



May, 2021

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Hunger in our Community—A Spring 2021 Status Report:

It has now been a year since Covid turned everything upside down. Where are we at in regard to hunger and food insecurity in Cook County? Organizations like the Chicago Food Depository collect data to help answer these questions.

There is hope. Estimates of food insecurity are improving. But they are still higher than pre-Covid rates. They estimate that 11.8% of Cook County residents will experience food insecurity in 2021, compared to 9.3% in pre-Covid 2019.

In addition, while the US unemployment rate was 6.2% in February, it was 9.5% in Cook County. The official figures do not reflect the full picture of the joblessness. Job recovery stalled this past winter, but is expected to improve as the year progresses. So, again, there is hope. For those who had difficulty finding work before or worked in lower paid positions, it will take much longer to see progress. So, what is the conclusion of this good news/bad news study? There is a long way to go, but we are slowly moving forward.

There are still many families in need, but there is hope for better times. And we at Operation Blessing will continue to respond to the need before us.



Mio Taguchi, a recent Japanese student at Moraine Valley Community College has been volunteering at Operation Blessing with food distribution.

Because Mio studies anthropology, he is very interested in a personal relationship with people in need. Mio is presently living in Evergreen Park and comes from a family of educators in Saitama, Japan.

Another volunteer presented Mio with a Bible, which he now reads and shares stories of God’s presence throughout the world.

Thank you, Mio, for your help and service to Operation Blessing.



TreeHouse

Thank you very much to TreeHouse Foods for your very generous donation. It will be a very special treat for our clients.

Testimonial: A lady came in through the drive-through to receive food. When the prayer partner asked her if she would like prayer, she said, “Yes, I feel so lost”. The prayer partner prayed for her and told her about the Gospel of Jesus. The lady prayed to God and received Jesus as her Savior. She was encouraged to read her Bible and seek God every day and live in repentance. She was very thankful for the food and the prayer.

April Statistics

Households	381
Individuals	1308
New Clients	28
Prayed with	156
Professions of Faith	2

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