

Loaves&Fishes

HOPE

Have ♥ Give Hope

Other People's

~~My~~

# WISH BOOK

2016

End of Year Appeal

Donate Now



Loaves&Fishes  
Community Services

[loaves-fishes.org](http://loaves-fishes.org)

Dear Friend,

Every day I see the concern on our clients' faces. They worry about housing and their mortgage, medical bills and insurance. Parents worry about their children. Will they be able to go to college? They struggle telling their kids they can't afford dance lessons or soccer, like their friends. They may work 2 jobs to try to make ends meet.

Food insecurity is a public health concern having educational, medical and economic impact. Our entire community is impacted when we have families struggling financially and we all benefit when people are helped.

But we miss the point if we stop there. **When we make sure that a parent never has to see their child hungry, we become part of the solution.** We share the responsibility for the happiness of that child and that family. We make their life better and they make ours better because we know we made a difference.

As the new CEO of Loaves & Fishes, I am proud of the great work we are doing. Our merger with Naperville CARES in July is enabling us to help even more struggling families through emergency financial assistance and a car program. **But so many more families need our help.**

In this Wish Book you will find the many ways we assist our clients and work to improve their lives. **But the truth is, we cannot continue to provide all these services without your help.** Join us as we continue this work and make our food and programs available to more families throughout DuPage County—to make more lives better.

**May you give as generously as you can** and may the knowledge of the difference you are making bring you joy this holiday season.

Sincerely,



Mike Havala  
President/CEO  
Loaves & Fishes Community Services



## YOU can grant these wishes and make them a reality!

1. I wish for enough food for my family to eat.
2. I wish for healthy food that is good for me and my family.
3. I wish for my children to have a better life.
4. I wish that my grandma had enough to eat.
5. I wish I had help paying my rent.
6. I wish I had help with my utilities.
7. I wish I had a car to drive to work.
8. I wish I had a job that could support me and my family.
9. I wish I knew who to ask for help. I lost my job and have no income. I have 3 young children. Where can I go for help?
10. I wish I had help to totally change my life.

1. I wish for enough food for my family to eat.

When a family is food insecure, parents will often skip meals to provide food for their children. The added economic stress affects both parents and children, impacting their health, job and school performance.

**Loaves & Fishes is protecting the health of low-income families.**

Last year Loaves & Fishes provided 4,754 families with nutritious foods. We serve 600 families each week.

“There is no worse feeling than seeing your child go hungry.” Ken

★ Your donation helps support our Food & Nutrition program and ensures families have access to healthy food during times of economic difficulty.

Thank you for the food



2. I wish for healthy food that is good for me and my family.

Food insecurity, or not having access to enough healthy food, can lead to malnutrition and other health concerns, such as obesity and diabetes.

**By reducing food insecurity and providing reliable access to healthy foods, Loaves & Fishes is improving lives & helping reduce long-term medical costs to our community.**

Through our Food Recovery Program and partnerships with 21 area retailers, Loaves & Fishes provides our clients with an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain breads and dairy. 92% of surveyed clients said they feel more confident they can provide a healthy diet for their family.

“Coming to Loaves & Fishes I know we will get the nutritious fruits and vegetables my daughter needs. We are grateful knowing she is getting the balanced diet she wouldn’t otherwise get.” Dave

★ Your donation helps support our Food Recovery Program and improves the health of all in our community.



3. I wish for my children to have a better life.

The first 3 years of life are critical for brain development and poor nutrition can impact a child the rest of their life. Children who fail to succeed in school often drop-out and never get the education needed for a well-paying job.

**Loaves & Fishes is dedicated to ending childhood hunger/food insecurity and its life-long consequences.**

Last year, Loaves & Fishes provided 46,199 child nutrition packs containing milk, eggs and fresh fruit to families with children. In addition, we are working with early childhood collaboratives to identify at risk families to provide them with the nutrition they need.

