



August, 2024

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People in Need

As I was going through some old newsletters looking for information, I came across this article from our April, 1993 Newsletter (yes, we actually still have them). "We don't always realize how easy it is to go from a position of stability to being in need. A woman I know shared with us how we had helped her daughter's family. Her son-in-law had changed jobs, but business was slow and he worked on commission. Her daughter became pregnant, unexpectedly.

They already had one small child. It was a difficult pregnancy, requiring hospitalization and then she lost her job. Unemployment gave them a hassle and didn't want to pay. Then the medical bills started coming in. It didn't take long before this family was in trouble! It would be so easy for any of us to land in the same position. Can you imagine being excited over receiving cinnamon bread and fruit juice? Well, they were. I was excited and thankful to hear that we could have a part in helping this brother and sister in Christ through their hard time."

This article may be 30 years old, but it is just as true today! Life can throw a lot of curve balls and hit any of us. But, just as we were there 30 years ago to help this family, we are here today to help other families in their time of need.

School Daze

Where did the summer go? School will be starting shortly and parents are starting to look for all those supplies to start the new year of school. If you have several children going off to school, all those supplies can add up. And, if your budget is already stretched thin, it adds another ball to the juggling act. Although we do not have a defined "Back to School" program, donations of any school supplies will be very welcome, and we will distribute them to families as they come in for food. Remember—"2 for 1" buys are a great way to get some extra supplies to donate as you shop.

Summer Slump

Sunny days, BBQ's, vacations, and the beach— we all look forward to summer activities. One thing ministries do not look forward to in summer is the slump in giving that is often experienced.

As we continue to enjoy the last days of summer, please do not forget that we still need your support.



We are in dire need of volunteers.

If you are interested, please call 708-597-6326

July Statistics

Heads of Households	808
Individuals	2619
Prayed with	773
Professions of Faith	10

Mike Will, Secretary; Marsha Jakobi, Treasurer; Don Cyze, Director; Brian Cottrell, Operations Manager

Operation Blessing of Southwest Chicagoland is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit charitable organization

Terry Wuethrich steps down as President

It is with great reluctance that Operation Blessing announces that Terry Wuethrich is stepping down as President of Operation Blessing. Terry took the office in January of 2003 to fill a vacancy left by our former President, Ellen Haim. For 21 years, he has led the ministry through many highs and lows such as the decision to stop taking government food when the IDPH told us we could not pray with people (that has since changed), struggling with whether we should stay open or close due to lack of funds, or the decision to move forward and purchase our own building. However, Terry would be the first to say he always sought the Lord's will and guidance in every decision.

Terry's journey with Operation Blessing actually starts much earlier than 2003. He was given a sign—literally!

As he was driving along Midlothian Turnpike by our former location in Crestwood he saw two men struggling to hang a sign for "Operation Blessing" over the door. He stopped to help, and the rest was history. Since that time, Terry worked in the pantry, prayed with people, volunteered at events, and became involved in whatever needed to be done to support our work. Now, 35 years later, Terry has decided it's time to step back from active work with Operation Blessing. But we know he will continue to support us from the sidelines and will continue to ask for God's blessings on Operation Blessing.

Thank you for all your work for 35 years!



Collecting food donations Dec 1991



Pancake Brunch 1995



Operation Blessing 41st

Anniversary



Purchasing our building in 2013