



April/May, 2020

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**YES, WE'RE OPEN (SAFELY)!**  
The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected all of us in many ways and will continue to do so. According to the Greater Chicago Food Depository, 66% of food pantries that partner with them are still open. We are pleased to say that we are one of them! Although we closed on March 26th, we knew our help was needed as much as ever. In fact, with people out of work, we expected many new people might be coming for help. And yet, we had to ensure the safety of our volunteers. After thinking for awhile, we came up with a new process that met both needs and so we reopened on April 7th. Now, those coming for help check in at our front window, receive a number, and drive to the back parking lot to receive pre-packed boxes (currently supplied for free from GCFD) placed directly in their car. In addition, we are still able to give out produce, dairy products, and even some meat. Less volunteers are needed for now and everyone can stay safe with wearing masks and gloves. Although we miss the personal contact with our clients, we are happy that we can still help them with food. If you look at our monthly numbers, even under these circumstances, we still found opportunities to pray with some of the families. As the quarantine extends into May, Operation Blessing will continue to do what we can to help those in need and let them know that even in this Pandemic, the Lord knows and cares about them.



### SPRING CHORES

Pandemic or not, the seasons continue to change. With Spring comes some spring clean up at Operation Blessing. Thank you to our volunteers for getting the gravel parking area back into shape after winter snows and plowing.





It is with the heaviest of hearts that we have to announce that our brother, volunteer, and servant of God, John Whittall was called home at 9 am on Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

John has been volunteering with us at the pantry for almost thirty years. He has showed many of us the ropes and set an example by volunteering well into his 90's. We will all miss John, not because of his service to the pantry, but because he always had a smile on his face and a story to tell.

Please keep his family in your prayers, and remember: it's not goodbye, but until we meet again.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been difficult to schedule ministry meetings, therefore, please remember to pray for our ministry. Thank you



Thank you to one of our long time supporters, Griffith Foods for your generous donation and continued support. Because of local businesses like yours we are able to make a difference in our community.

#### April Statistics

Heads of Households	693
Individuals	2492
Professions of Faith	4 (est.)
New clients	153
Prayed for	100 (est.)

Terry Wuethrich, President; Hank Frickenstein, Vice President; Brian Cottrell, Secretary; Marsha Jakobi, Treasurer; Lynn Whittall, Director at Large; Steve Bailey, Manager