



Loaves & Fishes

Ending Hunger  Empowering Lives

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY TO CHANGE LIVES

SUMMER/FALL 2011

NOTED RESEARCHER SPEAKS ON CHILD HUNGER

Dr. John Cook addresses Loaves & Fishes Community Advisory Council

Childhood hunger has long-term ramifications for children's health and that of the nation's economy. Dr. John Cook, PhD, MAEd, Associate Professor of Pediatric Medicine at Boston University, presented his findings on Food Insecurity and the Economic Impact on our Nation at the inaugural meeting of the Loaves & Fishes Community Advisory Council.

According to the study, children suffering from hunger cannot learn enough in their youth to contribute later to the nation's workforce as adults. Further, toxic stress faced by their mothers transfers to children and affects their physical and emotional well-being. Dr. Cook asserts that hungry children also suffer a greater incidence of hospitalization and that chronic under-nutrition contributes to high health care costs throughout their lives. Child sick days are also linked to a parent's job-related absenteeism and turnover that affects employers and productivity. Dr. Cook stressed that a combination of public and private food assistance programs can prevent and eradicate the problems associated with childhood hunger.

Dr. Cook researches food, energy, and housing insecurity, and their impacts on the health of young children and their mothers. Current research also includes affordability and accessibility of healthy foods in low-income neighborhoods, and food systems reform.

Among his distinguished credentials, Dr. Cook consults with Feeding America, the national food bank network, and chairs the Technical Advisory Group for its national studies.

Childhood hunger has long-term ramifications for children's health and that of the nation's economy. For more information on Dr. Cook's study, go to: <http://feedingamerica.org/SiteFiles/child-economy-study.pdf>



Demand was brisk at the Loaves & Fishes Back2School Fair on August 6, as lines stretched the length of the building for much of the morning. That day, 350 families were served and 600 of the total 1,572 school supplies kits were given out.

A RECORD 1,572 CHILDREN EQUIPPED TO SUCCEED

Back2School Fair attended by 350 families

The generosity of the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (OSLC) mission team and donors who learned of their efforts online combined to equip a record 1,572 Loaves & Fishes students entering grades K-12 with new school supplies. For the tenth consecutive year, Our Saviour's and Loaves & Fishes partnered to ensure Loaves & Fishes students had new backpacks and the basics to go in them. (See "Volunteers You Should Know, p. 4).

A two-week online Virtual Backpack Drive garnered enough donations to purchase an additional 500 backpacks and Eagle Scout candidate Matt Spencer collected 637 pounds of supplies. On Saturday, August 6th, Loaves & Fishes distributed 600 backpacks and school supplies kits at our first Back2School Fair, which was attended by more than 350 families. All 1,572 backpack kits were soon claimed.

"We were thrilled at the response to our first Back2School Fair," said Executive Director Charles McLimans. "School supplies are one of our major children's outreach programs, and we are grateful to everyone who helped to empower kids to succeed at school this year."

Several Pathways to Empowerment partners provided information to students and their families. Representatives from Samaritan Interfaith offered creative arts therapy and tips on handling bullying, Literacy DuPage

donated books, Naperville Police Department provided safety tips, DuPage Health Department covered hand-washing importance and procedure, Benedictine University distributed basic school nutrition information, District 203 discussed planning for higher education, and Sharing Connections made referrals for furniture and clothing.

Raffle prizes were donated by Great Clips, Supercuts, Subway, Aldi, and the DuPage Children's Museum. ■

In FY 2011 (July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011)

- Enrolled **1,496 new families**, representing an **86% increase since 2008**.
- Provided nourishment to **68,765** individuals in **19,341** distributions.
- Made **2,988** deliveries to homebound **elderly and disabled** residents.
- Supplied **20,540 K-12 students** with breakfast and/or lunch assistance.
- Provided **996 infants and 3,345 toddlers** with baby food, formula and diapers.
- Distributed **over 2,250,000** pounds of groceries (equal to about **\$6.1 million retail**)

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Fax: 630.355.0562
info@loaves-fishes.org
www.loaves-fishes.org

As a registered 501(c)(3) charity, all donations are fully tax-deductible.

For more information on volunteering or to donate, please visit our website or contact us at 630-355-3663.

Director's Corner

"Where has the summer gone?" is a common sentiment we are all struggling to grasp! As leaves begin to fade and we quickly slide into our busy fall season, it is worthwhile reflecting for a moment on the historic fiscal year we recently closed this past June 30th.

For most of the past year, we were focused on building and programming a new facility for Loaves & Fishes. Now that we've been in our new home for 7 months, not only have we welcomed record numbers of guests, we have developed new friendships and strategic partnerships to advance ever closer to our vision of ending hunger in our community. And when I use the term guests, I refer to everyone that comes through the doors of Loaves & Fishes whether you be a client, volunteer, staff member, or supporter. We are all ultimately guests within this amazing gift to our community provided by the generosity of our loving God working through others.

