



February/March, 2023

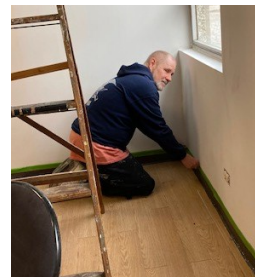
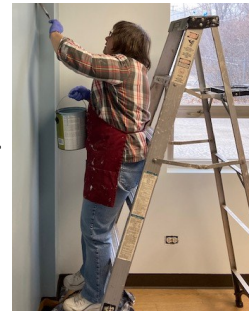
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Whatever happened to Operation Blessing’s roof?

You may remember back in 2019 (pre-Covid), we shared our need for help with roof repairs. Our roof had been patched and patched and was still leaking badly. We thought we could keep repairing it and people started to donate toward those repairs. Then the COVID pandemic hit. All attention was focused on it and how our organization would continue to help people during this crisis. But, of course, the roof continued to worsen. We finally realized we would need to replace the whole thing! Working with our bank to arrange funding, we were finally able to do that at the end of 2021. We were thrilled to finally not have to worry every time it rained or snowed! But then we faced another issue. Because of the long term leaking, there was water damage to many of our offices. So, although the Pandemic and its restrictions have waned, we still could not open the building to meet with clients in person. This has been very disappointing to us. The good news is that the repairs to the offices have finally been completed! We are now working to get everything back in shape to once again welcome clients inside the building. We are very excited to get back to truly normal operations again. We invite you to join us at our Open House as we celebrate our Birthday and our Grand Reopening!



Operation Blessing
 41st Birthday & Reopening
 Celebration!
 Join us at our Open House
 Saturday, April 22, 2023
 1:30 to 4:00pm
 4901 W 128th PL, Alsip
 See our facility
 Learn about our work
 Enjoy some refreshments!

January Statistics

Heads of Households	634
Individuals	2132
Professions of Faith	2
New clients	103
Prayed with	307

February Statistics

Heads of Households	653
Individuals	2211
Professions of Faith	1
New clients	94
Prayed with	373

Terry Wuethrich, President; Hank Frickenstein, Vice President; Mike Will, Secretary; Marsha Jakobi, Treasurer; Barry Zalane, Director; Don Cyze, Director; Brian Cottrell, Operations Manager

As we turn the corner into spring, we are hopeful that we are turning the corner with inflation and the pandemic, with both showing signs of stabilizing.

Unfortunately, food prices remain stubbornly high, rising 11.8% in the past 12 months. This continues to create real hardships for many of our neighbors. The need for food in the community remains high. Recovery for these families will take months, if not years.

And as if those challenges aren't enough, the federal emergency SNAP benefits that were introduced in 2020 to help families and individuals weather the pandemic were unexpectedly cut at the end of February due to federal policy changes. More than two million residents of Illinois have depended on the benefits.

There is no doubt that the termination of these benefits will have a profound impact on many peoples' ability to put food on the table. The lines at food pantries will get longer, food insecurity will rise, further stressing the charitable food system that has been responding to a multi-year crisis.

Thanks to the generosity of committed supporters, we have continued to meet the rising need.



Thank you so much to Reyes Great Lakes Coca Cola Bottling for your continued support.

Your generosity was a very special treat for our clients.

We look forward to working with you again.