

Spring/Summer 2017

Volume 19, Issue 1



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	1
Family Housing	2
One COOL Community	2
Loving Thy Neighbor Through COOL Fundraising	3
Mark Your Calendar	3
Board/Staff Listing	4
Maximize Your Gift	4



COOL TALK

“Love your neighbor as yourself...”
Matthew 22:38

While helping to distribute food one morning at the COOL Food Pantry, I was struck by the awesome love for our neighbors in need that God has enabled all of us to be a part of through COOL Ministries. On that day, more than 100 of our neighbors arrived and each left carrying with them boxes and bags filled with grocery items that their families need and cannot easily afford to purchase. Looking around I saw visitors filling bags with dried and canned beans, pastries, soup, dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, chips, and all the bread they could use. Each visitor chose from those items and received pre-packed boxes of staples which included frozen and canned meats, breakfast cereals, beverages, pasta and rice and much more!

People waited patiently for their turn to go through the line, and the able-bodied volunteered to help the elderly and disabled carry their heavy boxes to the cars while they waited. Visitors helped each other and bilingual guests translated for those who could not speak English. Social workers arrived with their needy clients. Old friends greeted each other sometimes loudly, as babies slept in car seats. Toddlers munched snacks and older children helped their parents choose the right desert from the shelf.

I thought to myself, how awesome it was to witness God’s great love for the poor that day at the food pantry! As Christians, we are all taught to “Love Thy Neighbor”. In fact, this theme is repeated again and again throughout the scriptures.

At COOL Ministries “Loving Thy Neighbor” is demonstrated every day. Many volunteers work at COOL helping our neighbors in need with groceries every day. Meanwhile donors show their love for their neighbors in need by supporting COOL fundraisers and making financial contributions. Others work to make sure that homeless families find a place to make a new home at COOL Transitional Housing as they donate time, furniture items, labor and more to help homeless parents and their children. Sometimes people ask us “What is COOL?” The most simple answer is COOL is neighbors helping neighbors. From one neighbor to another, thank you all for helping your neighbors in this ministry!

Diane Thackston
Executive Director

COOL FOOD PANTRIES

Have you ever thought about how many ways you can show love to your neighbor? I have been thinking about this a lot lately....how love is shown to our neighbor without us even knowing we are doing it! I think it hit me recently when I woke up to the biggest snow storm of the season and I was dreading coming to work because I knew the parking lots wouldn’t be plowed. I went about my morning ritual, taking my grandson to daycare and dropping off my daughter at work and then ventured on to the office. When I got to the office my son had stopped by on his way to school and shoveled out some parking spots for us so that we could get a few cars out of the way while clearing the rest of the snow. He was not only showing love to me but the neighbors who come for food.

(continued on page 2)

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

I think this is how it should be. Showing neighbors love without expecting anything in return. That is how we do it here at the food pantry! But we couldn't do it without the help of our neighbors, our donors, our churches, the corporations that support COOL and the Northern Illinois Food Bank! We could not do what we do without help from all of you and I certainly appreciate all your help that you provide every day! Neighbors helping neighbors is what we do best at COOL!

Gayle Olson
Pantry Manager

COOL Family Housing

What makes a neighborhood a community? It is its people that make up the heart of a community. Only when neighbors come together to help one another and work as a whole to better their neighborhood does a town truly become a community. When people look to live in a certain town they often want to get a sense of their surroundings and look to live in "nice" neighborhoods. Often families may not want to live next door to a homeless family who is transitioning to self-sufficiency because they think they might not make good neighbors.

However, here at COOL Transitional Housing we know better. We know that the families who come through our program will leave it as better neighbors and upstanding members of their communities. We know this because COOL understands the value of teaching life skills, such as mentoring and spiritual support, along with the basics such as budgeting and home maintenance. We encourage our housing families to pitch in and give back to their communities by volunteering in the park districts, joining their local churches and helping out in their children's schools. We know that by strengthening family ties to their communities we are creating good neighbors and enriching our communities. We here at COOL know that when you love your neighbor and invest in them; you invest in the entire neighborhood.

Mindy Lindholm,
Family Housing Case Manager



One COOL Community

Lending a helping hand to those in need is the greatest deed in a lifetime you could do as a human being. -- Hermann J Steinherr

COOL Ministries was founded on the belief that one should love thy neighbor as you would want to be loved. A group of Lutheran churches came together to form a community food pantry to alleviate hunger among their neighbors. From that tiny seed grew a strong foundation that grew to include a mission to offer housing and assistance to homeless families with children. Nearly thirty-five years later we are still fulfilling our mission of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless.

Our founders probably never dreamed that one day COOL Ministries would provide assistance to over 20,000 families every year. Their legacy lives on today through the hard work and dedication of staff, board members, volunteers, and neighbors who share what they have. Neighbors loving neighbors.