Often our guests comment to me that this is such a beautiful, wonderful, bright, clean, welcoming home for all to enjoy. Fresh paint, new carpet, and good design can do wonders! However, it is each of us who through our gifts, talents, and goodness can transform lives for the better. And it is through our sharing that the miracle of the Loaves & Fishes continues each day.

Everyone reading this is already a part of the solution to end hunger, and the year-end facts on the front page evidence the impact we have together; the power of community to change lives. During these increasingly challenging times our funding has been reduced by local government, and USDA commodities (basics, like soup, peanut butter, tuna, and canned vegetables) have been cut by more than 70%. We need your support more than ever as we continue to progress throughout this new year demonstrating random and strategic acts of kindness towards others.



- Charles

New Office & Volunteer Manager

April Eichele recently became our new Office & Volunteer Manager when Helga Oles left to return to full-time motherhood after two years of exceptional service. April has been involved in the food industry for the past 9 years, most recently serving in leadership positions at local Jewel and Meijer

stores. A graduate of Western Illinois University, April is a Naperville resident. Please join us in welcoming her to Loaves & Fishes!



NEW FACILITY SPACES NAMED

Many spaces in our new facility have been named to recognize generous corporate and family contributions. We thank these donors for their exceptional support.

- Community Meeting Room – The JR Albert Foundation
- Client Reception Area – Tellabs Foundation
- Executive Director's Office – The Mann Family
- Community Relations Director's Office – Brian & Nancy Bolliger
- Development Director's Office – The Moore Family
- Children's Area – The Havala Family
- Staff Break Room – My Chef Catering, Bill & Karen Garlough
- (2) Interview Rooms – Bill & Patti Donahue; Barry & Mary Horek
- Data Center – Advanced Data Technologies, Dave & Dawn Kelsch
- Office & Volunteer Manager's Office – Paul Sweeney & Mary Adams

Loaves & Fishes also recognizes these Cornerstone Faith Communities for their generosity:

- Congregation Beth Shalom
- Knox Presbyterian Church
- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
- St. Raphael Catholic Church

To learn more about other naming opportunities, please contact Melvin Kim at mkim@loaves-fishes.org or 630.355.3663.

GRANTS SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS (Since September 2010)

Loaves & Fishes thanks the following for supporting our programs with these outstanding grants above \$5,000:

Visionaries (\$10,000 and up)

- Anonymous
- The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
- City of Naperville Social Services
- Conrad and Doris Brassine Charitable Fund of The DuPage Community Foundation
- DuPage Community Foundation
- DuPage County Human Services Grant Fund
- Exchange Club of Naperville
- Naperville Evening Kiwanis Club
- The Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- St. Raphael Catholic Church
- The Tellabs Foundation
- United Way of DuPage/West Cook
- UPS Foundation
- Weist Foundation

Leaders (\$5,000-\$9,999)

- Blistex Inc.
- Lisle Community Service Corporation
- Richard H. Dreihaus Foundation
- Target

IRS Commissioner Visits Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes commended for success of VITA program



The IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance initiative was so successful that IRS Commissioner Richard Byrd, Jr., visited to commend our performance as a first-time site. Loaves & Fishes volunteers processed 157 returns, netting more than \$195,000 in refunds for local taxpayers; the average first-time site handles about 30.

Equally gratifying was a note Commissioner Byrd sent after his visit, in which he shared, "Your model of enabling the customers to "shop" and choose their items is empowering and respectful....and it caused me to think your way is the best way to give the customers dignity and respect at a time in their lives where they may not feel that good about themselves."

We thank Commissioner Byrd for his kind words about our VITA site. Loaves & Fishes looks forward to expanding this program in 2012.

HOPE
can take many shapes.



If you are struggling financially, a holiday meal is more than food. It can be a sense of normalcy for a child, the promise of a better future, and a reminder of a community that cares.

Help us provide hope this holiday season! Visit the Donate page on our website to make a secure, tax-deductible gift, or mail a check payable to Loaves & Fishes to:

Loaves & Fishes
1871 High Grove Lane
Naperville, IL 60540

DON'T MISS THE FOLLOWING EVENTS!

SUN, OCT. 16TH, 11:30 AM TO 5:00 PM

SOUP'S ON!

Tickets are now available for the beloved October tradition, Soup's On!, at the Tellabs Atrium, Diehl & Raymond Roads. Since its inception in 2008, the Naperville Rotary Charities event has raised more than \$250,000 for Loaves & Fishes, Hesed House, and DuPage P.A.D.S. More than 25 restaurants are slated to participate, with entertainment throughout the day from the talented students of Naperville District 203 and 204 schools. The DuPage Children's Museum will once again host an activities exhibit for youngsters. Food and soft drinks for all ages will be plentiful, with beer and wine available for purchase. Tickets for adults are \$45. Seniors age 65 and up and Military will pay \$35, Children 6-15 will be charged \$10 each, and tickets for Children 5 and under are FREE! Order tickets at www.soupsonrotary.com. Thank you for supporting this outstanding tradition to end hunger and homelessness in our community.



