

Township Updates 1/21/14

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

- Monthly Report Attached.
- February Senior Building visits: Carmel House: Wednesday, February 5th at 8am and Zion Senior Cottages: Tuesday, February 4th at noon.
- Touring Safe Place on Wednesday, January 22nd at 10am.
- PBIS Youth Leadership Team community video is done and will be shared in the classrooms and the next Coalition for Healthy Communities meeting.
- ZB Run Squad is gearing up and holding its next meeting on Thursday, February 7th at 4pm.
- Mortgage Foreclosure Presentation for township officials and staff will be on Thursday, February 13th from 3-4:30pm.
- It takes a huge collaboration to pull off blessing 101 families in Zion at Christmas. Yes, 101 families' gifts were picked up at the township. It is an amazing system, of which we are primarily the dot connectors. Listen to how this incredible program is pulled off: The social workers from our school districts identify families that are struggling and fill out a form that includes grading the parent on how attentive they are to their children's needs such as "Did the child begin school on the first day of school? Have regular attendance and no tardies? Have all required immunizations, physical, dental and vision exams? Did the guardian attend all parent conferences, volunteer in the school, attend school programs and or parenting classes?" It is an opportunity for them to remind the parents of what matters in regards to the child being successful in school.
 - The forms get faxed to Zion Township where we put it in a database. SVP adopted 80 families. We create big labels and I bring them down to St Mary of the Angels Church on the 2nd Saturday in December at 6:30am, where 80 bags are stuffed with gifts specific to the age and gender of the kids and parents. Rick Delisle drove thru the snow to deliver the gifts to the township. The Zion-Benton Leadership Academy planning committee members helped to unload the truck. The following Tuesday morning, Christian Erzinger and Dave Knop delivered two bags of groceries for each family, as well as a \$50 gift card. General Assistance clients and township staff helped to unload.
 - Anonymous donors contributed additional gifts for families, as well as Zion Energy Solutions employees coming to the rescue to serve an additional 21 families. Zion Benton Kiwanis members collected gifts for the younger children and those were added to the baskets. Bernies Books delivered books for each of the children also.
 - To sort gifts and get ready for the delivery day, Julie and Tom Wendorf, along with Nancy Inskip worked with Township Staff. Delivery day, the families were blessed to have Julie and Tom's assistance, as well as that of Robin Sherwood, Karen Lovett, Jimmie Smith, and Murvin Elrod.
 - All that is huge, as it is. But along with those efforts, Love INC churches worked to hold a clothing closet to provide families with additional clothing items.
 - Pastor Mike McDowell worked with many others at Christ Community Church to provide a wonderful elaborate dinner for the recipients.
 - Additionally, Consumer Credit Counseling offered free sessions to assist families, Zion Township offered resource appointments and CREW offered a parenting class.
 - We have the most incredible people in this community who step up to help. Without them, none of this would happen.
Needless to say, collectively, WE truly rock for our community.

Thanks to everyone listed in making Christmas better for so many families.