"I have 3 children & how your child eats from their childhood will follow them to adulthood. Because of Loaves & Fishes my children are on the right track. Thank you!" Jackie

★ Your donation is ending child hunger and helping ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their potential.



4. I wish I knew that my grandma had enough to eat.

Seniors are one of our most vulnerable populations. Government budgetary cuts have reduced funds for many senior nutrition programs.

**Loaves & Fishes is committed to protecting our vulnerable senior population from a lack of nutrition.**

Last year, we made 1,225 deliveries to homebound and disabled seniors and piloted an off-site farmer's market in a senior living complex. We are currently working with community senior groups and faith communities to discover new ways of serving this special population.

★ Your donation helps support our programs insuring seniors have access to the nutrition they need.

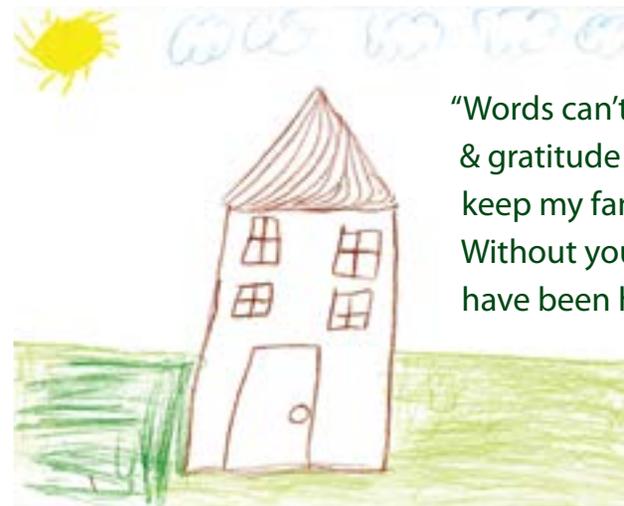
5. I wish I had help paying my rent.

If a family doesn't have support, an unplanned expense like a car repair or medical bill can throw them into a financial crisis, which may put them at risk of foreclosure or eviction.

**Loaves & Fishes CARES Programs provide emergency financial assistance helping to prevent homelessness.**

By providing one-time financial assistance, our CARES program is able to help prevent the downward spiral that can lead to homelessness. Last year 471 families received financial assistance.

★ Your donation will help keep a family in their home.



"Words can't express the relief & gratitude I felt being able to keep my family in our home. Without your help we would have been homeless." Shawna

6. I wish I had help with my utilities.

Many families facing economic hardship can't pay their utility bill and their service is turned off. They may not know where to turn for help.

**Loaves & Fishes CARES Programs provide emergency financial help to maintain or restore utility service and LIHEAP application assistance.**

Last year, 100% of clients receiving utility assistance still had service 3 months later. In addition, 150 clients received assistance in completing LIHEAP applications. (Low Income Energy Assistance Program)

★ Your donation will help keep a family warm this winter.

7. I wish I had a car to drive to work..

Not having reliable transportation is a huge barrier to maintaining employment. Often vehicles owned by low-income families are old and repairs cost prohibitive.

**Loaves & Fishes CARES Car Program provides cars and helps client's maintain their jobs.**

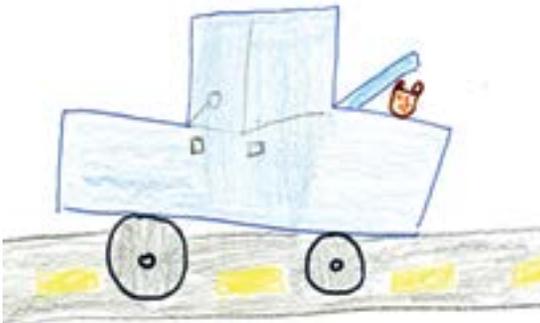
Loaves & Fishes receives donated cars and repairs them, if needed, to give to clients. Through the generosity of community donors, last year Loaves & Fishes CARES programs was able to provide 45 cars for clients.

★ Your donation will help keep an individual employed and in their home.

