transitional Housing Case Manager

Giving Knows No Season

Unlike the changing seasons, the need in our community remains constant. Individuals and families struggle daily to provide the most basic needs for themselves and their loved ones.

Whatever the season, COOL Ministries continues to provide for those in need through the generous support of individuals, corporations, foundations, and community groups. Ninety-five percent of our operating budget is provided by individual, corporate, and foundation donations. Your giving truly knows no season.

Spring offers the opportunity of giving through our Annual Spring Plant Sale and Easter Meal baskets. Our summer opportunities include FOODSTOCK and the Annual COOL Golf Outing. Autumn brings our Annual Appeal, St. Mark's Chili Supper and the COOL 5/10K. Opportunities for winter giving include Holiday Meal Baskets and end of the year contributions.

Throughout the year there are other opportunities to give. Member churches hold fundraising events to support COOL. Foodies are provided the opportunity to support COOL Ministries at one of several Restaurant Fundraising events sponsored by the organization. Corporations and business hold annual giving events so that employees may maximize their giving with matching corporate donations.

We have truly been blessed by the endless support for our mission of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless season upon season, year after year for nearly thirty-five years. Thank you for your support.

Diana Fishman
Grants Administrator

COOL Volunteers

COOL volunteers are a special category of generous, compassionate human beings willing to give of their time and talents to help those in our local community that need assistance!

There are many jobs at COOL that need to be done. We depend on volunteers because our funding doesn't stretch far enough to hire employees for all the tasks that need to be accomplished.

Some of the tasks that pantry volunteers perform are sorting and stocking grocery shelves, and packing boxes of food for families of various sizes based on the COOL Menu posted in the pantry. At COOL Family Housing there is always a need for volunteers to work with our transitional housing program doing tasks such as helping with yard work, light maintenance or painting when needed. If you have some time to volunteer, we have a place for you.

Please consider volunteering and we can make a difference together. To be a pantry volunteer, please contact Gayle Olson, Pantry Manager, at 847-662-1230 or email golson@coolministries.org.



To be a transitional housing program volunteer, please contact Mindy Lindholm at 847-662-1340 or mlindholm@coolministries.org.

COOL 35th Anniversary Gala

Mark your calendars and plan to join us at a gala celebrating COOL's 35th Anniversary on April 7, 2018 at the Illinois State Beach Resort and Conference Center. It promises to be an evening of fun with a delicious dinner, silent auction and much more. The planning committee is now in full swing. If you would like to be a volunteer or donate an item for the silent auction, please contact Tera Redman, Committee Chair, at 847-662-1340 or email tredman@coolministries.org for questions and information.



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 9, 2017

COOL 5K/10K Run and Walk
Sponsored by St. James Lutheran Church
Old School Forest Preserve,
Libertyville
November 25, 2017

**COOL Transitional Housing
Families
Christmas Celebration**
December 2017

Save the Date!

COOL 35th Anniversary Gala
April 7, 2018
IL State Beach Resort and
Conference Center

COOL 15th Annual Golf Outing
July 2018



COOL
800 W Glen Flora Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

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



<u>Board of Directors</u>	
Larry Neumann	President
Richard Gunnell	Vice-President
Katie Ormson	Treasurer
Rebecca Patrick	Secretary
Rev Wayne Jahn	Pastoral Advisor
Rebecca Anderson	
Tim Douglass	
John "Guy" Gersich	
John Hansen	
Alicia Kazarian	
Kurt Kosleth	
Sara Lewis	
Rick Pearce	
Michael Ranieri	
Joann Schwerdtfeger	
John Zai	
<u>COOL Staff</u>	
Diane Thackston	Executive Director
Mindy Lindholm	Family Housing Case Manager
Diana Fishman	Grants Administrator
Linda Morgret	Administrative Assistant
Gayle Olson	Pantry Operations Manager
Tera Redman	Finance Manager/ Pantry West Assistant
Sable Jones	Pantry East Counter Assistant
Christine Beshel	Pantry East Assistant
Noe Chavez	Pantry East Warehouse Assistant
Adelaida Lopez	Pantry East Aide
Kay Fabian	Pantry West Assistant

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 \$ 15,142.99 in donations through corporate employee giving campaigns and company matching fund programs.

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.

Donations to COOL through **Thrivent Choice** this fiscal year to date total **\$1,469.00**.

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

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!

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