

Zion Township Updates 11/17/15

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

Zion Township is a people-centered local government agency that coordinates area resources and offers a variety of assistance programs to give our residents options to address their critical situations.

- Monthly report attached.
- Senator Melinda Bush has passed legislation to form a county-wide committee to investigate opportunities to consolidate government agencies as well as find ways to be more efficient and effective. There are 3 township representatives on the committee. They will be finalizing the members and meeting in January, 2016.
- The Charmm'd Foundation has awarded Zion Township a grant to pay 50% of the costs for Cheri Neal and Gail Gloudemans to attend training on The Empowerment Dynamic, a program that has proven significant success with township clients. The training will take place the first week of December.
- The 4th Class of the Zion-Benton Leadership Academy Graduation was held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at The Inn at Market Square. The ZB community has 11 more dynamic leaders to contribute to the community, thanks to the Coalition for Healthy Communities program. This makes 45 graduates in 4 years.
- ZB Community of Character is looking for nominations for people who are caught living out the character traits of respect, perseverance, responsibility, safety, integrity and kindness. Send nominations to zbcharacterclub@gmail.com.
- Elf Network is in full swing, providing assistance to families in need at Christmas. The collaboration includes Zion Township, who provides an appointment with each family to assist with a variety of needs, Santa for the Very Poor who provides gifts and groceries, Christ Community Church who helps to package and distribute the gifts as well as provide a dinner for the families and Love INC who provides a clothing distribution event working with Lake County churches and hosting at Grace Missionary Church. Zion area schools provide the referral to the program. We will be serving 50 families this year.
- 75 LIHEAP applications have been processed this month.
- Mano a Mano is moving to Pearce Campus to assist residents with immigration issues as well as providing solutions for gaps in services. More to come!
- Special thanks to Chris Syzmanski and GoFlo.com for the creation of the ZB Guide monthly magazine. There is a community calendar listing key dates. If you have an event taking place within the Zion, Winthrop Harbor and Beach Park communities that you would like to have included, contact him at Chris@goflo.com.
- The Coalition for Healthy Communities Corporate Community Spelling Bee was a HUGE success. Congratulations to First Midwest Bank for winning, as well as the Zion-Benton Public Library who won the Best Cheerleading Section.
- Top Box will be at the Shiloh Center on Wednesday, November 18th from 12:30-2:30pm. A Thanksgiving Box is for sale for \$26.
- Zion Township was honored at the Township Officials of Illinois Conference for the Summer Work Program as the Best Township Program in townships with 15,000 – 25,000 population, as well as the best Communications with the creation of our brochure and marketing wheel for events. Gail Gloudemans was also honored by the Association of Illinois Township Committees of Youth with the Staff Award for her dedication to the Summer Work Program.
- Supervisor Neal will be joining the Youth Leadership Team, students from each of the student councils in Zion District 6 as well as New Tech High, will be going to Feed My Starving Children on December 9th for a community service project.
- Zion Township will be closed November 26th and 27th for Thanksgiving.