

*“Compassionately challenging Zion residents to overcome hardships and encourage positive life changes.”*

- Monthly Report Attached.
- At the WINGS (Women interested IN Government Services) meeting on Saturday morning, I met a young lady, Heather Richey, a student of Grayslake North, being mentored by her teacher, Chris Kubic, who is a Zion resident. She has an incredible opportunity at a speech competition in Peoria thru the American Legion on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. I asked her to attend the meeting tonight so that she could get practice, but also so that our community could hear her inspirational message.
- The Charmm'd Foundation honored the Coalition for Healthy Communities - Zion Benton Leadership Academy at their luncheon on January 16<sup>th</sup> with an award and a \$5000 grant to support furthering the leadership opportunities for the ZBLA graduates.
- Shantal Taylor worked hard with the team at Zion Central Middle School to host an annual Dreamer's Breakfast. Youth were awarded for writing essays on "What Does Justice Mean to Me?" I asked Imani Bah to attend tonight to share her essay, which won her a new IPAD.
- A follow-up meeting was held in regards to the support that is given for families in need at Christmas, facilitated by Julie Wendorf, with the school social workers, Zion Police Department, Love INC and Pastor Doug Carlson. We are looking forward to the improvements for next year's program.
- Senior Resource Day has been set for Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 12:30pm.
- Consumer Credit Counseling Services will be moving their office to the Zion Benton Public Library as of Thursday, March 14, 2013. Appointments can be made by calling 815-338-5757.
- We are forming a Latino Task Force made up of the key stakeholders from the schools, library, police department and township to look specifically at how we can work more strategically to support/aid in the assimilation process of the Latino community, welcoming differences and embracing both cultures. The meeting is set for Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm at Zion Township.
- Lake County's Summer Work Program sign up has started and runs thru the month of February. I have flyers for anyone interested. Zion Township applications will be available the month of April.
- The ZB Run Squad has set the dates for the six 5k runs this year. They include: Mama's Run on May 11<sup>th</sup>, Library Run on June 15<sup>th</sup>, Bee Linked Run on July 20<sup>th</sup>, Jubilee Days Run on August 31<sup>st</sup>, the Full Moon Run on October 18<sup>th</sup> and the Reindeer Run on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- On February 8<sup>th</sup>, Zion Township was instrumental in holding a county-wide Township General Assistance Training – it was very helpful collaborating with 15 of the 18 townships in Lake County.
- RESPOND has officially transitioned to be a part of the Alliance for Human Services of Lake County. RESPOND was started in our community to build relationships among the front line workers of social service agencies. We are really proud that we were able to find a way to make the monthly networking event sustainable.

- The Zion Fire Department held their Trivia Fundraiser on Saturday night, with funds supporting NADS for Down Syndrome and the MDA. Zion Township, with the help of ZBPL Director Nann Hilyard and her husband Stephens, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place!
- Lastly, I wanted to bring you all a treat that I was blessed to be involved in last Thursday night. Across the world, One Billion Rising took place, where communities Rose up to violence against women. An anthem was written and choreographed for the event and Zion Police Officer Jenna Medaro took it to Zion Central Middle School to see if there were youth interested in participating. Principal Joe Kent and staff worked to select girls to be a part of this project. They practiced after school and on Saturday. On Valentine's Day, at Lake County's One Billion Rising event, they went on stage at the Round Lake Beach Civic Center and rocked the house. They got a standing ovation and then helped to get the 200 attendees on their feet learning a variation of the dance, along with a Bataille Dance Studio from Barrington, IL. I wanted to honor them tonight, as well as have them do the dance for you.
- I want to also give a shout out to the ZB Girls Basketball team for their hard work and amazing representation of our community. They won regionals, but lost last night by 1 point in the final seconds.
- Dates:
  - Carmel House visit on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 8am
  - Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Zion Student Advisory Council will meet again on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - ZBPL will be holding Candidate Forums for those running for office in Zion on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.