



Feeding the Hungry ~ Housing the Homeless

800 West Glen Flora Avenue

Waukegan, Illinois 60085

847-662-1340

Dear Mr. Biesk,

April 02, 2018

All of us at COOL Ministries are indeed thankful this year for the generosity and support of your readers who give to Help Them To Hope as well as for the volunteers who work to make this annual giving event successful. The grant from Help Them To Hope assisted COOL in feeding over 81,354 individuals last year alone. COOL Food Pantries distributed more than 736,248 meals to hungry families throughout Lake County in 2017. Our food pantries not only help Lake County families to meet their nutritional needs but we also provide toiletry boxes for Veterans as well. These boxes filled with toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste and other hygiene products helps our veterans to stretch their budgets and meet their basic needs. Recently I had the pleasure of having a conversation with one of our veterans at the pantry, he expressed to me how grateful he was for the toiletry box, but he said he is even more grateful for the smiling faces he is greeted by at the pantry. The once a month trip filled with conversations between himself and the other patrons and employees is one he always looks forward to.

COOL's Family Housing Program had 20 participating families last year which included 27 adults and 44 children. These families were given a stable home to stay in while they progressed to self sufficiency; two of these families went on to purchase homes of their own. The joy that everyone working at COOL gets when we move a family into their new place is one that cannot be described. To watch children who were staying in their car the night before run excitedly through their new apartment and pick out their bedrooms is such a tremendous joy. COOL is so very thankful to Help Them to Hope and all of their partners, without the help of organizations like yours it would not be possible for COOL to continue feeding the hungry and housing the homeless of Lake County.

Gratefully,

Mindy Lindholm

Executive Director, COOL Ministries

www.coolministries.org

