



COOL Ministries Spring 2022 Newsletter

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in..."
Matthew 25:35

On behalf of COOL Ministries and all those we serve I would like to thank you for your support. I continue to be amazed by the generosity of our donors and so very grateful. I believe that the programming provided by COOL Ministries is of vital importance to the Lake County community. Housing costs in the United States are soaring. Over the past year average rents have increased by more than 14%, with some communities in Lake County experiencing increases of as much as 40%. Approximately 11 million renter households now find themselves in the unsustainable position of paying more than half their incomes just on housing costs, with the lowest income families being hit the hardest. This unsustainable and drastic increase in rent is evident from the number of applications we are seeing come into our offices every single day.

Rent is not the only commodity that is soaring. As we all know the cost of food has gone up astronomically as well. Consumer price inflation hit a new forty year high in March. Rising food and gas prices accounted for much of the hike. The cost of food jumped 10% over the year ending in March according to the latest federal data. Meat soared 14.8%, while milk increased 13.3%. Eggs rose 11.2%, while fresh fruits became 10.1% more expensive. Rice rose 8.6% and bread cost 7.1% more. Families visiting our food pantry have said that they are finding themselves having to make the tough choice of whether to put gas in the car or food on the table, choices that none of us should have to make. That is why your support is vital, without the Cool Food Pantry people in Lake County will go without the food they need to thrive and live healthy lives.

Mindy Lindholm, Executive Director

Family Housing

The COOL Family Housing program is seeing an unprecedented number of applications coming into our offices. More and more families with children are finding it difficult to secure an apartment or home that they both qualify for and can afford. Across Illinois, there is a shortage of rental homes in general, let alone ones that are affordable and available to extremely low income households whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income. Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions. Many landlords require renters to earn at least three times the rental amount in income. With the average rent on a two bedroom apartment in Waukegan jumping to around \$1400 per month, that would mean that a family must make \$4200 or more per month to be accepted! There are tremendous disparities between the rate of pay and the cost of living in Lake County, Illinois. COOL Ministries has been working hard to help families to overcome these disparities and to secure safe and stable housing for themselves and their children for nearly 40 years, and we are so grateful to our donors for supporting us in doing so.

www.coolministries.org

Food Pantry

COOL FOOD PANTRY
800 W Glen Flora Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085
847-662-1230

Hours of Operation:
Monday thru Friday
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

**For questions or
to volunteer call:**
Pantry Operations
Manager
847-662-1230



The cost of living is soaring for many Americans. Gasoline, rent, utilities and the cost of food have risen sharply in the last year and, not surprisingly, that hits those already living in poverty the hardest. Groceries are not a discretionary purchase. Food is a necessity and having to choose between putting food on the table and putting gas in the car to go to work is not a choice any American family should have to make. Some folks are skipping meals so that their children can eat, and others are depending on cheap food that lacks nutrition. Food insecurity is not just a problem for low-income families or those who are unemployed. Millions of Americans are worried about empty refrigerators and barren cupboards.

Food pantries like ours are doling out meals at a rapid pace and we have seen a sharp rise in the amount of food distributed compared with last year. In March of 2022 COOL Food pantry served 5,000 individuals! Our pantry is feeling the burden of inflation as well; the cost of filling the tank in our truck to pick up and transport food has doubled from this time last year. COOL needs your help to keep feeding Lake County. Together we can ease the tension felt by the thousands of people in Lake County who are dealing with food insecurity and the worry and tough choices that have come with the rising cost of food.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

COOL Ministries is truly a grassroots effort. Nearly seventy-five percent of our annual budget is provided by donations from individuals, churches, businesses, community groups, and special fundraising events.

COVID-19 has changed how many of us do a lot of things, including donating to our favorite charities. Amazingly, individual donations have remained robust since the start of the pandemic. Our donors are finding ways to support us.

Employee Giving Programs are a great way to maximize your donation to COOL. Check with your employer to see if they match donations made to your favorite charity. Annually we received thousands of dollars from **EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS**. Visit your payroll department to find out how you can maximize your donation.

Amazon Smile is a great way to support our programs while you shop online. Are you an Amazon shopper? If so, visit smile.amazon.com and select Christian Outreach of Lutherans as your charitable organization, and 0.5% of every eligible purchase will be donated to COOL. Your Amazon account (and Amazon Prime Membership) will work the same on AmazonSmile, but the donation will only occur if you shop using the Smile link.

