



August, 2020

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Operation Blessing would like to take a moment and welcome our two newest board members:

Mr. Barry Zalane and Mr. Mike Will

We look forward to working with you to help move our ministry forward. We'd also like to say thank you to Lynn Whittall as she steps down from her duties on the board. Thank you, Lynn, for your service. We are in a better position, thanks to you. Lynn's stepping down doesn't mean goodbye, as she will continue to volunteer at the pantry. We will still get to see her here during the week.

Thank you to Jim Reidl of Griffith Foods for donating your time to take care of our lawn and plants. It means so much that you take away from your personal time to do this every week. Thank you and God bless you.

We are in need of Bibles. We are handing them out to our neighbors faster than we can get them donated. If you're so inclined and have any, we would gladly accept any Bibles if in fair to excellent condition. We will also be accepting donations to purchase Bibles. You may donate Bibles right at the pantry, or note in the memo line on your check, or you can even use our Paypal page that the donation may be used for Bibles.

Thank you so much in advance for your generosity and helping us spread the gospel.

We are still offering prayer in these trying times. We are able to pray outside while clients remain in their cars, at a safe distance.

We are still wearing masks to ensure safety for all. Even, and especially a quick prayer, with faith will move mountains.

July Statistics

Heads of Households	633
Individuals	2318
Professions of Faith	12
New clients	116
Prayed for	282

Terry Wuethrich, President; Hank Frickenstein, Vice President; Brian Cottrell, Secretary;
Marsha Jakobi, Treasurer; Steve Bailey, Manager;
Barry Zalane, Board Member at Large; Mike Will, Board Member at Large

CONTINUING TO PRESS FORWARD...

Studies can help us define a problem, determine root causes, and confirm or refute what we think we know. As a major advocate in the fight to alleviate hunger and food insecurity, the Greater Chicago Food Depository collects data and does studies to better understand the problem. We may not be surprised that 34% of the residents of Blue Island are at risk for food insecurity (meaning they lacked access, at times, to enough nutritious food for an active healthy lifestyle). But does it surprise you to hear that 31% of Chicago Ridge residents are also at risk? 23% in Worth? In fact, their studies show that “Residents on the West Side, South Side, and Far North Side of Chicago, the South Suburbs, and West Suburbs face much higher rates of food insecurity risk.” So their studies have confirmed what we already felt - although the economy was doing well and unemployment was down, there were still many families struggling to afford their basic necessities. And that was before Covid-19 entered the scene. Now, as you may guess, their recent studies show, **“while the pandemic is affecting nearly everyone, the geographies and populations most at risk for food insecurity before are now also more likely to be most adversely affected by the pandemic in terms of health and work”**. And, with unemployment and furloughs soaring into the double digits for now, households who were fine before find that they also now need help.

The problem of hunger and food insecurity was real before and it will remain so even as we recover from this viral crisis. The good news is that we have seen many churches and groups stepping forward to fill those needs with pop-up pantries and weekend food distributions. At Operation Blessing, this is not new for us. We began in 1982 during a recession that also saw many job losses and great need. So for us, although the process has changed for now, the goal has been and will be the same: to help families in need in the South Suburbs.