



## **LIBERTYVILLE TOWNSHIP**

### **Social Service Report 2014**

The Township's mandated responsibility is to provide for individuals in the Township who are in need and qualify for assistance. The 2014 annual report is a summary of the assistance the Township provided through the various programs.

#### **Assistance Provided Funded Through the General Assistance Levy**

##### **Number of Total Completed Applications Submitted**

- A total of 125 completed applications were submitted to the Township requesting assistance.

##### **General Assistance**

- 15 individuals were eligible and received General Assistance (GA). The clients receiving General Assistance are seen on a monthly basis for review and determination of continued eligibility. There were a total of 42 monthly GA allotments.

##### **Emergency Assistance**

- 42 households were eligible and received Emergency Assistance.

##### **Denied Assistance**

- 47 applications were denied assistance.

##### **Applications Withdrawn**

- 2 applicants decided to withdraw their application for assistance.

##### **SSI Recovery funds received in 2014 was \$1600.**

- This is repayment from Social Security Administration for one client who received GA while awaiting approval of their Social Security Disability claim.

##### **Credit Counseling Workshop**

- Libertyville Township continues to partner with the Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Lake County to provide a monthly 90 minute workshop on Basic Budgeting. All recipients of General Assistance and Emergency Assistance are required to attend one Basic Budgeting Workshop.
  - 36 recipients attended.
- Office space was also provided on a weekly basis to the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Lake County to meet with area residents on an individual basis by appointment only.

## **Assistance Provided Through Private Donations to the Township**

### **Community Emergency Assistance Fund**

Libertyville Township has a Community Emergency Fund funded by private tax deductible donations to the Libertyville Township Community Emergency Fund. This fund is administered by the Township Supervisor and is used to assist those with immediate needs who may not otherwise qualify for assistance.

- 30 households who through the application process were determined not eligible for General Assistance or Emergency Assistance but were provided help through Community Emergency Assistance Funds.

### **Food Pantry**

- In 2014, a total of 366 households registered to use Libertyville Township Food Pantry. Recipients are allowed to use the food pantry twice a month and are required to provide proof of residency.
- A total of 27 adult volunteers and a church organization with numerous volunteers assisted with Food Pantry activities in 2014. In addition, 3 college students, 2 high school students, one church youth group, 3 scout troops, one elementary school service club and 10 individuals needing community service hours provided volunteer service to the food pantry. These areas of service included sorting donated food, packing bags to be distributed weekly on food pantry day, picking up and delivering bread and baked goods from Mariano's weekly, handing out food to recipients on Food Pantry days and assisting with our book fair in December.
- The total amount of our food pantry use in 2014 was 3014 visits providing food for 8787 individuals.
- Disbursing orders to purchase school supplies were provided to 98 students of 45 families who have received financial assistance from the Township and/or utilized the food pantry. In addition, Girl Scout Troop #40407 generously donated school supplies which were distributed to the families.
- Through our partnership with Northern Illinois Food Bank we received 1,845 lbs of Emergency Food and Shelter Program food with an estimated federal dollar value of \$1,077.00.
- Through Northern Illinois Food Bank's retail donation program, Direct Connect, we received weekly donations of such items as meat, produce, dairy, deli foods, shelf stables, non-food products, bread and baked goods directly from Libertyville Jewel.
- SNAP Outreach Worker from Northern Illinois Food Bank made one visit to our food pantry to meet with recipients to see if they qualify for food stamp benefits and to assist them in the application process.
- Ventra Outreach Event was held twice at the food pantry. Pace met with riders and provided information on the new payment system for customers using public transportation.

- In September, Lake County Community Development surveys were distributed to families who use the food pantry.

#### **Holiday Giving Program**

- 10 sponsors provided gifts to 13 families through the Holiday Giving Program

#### **Assistance Provided Through Community Resources**

Applications for financial assistance from Share the Warmth, Salvation Army Extension Center, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and ComEd Cares Residential Special Hardship Fund are taken at Libertyville Township Office for eligible Libertyville Township residents. The Township Social Worker provides the application and conducts the interview for the application process. Funding is provided by the identified service provider.

#### **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

- Cooling Grant (electric) offered for seniors and individuals with a disability.
  - 38 recipients
- Heating Grant for low income families, seniors and individuals with a disability for financial assistance on their gas and electric bill.
  - 151 recipients

#### **Mother's Trust**

- It provides benefits and opportunities available which cannot be obtained from other sources. Their goal is to assist children in trouble or crisis, raise awareness of children's needs, link needs with community resources and provide opportunities for volunteers to be involved.
- 1 family was referred and received a total of \$140 in assistance

#### **Salvation Army Extension Center – 2014**

- 16 Libertyville residents received assistance with utility, rent, medicine, lodging, food needs.
  - A total of \$3,216.50 in financial assistance was provided.

#### **Share the Warmth**

- An Energy Assistance Program through North Shore Gas provides financial assistance for gas bills to low income families and individuals through a matching grant. The application process varies each year.
  - 4 applications were submitted for a total of \$800 in assistance.

#### **ComEd Cares Residential Special Hardship Fund**

- Provides credit for households with a demonstrated hardship case that is not addressed by other programs.
  - 1 application was submitted for a total of \$1,124 in assistance.

## **Professional Continuing Education**

- Kathleen O'Connor attended the Lake County Leadership Southeast Round Table on March 17, 2014 to discuss transit and opportunities for the coordination/consolidation of services.
- Kathleen O'Connor spoke at the Libertyville Ministers Group on April 2, 2014 on services provided by the Township.
- Linda Blatnik attended the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Optimizing Retail Donations through Partnerships with Direct Connect training on April 4, 2014.
- Linda Blatnik and Kathleen O'Connor attended Lake County Township General Assistance Training on April 10, 2014.
- Kathleen O'Connor attended the Suburbanization of Poverty: Opportunities for Public/Private Partnerships Forum hosted by Lake County Community Foundation on April 7, 2014.
- Kathleen O'Connor participated in the Prairie State Legal Services 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Make Housing Fair on April 29, 2014. Information was provided on township services and paratransit.
- Linda Blatnik and Kathleen O'Connor met with Lake County Community Development Senior Planner on May 29, 2014 to provide input on the 2015-2019 Lake County Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan.
- Kathleen O'Connor participated the 2014-2019 Lake County Community Development Division's Consolidated Plan Roundtable discussion on June 17, 2014.
- Linda Blatnik attended the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Food Safety Basics for Grocery Programs training on June 18, 2014.
- Linda Blatnik and Kathleen O'Connor attended the Erie Health Reach Waukegan Health Cent Grand Opening on July 17, 2014.
- Kathleen O'Connor presented on paratransit at the Lake County Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Coordination of Care Subcommittee on August 29, 2014.
- Kathleen O'Connor participated State Representative Ed Sullivan's Senior Citizens Fair on September 18, 2014. Information was provided on township services and paratransit.
- Kathleen O'Connor participated in the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee's transportation presentation to the B.E.S.T. organization on November 13, 2014.