SUNDAY, OCT. 16TH, 1 PM

CROP WALK

The 29th Annual Naperville CROP Walk will step off at 1:30 p.m. from Grace United Methodist Church, 300 E. Gartner Road. Registration begins at 1 p.m. In the past 28 years, more than \$1,000,000 has been raised locally. Loaves & Fishes receives 12.5% of the proceeds, with 12.5% going to Northern Illinois Food Bank and the remaining 75% dedicated to overseas missions. Visit www.napervillecropwalk.org for more information or to register to walk.



SATURDAY, OCT. 29TH

2011 NAPERVILLE WOMAN'S CLUB FASHION SHOW

The Naperville Woman's Club will hold its annual Fashion Show on Saturday, October 29th at White Eagle Golf Club. This year's theme is Le Style c'est Moi.



A Silent Auction, raffles, and a 50/50 drawing will begin at 10:30 a.m., with luncheon starting at noon, followed by the fashion show.

The fashion show benefits Families Helping Families and Loaves & Fishes, the club's two focus charities for 2011-12, as well as supports the club's other philanthropic efforts. Tickets are now available for \$45 each, or \$450 for a table of 10, with \$23 of each ticket considered tax-deductible. For more information, please visit www.napervillewomensclub.com. To make reservations, please call Ruth Feightner at 630.355.6451.

THURSDAY, NOV. 10TH, 6-9 PM

"FIGHTING HUNGER WITH STYLE" PRESENTED BY LILLIANS

Brush up on your "Real Housewives" trivia and join us for a night of fun and fashion sponsored by Lillian's Shoppe at BlackFinn Restaurant, 16 W. Jefferson Ave. Your \$15 admission (plus a donated bath item for L&F) buys appetizers and drink specials with rebates back to us, trivia contest, a Lillian's fashion show and shopping (with 10% back to L&F), and amazing raffle prizes. Whether you're a fan of the show or just looking for a girls' night out, you'll love this event. Loaves & Fishes receives all the proceeds. Spaces are limited. Tickets go on sale beginning in October, so visit Lillian's at 32 W. Chicago Ave, or call 630.416.4170 to reserve your place.



To better serve you and improve our communication process, we are conducting a **Communications Survey** using **Survey Monkey** from **Sept. 26th-Oct. 24th**.

Your participation is greatly appreciated! Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VCSF6ZC> starting **Sept. 26th**.

Call Loaves & Fishes to request a print version of the survey: 630-355-3663 x 109.

Keep current on all our events by checking the **Events page** on our website. <http://www.loaves-fishes.org/events.html>

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to stay up to date on all the latest news at Loaves & Fishes.



Provide Food and Hope!

For just \$20, you can help Loaves & Fishes supply a family of 8 with a complete holiday dinner.

A list of most needed holiday food items is also available on our website.

www.loaves-fishes.org



Donate Now!

Volunteers You Should Know

Loaves & Fishes is grateful for the ongoing contributions of Nancy Couch and Renee Barron.

Nancy took over organizing the annual school supplies initiative in May 2010 as a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Mission Board. She began sourcing a variety of supplies at the best possible price, enlisting her fellow congregants and friends to follow her family's lead in supporting the effort with their financial and in-kind donations. Although that effort was completed last August, Nancy never stopped the process, and was able to meet this year's goal. In fact, the day after the last school supplies kit was given out, Nancy began working on next year's drive!

Renee has been an indispensable volunteer since 2010. She does client intake and SNAP applications at Tuesday distributions, serves as Friday receptionist, and brings her trademark cheerfulness and compassion to pinch-hit wherever needed. Renee also helped Nancy pack school supplies and hand them out at the Back2School Fair. ■



Volunteer Family Picnic

Over 200 volunteers and family members attended and enjoyed a time of good food, fellowship and fun at our Volunteer + Family Picnic held August 10th at the Riverwalk Grand Pavilion.

Food was provided by Belgio's Catering, music by Sounds Abound (Gregg Eisel) and decorations by Liz Zienty. Raffle prizes were donated by Biaggi's Restaurant, Fruit Flowers, Innovations Salon, JenyLee CupCakery, Mary Kay (Wendy Hayum-Gross), Massage Envy, and Traverso's Restaurant. ■



A DAY WITHOUT HUNGER

Volunteer Maggie Moore poses near the Photo-thon at A Day Without Hunger on June 18th. More than 500 people participated in this celebration of community spirit, collaboration, and hope.

Volunteers Mike and Cari Minik contributed the expertise and materials for the Photo-thon, which will be made into a permanent stained glass photo mosaic by Ed Hoy's International. The event was sponsored by Belgio's Catering, Cargill Food Distribution, Casey's Foods, Costco Wholesale, Ed Hoy's International, Fair Oaks Ford, Graphics Plus, One2One, PepsiCo, Sam's Club, Target, The Rental Place, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods. The 2012 event is scheduled for Thursday, June 7th. ■