

Spring 2011

Volume 15, Issue 1



Christian Outreach of Lutherans

127 W Water Street

Waukegan, IL 60085

COOL TALK

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 during

pantry hours

847-662-1230 (alternate)

COOL Family Housing

127 W. Water Street

Waukegan, IL 60085

847-662-1340



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With the beginning of the New Year a new chapter began in the history of COOL. Our long time director, Diane Weber, retired at the end of 2010. After a series of interviews and a diligent search by COOL's Board of Directors, I was truly blessed to be chosen to serve as Executive Director at COOL Ministries.

I began working with COOL as our agency's Transitional Housing Program Manager in 2009. Earlier in my career I wore a number of other hats. I was a licensed realtor and then a certified teacher working with children in the inner city schools. Later, I began focusing on assisting adults in need and worked as a manager at a large county Department of Human Services office in my home town of Cincinnati, Ohio. After relocating to Illinois in 2003, I worked as a volunteer and then as manager at Love INC of Lake County in Zion, where I gained expertise in assisting churches helping people in need, expertise in fundraising for non profit organizations, and established and built a clothing ministry from the ground up at Pearce Campus in Zion.

When describing COOL to our partners throughout Lake County I find that many people think of COOL as Food Pantry East, Waukegan. While Pantry East was our first COOL Ministry, today COOL Ministries consists of not one, but two food pantries, and a family housing program with 8 homes scattered throughout Waukegan and Zion.

As the long winter finally winds down, signs of Spring are everywhere and we look forward to new growth and opportunities that lie ahead. At COOL, volunteers are busy preparing Easter food drives and baskets for the children. Others are working away on our COOL-owned properties to make the homes a better place for struggling families to start again. Still others are finding opportunities at COOL to serve as new board members, pantry volunteers and furniture movers. We appreciate all of these individuals who make this ministry one that has thrived for over 27 years and we have faith that we will continue to provide services to those who call on us for help regardless of the challenges of a difficult economy.

At our central office we hired a new Family Housing Case Manager in March. We were thrilled to welcome Shari Shaver as the newest member of our COOL team and with the help of some skilled volunteers we built a new office for her just in time for her first day at work. Other changes include new floors for Pantry East, and a reconfigured front counter for the pantry. Sadly, we said goodbye this season to Judi Best our Coordinator at Pantry West, Ingleside for several years. We wish Judi and her husband our prayers and we are thankful for Judi's servant's heart and years of dedicated service. We also welcomed Gayle Olson as our new Satellite Pantry and Volunteer Coordinator who will now work at both our central office and Ingleside Pantry on alternating days.

At COOL, struggling families arrive at our door each day as a constant reminder that these are difficult times. The number of visitors at Pantry East remains high and at Pantry West the number is increasing monthly. Meanwhile, incoming donations of food have decreased and we struggle to provide emergency food to each family that visits COOL Pantries, often resorting to purchasing much of the food distributed. We are calling on the Lake County communities for help and I ask that you consider assisting COOL this Spring by doing food drives, COOL Sundays, Food of The Month Collections, rummage sales, making a donation, or simply dropping off a few extra canned goods for your neighbors in need.

Thanks and Blessings!

Diane Thackston, Executive Director

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM COOL

COOL would like to extend a special thank you to Help Them To Hope, Inc., The News Sun, and NorStates Bank for the support they have provided to us.

Pantry East, Waukegan

Hours:

Mondays
1:00-5:00 PM
Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays & Fridays
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
4th Saturday of the month
11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Pantry West, Ingleside

Hours:

Mondays
1:00-5:00 PM
Wednesdays
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
4th Saturday of the month
11:00 AM-1:00 PM



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 PANTRY EAST, WAUKEGAN

Spring is here and summer is not far behind. The children will soon be out of school for summer break. During the school year many low-income students eat breakfast and lunch at school, thus eliminating ten meals per week served at home. The number of children served at COOL pantries will soon be on the rise. Please consider holding special food collections during the summer months to feed the children of Lake County.

The "COOL Kids Pantry Experience" will begin sign up May 1, 2011. This program is for children from ages 2 through 12 years. We have set aside Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 am for parents and children to come and volunteer at the pantry as a family. Please sign up early for summer, our spaces fill up quickly. This can be a wonderful experience for children. Many children have come away with a new insight on hunger and compassion.

This is the time of year to start planning your garden. Please keep those we serve in mind and consider planting an extra row of vegetables for the hungry in Lake County. The vegetables you donate during the season may be the only fresh foods our families receive all month.

I would like to take a moment to thank each and every volunteer that has come to the pantry and donated their time to helping our guests. Pantry work is not always glamorous work but the rewards are great. Giving of your time has been the most precious gift of all to COOL. The COOL Pantry Staff thanks you from the bottom of our hearts.

May many blessings touch your lives,

Amber Abbott
COOL Pantries Program Manager

COOL FOOD PANTRY WEST, INGLESIDE

My name is Gayle Olson, the new Satellite Pantry/ Volunteer Coordinator. I have been with COOL since 2005 as the Pantry Assistant at Panty East, Waukegan. I enjoy helping those in need and giving them the resources they need to become self sufficient. Since starting at COOL, I have really enjoyed meeting some great people who are experiencing some hard times. My goal is to always send them away from COOL with an encouraging thought or the contacts that they need to find the other resources that we take for granted.

