

S P R I N G 2 0 1 1

News from THE OUTREACH House

SERVING THOSE MOST IN NEED IN LOMBARD & VILLA PARK

Renewed Support for the Mobile Food Truck

New agreement with the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) allows The Outreach House to continue addressing food insecurities in our area. Some 150 families utilize the service each month.

It's official—the Mobile Food Truck will continue to serve our area through at least June 2012.

This traveling food pantry, in partnership with NIFB, offers fresh meats, dairy products and produce in areas underserved by other food assistance programs.

“We’re extremely thankful that NIFB has recognized the need in our area,” said Sandra Hill, Outreach House Director. “And as a way of helping our neighbors, it’s simple, compassionate and cost effective.”



Upcoming dates for the Mobile Food Truck: 5/21, 6/18 and 7/16.



The Outreach House
 220 South Main Street
 Lombard, IL 60148
 (630) 693-0187
 www.theoutreachhouse.org
 Open Tuesday, Wednesday
 and Thursday
 10:00 am–12:00 noon
 Sandra Hill, Director



Who We Are & What We Do

Since 1997, our mission has been to assist those most in need in our community. Today, The Outreach House serves the people of Lombard and Villa Park through three programs:

- First Things First
- Walk-In Ministry
- Mobile Food Truck (in partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank)

With Donations Down, WIM Forced to Cut Back

The goal of the Walk-In Ministry (WIM) is to assist our neighbors with their basic needs, while empowering them towards self-sufficiency. Reduced support, particularly from worship communities, is putting this mission in jeopardy.

\$150 AWAY FROM HOMELESSNESS

Transmission problem, said the mechanic. And with that, “Jane,” a single mom from Villa Park, saw the delicate balance that she had been working so hard to maintain come undone.

She’s a full-time student at the College of DuPage. Her son works 30 hours a week to help support the family, all while attending high school.

When the repair bill made them \$150 short on rent, the landlord gave them a five-day eviction notice. And with nowhere else to go, Jane turned to the The Outreach House’s Walk-In Ministry.

DECREASE IN “MERCY DOLLARS”

She’s not alone—approximately one in three individuals who come into WIM request assistance with their rent, mortgage or utility bills, said Sandra Hill, Outreach House Director.

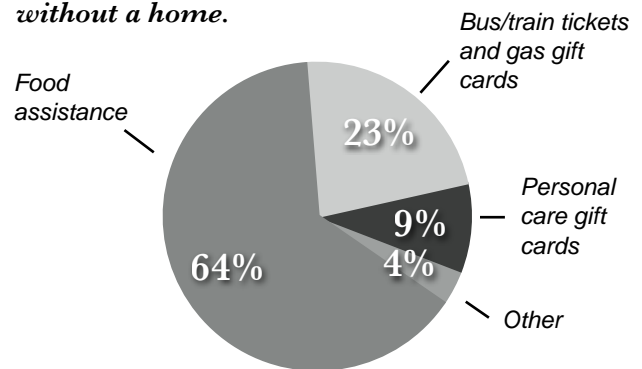
“In most cases, we are simply unable to help them,” she said. “It all comes down to funding.”

In particular, it comes down to the declining support of local faith-based communities. When WIM first opened its doors in 1998, it counted on volunteers and resources from 18 different congregations.

Today, when the needs of the community are even greater, WIM has only nine active faith-based partners, out of the over 40 houses of worship in Lombard and Villa Park.

ONE MONTH AT WALK-IN MINISTRY

During March 2011, we gave \$1,889 in direct assistance to 23 families from Lombard, 12 families from Villa Park and 2 individuals without a home.



In each case, we also gave a comprehensive resource and referral sheet to help our clients access other forms of possible assistance.

“It’s really impacted our ability to give what we call ‘mercy dollars’—for rent, utilities, family emergencies. These days, we generally can only give food, transportation, prescription assistance, with the idea that that can ‘free up’ some of the money needed for other things,” said Hill.

HAPPY ENDING?

In Jane’s case, she happened to walk in at the right time. Thanks to a slight increase in donations the previous month, WIM was able to give her the money to help her and her son stay in their home.

But she’s just one person. As for the next family that walks in asking for aid and compassion—the ending to that story has yet to be written.

Spotlight on Our Partnerships: Rock Bottom Brewery



Hats off to our wonderful friends at the Yorktown Rock Bottom Brewery.

This fabulous group of people, led by Brian Vogel, held a major fundraiser for The Outreach House in December 2010 that raised \$3,100, plus numerous product donations.

They also help to address food insecurities in our area through The Community Table, the first soup kitchen in DuPage County, in partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank and First

Church of Lombard. Rock Bottom Executive Chef Pawel Marszalek leads the preparation of remarkable meals the first Wednesday of every month, utilizing food from NIFB. Vogel and his team welcome, serve and interact with Community Table guests with care and respect.

Under Vogel's leadership, they have made a tremendous difference in so many lives. He was recently recognized by the Village of Lombard with the President's Community Service Award.

"This is who they are," said Sandra Hill, Director of The Outreach House, "Loving, caring, compassionate people who work together, play together and hold the basic value of doing what is right for those less fortunate."



Thank you.

How you can help

A grocery store gift card, for personal care items or fresh fruits and vegetables

A gas card, enabling someone to get to a doctor's appointment or job interview



A case of diapers, to supplement the needs of two client children for one month

A shopping cart's worth of groceries from the Mobile Food Truck, for each of four families

The Outreach House is in continuous need of diapers, baby supplies and gently used clothing, up to size 4/4T. Monetary donations of any amount are also urgently needed—and greatly appreciated. Please mail this form, along with your tax-deductible check payable to The Outreach House.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

The Outreach House
220 S. Main St.
Lombard, IL 60148

THE OUTREACH *House*

First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
220 S. Main St.
Lombard, IL 60148

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 44
Lombard, Illinois

Thank You for All You Do

The work we do is only possible through generous gifts of time, talent and money. Heart-felt thanks to the following organizations:

- Ray Graham Association, dedicated to improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Individuals from the organization, along with their Direct Support Persons, assist at First Things First on a weekly basis. We're thankful for the work these remarkable men and women do and are pleased to give them the opportunity to let their abilities shine.
- Sky Centers Martial Arts. Students and staff enrich us all with the positive energy they bring as volunteers for the Mobile Food Truck.
- First Church of Lombard, one of the founding partners of Walk-In Ministry and First Things First and host site of the Mobile Food Truck. The church underwrites our rent, utilities and director's salary—enabling us to operate more cost-efficiently. Because of their generous support, 84 cents of every dollar we receive in donations goes directly towards client assistance.