PayPal donations have increased since the beginning of the pandemic. You can donate to COOL Ministries right from our website: www.coolministries.org. Just click on the donate button and follow the prompts. There is even a space for you to give us special instructions. PayPal does charge a minimal charge of 2.5% of the total donation which is paid by COOL. You may even set up a recurring monthly payment.

Thrivent Choice and Simply Giving are great giving options if you are a member of one of the many Lutheran Churches that support our mission. Contact your Thrivent representative at church for information about these programs.

Our mission of alleviating hunger and homelessness in our community would not be possible without **YOU!** Please know that we hold you in highest regard and bless your generosity every day.

~Tributes and Memorials ~ October 2021 ~ April 2022

Frank Kelly in honor of Edward P. and Laura L. Kelly
and Reverend Wayne and Wanda Jahn
Frank Kelly in memory of Elfrieda N. Kelly, Frank R.
and Hazel H. Kelly, Merle A. and Edward R. Kelly
Rochelle Jakaitis in memory of Frank Hodur
Joanne Torogian in honor of Layla Waltenberger
Nancy Salmela in memory of Jerry Salmela
Carol Bonnes in memory of loved ones
Marilyn Winter in honor of friends
Al & Ida Dudleston in honor of Cleo & Vern Lampos
Carolyn Vucitech in memory of Gino & JoAnn Gentilini
Rick & Judy Larsen in memory of Lorraine & Dick Larsen
and Penny Petitclair
Diann Drasler in memory of loved ones
Julie Wehmeyer in appreciation of Tim Anderson
Edward Kelly in memory of Elfrieda Kelly
Kenneth & Joan Church in honor of Jan Heikkila and
In memory of Ted Byer
Clarese Ornstein in memory of Steve Ornstein
John & Carolyn Gersich in memory of their parents
Gary Teschner in memory of Bernard Bachmann
Nancy Knapp in memory of Kenneth Knapp
David & Laurie Ann Bender in memory of loved ones
Margie Niemi in memory of Wendy Haase
Nan Whipple in memory of Dal Zierk
Steven Whitson in memory of Debbie Whitson
Florence Kristensen in memory of E. Robert Kristensen
Jess & Linda Porres in memory of William Turner
Barb Bakshis in memory of Craig Terrill
Julie Shapiro in memory of Walter Schweppe
Thomas & Deborah Ketcham in memory of Sandra Rae Florez
Tim & Cindy Kasper in honor of Ardy Kasper
Rebecca Patrick in memory of Barbara Goldenstein
Rebecca Anderson in honor of Joy! Lutheran Church Gurnee
Iskalis American Floor Show in memory of Thomas P. Iskalis and
Lisa Iskalis McCarthy
Myrna Wells in honor of Delbert and Susan Weaver
Jay & Linda Balen in memory of John Machak
Patricia & Noel Stirrat in memory of Ryan Stirrat
Robert & Carole Johnson in memory of James Haupt
Anchor and Ark Lodge No 1027 in memory of Augie Ralph
Donna Torogian Burke in honor of Joanne Torogian
Denise Bischof in memory of her mother, Theresia Bischof
Barbara Kempf in memory of Richard and Lois Weber
Mr. & Mrs. Rodolfo Joaquin in honor of Paster Wayne and
Wanda Jahn
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Haapanen in memory of loved ones
Linda Lutter in memory of Emma Sandberg
Paul Werfelmann in memory of Paul & Bonnie Werfelmann
Michelle Hill in memory of Ronald, Sandy, and Jeff Hill
Karen Dietz in memory of Jerry Salmela
Pamela Best in honor of Judith (Judi) Best
Ronald Studtmann in memory of Carol Studtmann
Jack and Maggie Bregger in memory of
Rev.Thomas Stewart Church
Leo & Nancy Brown in memory of Elwood Dallmann
Janet Shanahan in honor of Virginia Sallach
Judith Bridges in honor of Grace Lutheran Church Pastors

