



July, 2023

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Dear Friends,

As you read this, food insecurity remains high in our community...our neighbors are facing record high food costs, the loss of federal emergency SNAP benefits, kids home from school with no access to free or reduced-price meals—the list goes on.

Right now, one in four households with children face hunger, according to economists at Northwestern University.

We are very concerned about families right now. With school out for the summer and without the same access to school meals, parents who were already struggling to put healthy food on the table are at their breaking point.

More must be done. And we need your immediate help. That's why your support now is so critical...

Thank you, and may God continue to bless you and your families.

A few weeks ago my mom, Donna B. and I headed to St. Mathew Lutheran Church with some donations for their shelter. My Dad and Mom would go with Donna and Don—it was very close to their hearts to be able to help out there, and mom and Donna donated a lot of men's items in Don and Dad's memory. The pastor had mentioned the extreme shortage of food at times, so I tapped on Operation Blessing, another place my father volunteered at weekly with Brian Cottrell and today we dropped off a pallet with cases of canned goods, beans, rice, fresh produce, orange juice, etc. The pastor was overwhelmed. Allen Richwalski and I drove the truck to 21st and Hoyne and soaked up the smiles. Mad love and respect to Operation Blessing, Brian Cottrell, and Allen Richwalski for the last minute help! If you know of a family in the south burbs who could use a boost, Operation Blessing is located in Alsip.

John D.

Prayer Available: Yes, Operation Blessing is a food pantry, but we are also a faith-based organization that believes prayer changes things. If you have something that is weighing on you and you would like someone to pray for you concerning it, we are there for you. We invite you to email us at prayer@operationblessing.org. We have people who will take your requests and pray concerning them. And, if you have a blessing or answer to your prayer request that you'd like to share, we would love to hear that also.

Vegetables gone wild!

Are you having a great year with your garden? Tomatoes and zucchini everywhere you look? Don't worry, we can take them off your hands. As you know, we love to give out fresh produce to our families and you can't get any fresher than right from the garden. We are happy to take your extra produce and redirect it to a needy family. Please call before you come to make sure someone will be here to accept your donation.

June Statistics

Heads of Households	883
Individuals	2838
Professions of Faith	1
New clients	161
Prayed with	485

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

Spaghetti Dinner



Come enjoy all-you-can-eat spaghetti with meat sauce, sausage, salad, drinks and dessert. Take-out Available.

When: Saturday, September 9th, 2023, 4:30 pm - 7 pm

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church
4660 W 94th Street, Oak Lawn, IL
Located east of Cicero Avenue, behind the Hilton

Cost: \$12 adults; \$6 children ages 4-10

All proceeds benefit Operation Blessing of Southwest Chicagoland