

Zion Township Updates – 12/18/18

Mission: At Zion Township, we empower residents through leadership, advocating, and connection to resources, services and solutions.

Vision: We work to maximize potential to help create amazing.

UPDATES ON OFFICE OPERATIONS

- Monthly Report Attached
- 50 families are participating in the Elf Network this year. Last Saturday, a group from Christ Community Church (CCC) went to Saint Mary of the Angel's Church in Chicago to assist Santa's Volunteers pack gifts. On Tuesday, December 18th, Santa's Volunteers dropped off bags of food and Jewel gift cards for the families at CCC. A dinner will be held on Thursday, December 20th at 6pm for families provided by the staff and membership of Christ Community Church (CCC) where they will receive those gifts, which will be supplemented by Zion-Benton Kiwanis, Bernie's Books, children's clothing from New Song Church's clothing closet in partnership with Love Inc, gift cards from Walmart thanks to a generous grant from North Shore Gas and support from CCC.

Families were additionally gifted with access to substantial resources including financial management through Affordable Housing Corporation and Community Action Partnership, parenting classes at Family Resource Center, employment assistance at the Job Center of Lake County, the Affirming Potential program through Love INC, resource appointments through Nicasa and Zion Township, as well as encouragement to attend an event at their child's school or Zion-Benton Public Library.

Zion Township staff will perform a skit and Santa may be making a visit as well.
- Thanks to Christian Assembly of God for their partnership in agreeing to be a Warming/Cooling Shelter in times of need in the community.
- One of the next steps from the Dialogues on Race this summer was to go see the movie *The Hate U Give* and host a community dialogue. On Thursday, December 19th, the entire freshman class will be going to see the movie and on Thursday at 3pm, those who are interested will gather in the ZBTHS resource center for a dialogue on the movie. Trustees are invited to attend.
- ZT is now home to Community ESL classes provided by a partnership with Mundelein High School and District 6. Classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays for basic and advanced learners. For more information, call _____.
- LIHEAP applications will be processed at ZT each Tuesday from 1-3pm beginning again on Tuesday, January 15th and running through May, 2019. On average, Zion Township is able to process applications totaling \$125,000 on average each winter, assisting Zion residents access funds to help with their Com Ed and North Shore Gas bills.
- Applications are being taken for Junior Zion-Benton Leadership Academy for youth 8th – 12th grade in the ZB Community at www.ZBLA.info.

BOARD SPECIFIC ISSUES

- On December 6, 2019, Supervisor Neal, City Administrator Knabel and Fire Chief Lewis met with Pastor Ken Fielding and Connie Ecklund from Christian Assembly of God and constructed an agreement to make the church the Warming/Cooling Center in times of crisis.
- Supervisor Neal met with our new State Representative Joyce Mason, who is looking to also host office hours at Zion Township.
- The ZT team is discussing expanding the hours in the office during the months of February, March and April from 8:30am -4:30pm to Monday-Thursday from 8am til 6pm and from 9 – 2pm on Fridays. During this time, calls and walk-ins would be tracked to see if it is of benefit to residents and a decision would be made whether to keep those hours in place beginning May 1.
- ZT is investigating partnering with My Father's Business to obtain a van that can be used for the Summer Work Program.
- As the building is ten years old, during the next month, Zion Township walls will be painted by our Maintenance Supervisor, Victor Agosto.
- Zion Township closed December 24th and 25th and December 31st, January 1st and January 21st.

COMMUNITY – KEY RESOURCES

- ❖ **Abiding Love Food Pantry**
 - Each Wednesday from 10am til 1pm at Christian Assembly of God Church, 2929 Bethel Blvd, Zion (Closed 5th Wednesdays)
- ❖ **PADS**
 - For those facing homelessness obtain a calendar of where shelter is being offered at www.PADSLakeCounty.org. While being sheltered, meals and case management are also provided. Thanks to Christian Assembly of God for being a site!