Some of you may know my story. It is about a homeless family trying to find a new community. Neighbors came forward to hold up this family. Through hard work and sacrifice the family grew and were again able to stand with those neighbors that came forward to help. Twenty-five years later my family are among those neighbors who step up when they see a neighbor in need.

As Grants Administrator it is my task to locate the resources necessary to continue the mission that began in 1983. With so many wonderful neighbors helping me we are able to continue to provide much needed food and shelter to those neighbors among us who are less fortunate and in need of a helping hand. Our COOL Community provides ninety-five percent of the funds we receive annually. These funds are given by individuals, churches, businesses, foundations, community groups and special events. Additionally, we receive goods and services equal to roughly \$1,000,000 annually. In-Kind contributions may be food, volunteer hours, professional services, etc.

Thank you for Loving Thy Neighbor.

Diana Fishman, Grants Administrator

Loving Thy Neighbor Through COOL Fundraising

In addition to some of the larger fundraisers held on behalf of COOL such as the plant sale, FOODSTOCK, the chili supper and the 5K/10K Run, COOL sponsors various fundraisers throughout the year to supplement funds received through donations from our supporters to Feed the Hungry and House the Homeless. We rely on your support to make our fundraising efforts a success. If you have fundraising ideas or would like to organize a fundraiser for COOL, please contact us. And keep checking our website for future fundraisers that are being scheduled.



We have teamed up with **TERRI LYNN CARES** to provide quality snack products that may be purchased through our online store. COOL Ministries will receive 30% of each order.

HELP US FEED THE HUNGRY AND HOUSE THE HOMELESS!

Start shopping today.

Just visit : <https://cool-ministries.terrilynncares.com>

Yankee Candle Spring Fundraiser

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 gifts and many items are available for under \$10.

Enter group number **990099961** to begin shopping for your Yankee Candles today



Restaurant Fundraisers

**Portillo's
for GOOD**
FUNDRAISERS

Bring in this flyer or show it on your smartphone and 20% of the proceeds will benefit

COOL MINISTRIES
May 4th, 2017
5pm - 8pm

at the Portillo's located at:
6102 W. Grand Avenue
Gurnee, IL 60031

We look forward to seeing you there!

To learn more about how you can partner with us to serve up a better tomorrow, visit portillos.com/good

COOL participates in various restaurant fundraisers throughout the year. These are publicized on our website and are a delicious, easy and fun way for our supporters to help raise money for COOL. The next upcoming fundraiser is at Portillo's in Gurnee on May 4, 2017. In the past these fundraisers have been held at Panera Bread, Applebee's, Uno's and others and every dollar raised helps us help our neighbors in need. Please visit the COOL website at www.coolministries.org often to see what events are coming up.

Keep up between newsletters. COOL Ministries is on Facebook. Stop by and "like" our community page to keep up with our fundraising events as well as other COOL content.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Check our web site at www.coolministries.org for the latest information on planned events and latest news .

Spring/Summer Scheduled Events

COOL Plant Sale

Bethel Lutheran Church
Saturday, May 13, 2017

FOODSTOCK

Lake Bluff Village Green
June 25, 2017 - 3-7 PM

COOL 14th Annual Golf Outing

Monday, July 10, 2017
Glen Flora Country Club
Waukegan, IL



**COOL 14th Annual Golf Outing
Coming to Glen Flora Country Club
July 10, 2017**

Start building your foursome today and plan to spend a summer afternoon on the greens in support of the COOL Ministries.

Golf fee is \$150 or \$575 for a foursome. Tee sponsorship is \$100.00. Please consider sponsoring a tee. Complete information and registration forms are available on the COOL website at www.coolministries.org.



We are seeking donations for the silent auction and raffle that will be held at the dinner following the golf outing. You will receive a tax donation letter for these items. For more information, to secure a tee sponsorship or donate items for the silent auction or raffle, please contact Diana Fishman at dfishman@coolministries.org.



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

Board of Directors

Larry Neumann
Richard Gunnell
Katie Ormson
Rebecca Patrick
Rev Wayne Jahn
Tim Douglass
Evelyn Elbe
Guy Gersich
John Hansen
Alicia Kazarian
Kurt Kosleth
Sara Lewis
Rick Pearce
Michael Ranieri
Joann Schwerdtfeger
Becky Anderson Valenta
John Zai

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary
Pastoral Advisor

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.

COOL Staff

Diane Thackston
Linda Morgret
Mindy Lindholm
Diana Fishman
Gayle Olson
Tera Redman

Executive Director
Executive Assistant
Family Housing Manager
Grants Administrator
Pantry Operations Manager
Finance Manager/
Pantry Assistant
Pantry Assistant
Pantry Aide

Chris Beshel
Adelaida Lopez

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 \$ 4,467.40 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

Donations to COOL through **Thrivent Choice** this fiscal year to date total **\$745.00**.

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!