As for the Satellite Pantry Coordinator West, Ingleside role, I am thankful for the warm welcome that I received from the volunteers at the Pantry. I am seeking new donors in the western part of Lake County to help support the pantry by providing food for families in need. I am looking forward to working with the volunteers at Pantry West and to meeting new volunteers. My goal is to reach more people who need COOL's services in that part of Lake County and to help each individual guest find the resources they need. I would like to thank Judi Best for her dedication and hard work as Site Coordinator and wish her and Aaron the best. Judi will be missed by all. Taking on this job has given me the opportunity to meet some really great, hard working dedicated volunteers and for that I am thankful. I would love to meet more of you in this capacity since there is so much volunteer work to do at COOL. If you would like to volunteer please contact me at golson@coolministries.org or (847)662-1340 voicemail "4".

VOLUNTEER CORNER

We are seeking individuals or groups to assist in preparing housing units for new guests. Times vary based on need. Tasks include cleaning, moving furniture, light maintenance and painting.

We also seek a group of strong individuals who would be willing to assist pantry staff with the unloading of the truck, moving boxes, and general support for large pick ups and deliveries. Heavy lifting is required. Times vary. Anyone interested should contact Gayle Olson, Volunteer Coordinator at golson@coolministries.org or (847)662-1340.

COOL also needs a volunteer or group to represent COOL by walking in parades. COOL currently participates in the Gurnee Days Parade (In August) and the Zion Jubilee Days Parade on Labor Day. A licensed driver for the truck would be great for these events.

VOLUNTEER CORNER (Cont'd)

Would you like to represent COOL for Crop Walk? We are seeking an individual to attend Crop Walk meetings on our behalf. There are usually 4-5 meetings a year with a Walk in October. For more information contact Gayle Olson, Volunteer Coordinator at golson@coolministries.org or (847)662-1340.

Does your student need Community Service Hours for a class project or a school requirement? Your student can volunteer at the pantry, help pass out flyers at the parades in August and September or even hold a food drive to support COOL and receive Community Service Hours for their hard work. Contact Gayle Olson, Volunteer Coordinator at golson@coolministries.org or (847)662-1340.

Volunteers are an important part of COOL. Over 25 years ago people came together to fight hunger. They gave the gift of time to gather a network of people and the resources they needed to feed the hungry. Although COOL has grown over the years we still remain grassroots, relying on our church community in Lake County to assist us in our ministry. Thank you for your generous gift of time.

COOL Family Housing

Greetings!

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to offer my hands and feet in doing God's work and caring for His people. I am feeling extremely blessed to work with such a great organization! I have had the opportunity to meet with all of the families to date and am looking forward to bringing hope and direction to our guests and their families.

I have spent the past 10 years working with the at-risk populations. My background includes McHenry County PADS Transitional Housing as the house and transportation coordinator, Way Back Inns Women's Halfway House as the house manager, Rebekah's House Women's Halfway house, as the Founder and Program Director, and the Lake County Health Department -Addictions Treatment Program as a Health Aide. I also facilitate a Women's Empowerment group in Waukegan twice a month.

I am currently enrolled at the College of Lake County in Grayslake working towards my Associates Degree in Human Services. My anticipated graduation date is May of 2012.

In His Service,

Shari Shaver, Family Housing Case Manager

COOL Board of Directors

Dear Friends and Supporters of COOL,

I am often asked, "What's new at COOL?" The answer is simple: PLENTY! The biggest changes lately are the new faces. We are thrilled to have our new Executive Director, Diane Thackston, and our new Family Housing Coordinator, Shari Shaver. Gayle Olson has accepted the position of Pantry West Coordinator after serving as an assistant at Pantry East. Many thanks also to Diane Weber who has retired as Executive Director and to Judy Best who left her position as Pantry West Coordinator to provide care for her husband.

In the past few months we have welcomed three new Board members: Georgia Williams (Prince of Peace), Sue Dolan (Grace), and Michelle Rojas (Bethel). We thank Janice Fischer (Grace) and Rick Gottman (Bethel) who have completed their terms. Fortunately, both Janice and Rick are continuing as volunteers!

But one thing never changes at COOL, we daily help people who are in need. We strive to find ways to support our mission of providing food and shelter and helping our clients grow in their level of independence. We take to heart Jesus' message of caring for people in need as found in Matthew 25: "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." We need your help in providing our services!

Thank you for being a COOL supporter.

David Ross, COOL Board President

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 to 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.

Spring Plant Sale
Board Fundraiser—Public Invited
Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee
May 7, 2011

Annual COOL Golf Outing
Board Fundraiser—Public Invited
Bonnie Brook Golf Course
June 3, 2011

FOODSTOCK
Village Green Lake Bluff
June 26, 2011



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 lmorgret@coolministries.org*

Board of Directors

Dave Ross	President
Diane Rammelsberg	Vice-President
Judy Perryman	Secretary
Remar Jurado	Treasurer
Rev Richard Holmer	Pastoral Advisor
Sue Dolan	
Tana Hamm	
Tamara Hoeksema	
Diane Knoble	
John Krueger	
Joe Labellarte	
Diane Luosa	
Tom Meyer	
Michelle Ramon	
Ken Swanson	
Georgja Williams, DDS	

COOL Staff

Diane Thackston	Executive Director
Linda Morgret	Executive Assistant
Cathy Melville	Finance Manager
Shari Shaver	Family Housing Case Manager
Amber Abbott	Pantries Program Manager
Adelaida Lopez	Pantry Aide
John Gonsalez	Grant Writer
Gayle Olson	Satellite Pantry/Volunteer Coordinator

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.

In the last 6 months COOL has received \$10,664 in donations through corporate employee giving campaign and company matching fund programs.

The **Thrivent Choice** program is a charitable grant program and a benefit of membership that encourages members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to help direct a portion of Thrivent Financial's charitable funding to causes important to them. Since the program's inception in 2010, members have directed **\$5,365 to COOL**, and we humbly thank you for your gracious support!

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

Thank you to our COOL friends at Haapanen Brothers for printing services. You're the best!!!