



May, 2026

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Last month, we had the privilege of welcoming some of the Senior Class from Marist High School as volunteers. A group of students assisted in packaging and distributing food, while another group helped our clients load their cars. Additionally, some students swept and moped our facilities, and others contributed to our yard work. It was wonderful to have them here, allowing them to give back to their community. This experience also provided our volunteers with a well-deserved break. We eagerly anticipate hosting some of next year’s Marist Seniors.



Another year is coming to a close. No, we don’t mean 2026! But, we are reaching the end of another fiscal year, and are asking for your help once again. Our books close on June 30th, and last year you answered our appeal to help us finish strong with an outpouring of generosity. Can we ask for that again? We are so grateful for our regular donors and we are asking—can you give a little extra in May or June? If you have not given so far this year—can you send a donation in the next month? It really does make a difference to finish the year showing a good balance, not only to start the next year on a positive note, but as we seek other funding opportunities such as grants. As we’ve said many times, you who support the ministry financially are just as necessary as those who volunteer on site. Together, we fulfill the Operation Blessing mission of “Reaching out in Christ’s love, feeding people body, mind, and spirit”.



May 1 brings a new reality as thousands of our neighbors will begin losing their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP) food benefits due to federal rule changes. The state estimates 120,000 people in Illinois may be at greater risk of hunger. To know that this many neighbors will be denied basic food is, simply, heartbreaking.

Here's how you can help:

**Contact you representatives:** let your General Assembly members know that the state must step in to support Illinois families cut off from SNAP.

**Become a sustaining donor:** Because of these changes, many Chicago and Cook County neighbors will be newly at risk of hunger. Give now or become a monthly donor to ensure they have the meals they need to thrive. With your support, we will continue to bring forward our mission, “feeding people body, mind, and spirit”.



**April Statistics**

Heads of Households	699
Individuals	2169
Prayed with	606
Professions of Faith	8

Don Wilson, Director; Mike Will, Secretary; Marsha Jakobi, Treasurer; Brian Cottrell, Operations Manager  
*Operation Blessing of Southwest Chicagoland is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit charitable organization*