Alan & Ida Dudleston in honor of Janet Krueger's birthday
Margaret Steiner in honor of all the volunteers that work at COOL
Chris & Barb Nolan in memory of Carol Suomu
Jennifer Crotty in honor of John Crotty
Frank Kelly in honor of Rev Wayne and Wanda Jahn, and
John Lambert
Frank Kelly in memory of Elfrieda Kelly, Frank & Hazel Kelly,
and Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mesenbrink
Joan Pecina in memory of Dick Pecina
Marilyn Garbarino in memory of Jim & Audrey Moe
The Kemp Family in honor of the Rev. Smith-Laubenstein
Family and the Rev Eric Shaefer Family
Dorothy Harris in memory of Ronald L. Harris
Shirley Prince in memory of loved ones
Karin Power in honor of Michael & Sue Turchi
Diann Drasler in memory of loved ones
Pearl Zarazinski in memory of her mother, Louise
Martha Biondi in memory of Ed Biondi
Jeanine Hanson in memory of Phillip Hanson
Tom Love in memory of Jeff Love
Linda Zwicke in memory of Kevin Brody, Keith Brody,
Kenneth Zwicke
Jane George in memory of Richard George
Martha Kuceyeski in memory of John Kuceyeski
Ruth Ann Wiesemann in memory of Randy Wiesemann
Tim & Cindy Kasper in memory of Jeff Johnson
Dave & Cheryl Ross in memory of Gordon & Carol Gillings
And George & Jean Ross
Ann Dahlbo in memory of Len Dahlbo
Debra Van Dreese in honor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Larry Neumann in memory of Chester Szech and Rachel Szech
Tana Hamm in honor of Pastor Bob's 90th birthday
Ed Dillion in honor of COOL Volunteers
Richard & Ann Kangas in memory of Rachel Szech
Paul Werfelmann in memory of Elmer & Rose Sandholm
Karen Amedio in memory of K. Kietzer
Olivia Freed in honor of John and Karen Crotty
Kenneth Lindquist in memory of Anton & Julia Lindquist
Pat Boock in honor of Ellie's baptism and in memory of
Wilma Schutte
Rebecca Schwarz in memory of Helen and R.D. Timberlake
Thomas & Chris Meyer in honor of Rev Richard E. Holmer's
retirement as Pastor of St. James, Lake Forest
Dean & Bonnie Parker in honor of Rev Richard E. Holmer's
retirement as Pastor of St. James, Lake Forest
Joanne Torogian in memory of Richard Waltenberger
Geraldine Hommes in memory of son Michael
Dale & Andy Arnold in honor of Erik Aho
Geri Halliday in memory of Dorisann Flynn
Bettylou Miller in memory of Kieth Klemp
Mark Aho in honor of Dale and Any Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. John Bregger in memory of Georgia Lauret
Mary Hanson in memory of Reverend Don Johnson
John Hanson in honor of Liga Minjevs
Gloria Collymore in memory of brothers, Rudy and Richard
Linda & Jay Balen in memory of Dave Brogan
Tim & Cindy Kasper in memory of Georgia Laurent
James Taylor in memory of Elmer Taylor & Helen Taylor

~Tributes and Memorials ~ October 2021 ~ April 2022

Mary & Roland Cooper in memory of Jess Porres
Gerald & Sibley Myers in memory of Jess Porres
Judith & Darren Miller in memory of Jess Porres
Michael & Heather Rapp in memory of Jess Porres
Joanne Torogian in memory of Geraldine Peskator
In memory of Richard David Savage, Vietnam Veteran,
173rd Airborne Vietnam 1967-1968
Henry Neale in memory of Erica and Jessica Davids
Jim & Wendy Kemp in memory of Marie Nilolic

Pamela Johnson donations in honor of:
Jim and Cathy Andrews Kay Tellekson
Julie and Nate Linscheid Cathy and Chris Schouviller
Collette Schouviller and Joe Grover
John Niemeyer Wendy Niemeyer
Pat Betz Roy Betz and Lisa
Erika and Will Wilbur Mark and Stacy Betz
Chris and Ken Hall Scott and Lauren Hall
Jen and Sam Marshall Kim and Lou Ziolkowski
Skylar Arden



Calling All Golfers

Registration is underway for COOL's 18th Annual Golf Outing that will be held on **Friday, July 15, 2021** at Bonnie Brook Golf Course in Waukegan.

Please join use for a fun day of golf!
Dinner, Prizes, Raffles, Silent Auction

Information and registration is available on the COOL website
(www.coolministries.org)

Founded in 1983 COOL is a 501c (3) social service agency that has been proudly serving our community for over thirty-five years. Our mission is to give comprehensive assistance to families in need by reducing hunger and homelessness, while encouraging personal growth and self-sufficiency.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT IN SUPPORT OF COOL MINISTRIES!
YOUR GIFT IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE AND AN CKNOWLEDGEMENT WILL BE SENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.

___ \$20 ___ \$40 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other

To Support: ___ Food Pantry ___ Family Housing ___ Area of Greatest Need

___ In Honor of: _____

___ In Memory of _____

Please Notify: _____
