

Zion Township Updates 1/15/2013

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

1. 80 families were adopted by Santa for the Very Poor this year, of which Rick Delisle has been our liason for at least 7 years. Families who were recommended by school social workers visited Zion Township to pick up those gifts, along with a Christmas decoration for each family made by the Lake County Baptist School students and Christmas cards made by Trinity Community Church in Libertyville in partnership with Brite Start in Mundelein.
  - a. Julie Wendorf, who is retired from Zion Elementary District 6 was the chief elf, with help from her husband Tom. She also had help from Karen Lovett and Wanda Miller who are also retired from District 6, Robin Sherwood who is retired from ZBTHS, Danny Elrod, Don “Smitty” Smith and Jimmy Smith as well as Nacarri Murphy, the daughter of Angel Jackson, and the staff at Zion Township, of course.
  - b. Others who contributed included Love INC providing their Clothing Closet to all recipients at Grace Missionary Church, Kiwanis who provided gifts for 12 families with kids under the age of 10, Crystal Hall and Shirley Upchurch, who always step up to fill gaps, Bernies Books, the Zion Education Association, Jane Rabin from Lakeview School, and Lettuce Entertain You Restaurant, LL Woods.
  - c. I want to especially thank the Santa for the Very Poor organization, including Christian Erzinger, Dave Knop, David Delach and Rick Delisle for all they do to bring joy to families at Christmas in Zion. (Rick to share the history of event, give him the Thank you cards from families and read a couple of them, as well as give him copies of the ZB News and Orchid for Donna. Also give Orchid to Julie).
2. I would also like to introduce Angel Jackson. Thru a partnership with the CHC, CTCA, Zion Elem, Zion Township and Nicasa, Angel will be working full time in the community as a Community Prevention Specialist.
3. Monthly Report Attached.
4. Our staff retreat on January 10<sup>th</sup> laid the foundation for moving forward at Zion Township. New job descriptions were written and staff committed to their new roles that are better in line with the needs of our community. Eunice, Resource Specialist and Adriana, Workforce Development Specialist.
5. Gail and I took a tour of The Grove at the Lake, formerly Sheridan Health and Rehab. I was speechless. The facility is absolutely gorgeous. I highly recommend visiting for a tour.
6. The Zion Elementary School District Student Council Coalition met on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Sonolito Bronson from the City is working with them on holding an event this summer. They support recycling efforts in the community and the students are also working with ZBTHS students on creating videos to stand up to bullying.
7. Township Staff visited The Josselyn Center to meet their staff that provide mental health services for free to those who have no insurance and cant afford services. They are open on Mondays from 8am-4pm.
8. Community Conversations, sponsored by the Coalition for Healthy Communities will be held at the Zion-Benton Public Library on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6-7pm.
9. Frank Flammini and I will be meeting with Michael Jackson from Lake County’s Emergency Management to discuss our Emergency Plan on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
10. I will be in Springfield for training on levies and budgets on Friday.