"Getting a car from CARES changed my life. It removed so many barriers and helped me get back on track. The assistance I received at that critical time in my life saved me.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you." Angela

Know someone with a car to donate?  
Our waiting list far exceeds available cars.  
Contact Loaves & Fishes at 630-355-3663.



8. I wish I had a job that could support me and my family.

Many families that come to Loaves & Fishes have one or more members of their family working, but the jobs are low-paying and not sufficient for the high cost of living in DuPage County. For many of our clients, English is not their primary language which can be a barrier to employment. They may not have access to a computer or have the skills needed for many of today's jobs.

**Loaves & Fishes offers job search assistance and job skills classes in partnership with community organizations to help individuals find employment.**

Loaves & Fishes' job search assistance program offered in partnership with Community Career Center assisted 148 clients last year. English Language Assistance classes offered through College of DuPage and computer classes offered through People's Resource Center helped provide job skills for better paying jobs.

★ Your donation will help someone find a job.

"I had a fantastic experience working with your job coach. Not only was he knowledgeable and a great teacher, he was considerate and caring. He helped me prepare a great resume and gave me tips for interviewing to improve my confidence." Gabe



9. I wish I knew who to ask for help. I lost my job and have no income. I have 3 young children. Where can I go for help?

When a family has an unexpected financial crisis they may have no idea where to turn for help or know the resources that are available to assist them.

**Loaves & Fishes volunteers help connect clients to the services they need.**

Through interviews, trained Loaves & Fishes volunteers can assist with Benefit Assistance applications, such as SNAP, LIHEAP and Medicaid. Community partners, provide emotional support, legal assistance, and other services.

**★ Your donation will help someone find the help they need.**



10. I want to totally change my life but I need advice.

Overcoming economic challenges is complex and many low-income persons may not have had access to the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively navigate our economic system.

**Loaves & Fishes offers programs designed to assist clients in obtaining the skills they need to become self-sufficient.**

Loaves & Fishes will offer "Moving Up", a Bridges Out of Poverty program, beginning in January 2017. This 16-week program offers clients an opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge to help them make the choices they need to achieve the life they want.

"I've always had the inspiration to do better, but life is hard. I am so thankful for this program. It taught me how to follow my dreams." Cory

**★ Your donation will help someone change their life and reach their dreams.**

More ways to grant other people's wishes:

**Make gift giving easy! Honor your friends and family with a holiday gift to Loaves & Fishes!**

*Suggested minimum donation \$25 per acknowledgment.*

*You make a donation and we'll send notification of this gift (no dollar amount will be shared).*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete this form and mail with your payment to: Loaves & Fishes Community Services, 1871 High Grove Lane, Naperville, IL 60540**

**Double or Triple your gift!**

Many employers match the gifts of their employees. Ask for a matching gift form from your human resources department. The form can be sent with your gift or later.

My gift will be matched by my employer: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed the form     I will send the form

Donate online at

**www.loaves-fishes.org**



**Donate Now**

**Come visit. We'd love to give you a tour!**

Email Eric at egardner@loaves-fishes.org or call 630-355-3663 x116.



**Thank you for granting other's wishes this holiday season!**

**YES, I want to make other's wishes a reality:**

**The wishes that touch my heart the most are: (circle all) 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.**

\$1000     \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     \$25     \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to Loaves & Fishes Community Services*

Please charge my:     VISA     MASTERCARD     DISCOVER     AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**This gift is made:**  in memory  in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send notification of this gift to: (no dollar amount will be shared)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive your monthly email newsletters.

**Convenient Way to Give:** Help fight hunger and transform lives year-round by joining the **SHARE** (*Solving Hunger and Reaching Empowerment*) monthly giving club:

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ automatically each month by the above credit card.

*For more information about estate planning or any other giving options, please call Eric Gardner 630-355-3663 x 116.*

**Thank you for your gift!**

*As a registered 501(c)(3) charity, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*



1871 High Grove Lane • Naperville, Illinois 60540



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