

A Place of Provision

January 2018

Hello to All Our Treasured Partners, Sponsors and Volunteers,

2017 was an amazing year! Giving to the Nations, Inc. was given the task to open a food pantry/community outreach center in a food desert region of Racine which we called "A Place of Provision." Off we went into our Racine community reaching out to businesses, other non-profits, and volunteers to help make this task a reality.

Our first partners were Skogen's Festival Foods, UW-Extension Racine/Kenosha Food Wise Program, BrightView Landscaping Services, and the Volunteer Center of Racine County, who all saw our task as we saw our task, as an opportunity to make a difference in our community.

Skogen's Festival Foods partnered with us to support our food pantry through food and hygiene donations. The UW-Extension Racine/Kenosha Food Wise Program partnered with us to provide nutrition classes. BrightView Landscaping Services partnered with us to keep our site beautiful year-round. The Volunteer Center of Racine County partnered with us to help us find volunteers. All of this happened before we even had a location! Their belief in our project has helped catapult us forward.

Additionally, Save-A-Lot Food Stores provided gift cards; Breadsmith, Greenfield, WI, partnered with us and added us to its end of day donation schedule; and 4imprint, Oshkosh, WI, provided Little Thunder Totes for our clients' groceries.



We secured a location, and are grateful to the Racine City Council, City Development Department and City Inspector for their encouragement and support of our vision at this location. A former A&W Restaurant located at 1701 12th Street, Racine, this location has been a blessing in disguise. A building which looked like a somewhat daunting task to repair and restore has become a joy. As needs arose in preparing our location for our food pantry/community outreach clients, our partners, sponsors and volunteers have joined together and graced us with their fond memories of burgers and shakes while continually meeting our needs.

Some of our completed and in process projects include:



- Project 1: Let our new neighbors know we are here and why;
 - Econoprint, Racine, WI, sponsored the signage.
- Project 2: Keep unknown vehicles off the site so we could start our repair/restoration project;
 - SmartSign, Brooklyn, NY, sponsored the no parking signs.



- Project 3: Clean the inside of the building which had been, for all intents and purposes, unused since 2004;
 - Blain's Farm and Fleet, Sturtevant, WI, sponsored cleaning detergents, gloves, brushes and dish pans; and
 - An individual sponsored cleaning detergents.
- Project 4: Paint the old drive-in awing;
 - Sherwin-Williams Paint Store, Racine, WI, partnered with us and supplied all the necessary paint;
 - The use of a pressure washer was donated by an individual; and
 - The awning is now ready for painting – now about our weather . . .
- Project 5: Roof leaking – in many places;
 - Carlson Racine Roofing partnered with us to repair the roof – no more leaks!!!
- Project 6: Parking lot removal – did you see our parking lot?
 - Great Lakes Community Conservation Corp helped us out and used our parking lot as their field training site for their heavy equipment class; and

- A skidsteer donated by a local equipment rental company which our volunteers used to complete the asphalt removal project.



- Project 7: Remove all the broken windows under the drive-in awning section of the building, and frame in and put up plywood, siding and insulation;
 - Bliffert Lumber and Hardware, Sturtevant, WI, sponsored this project, and all of our needs were fulfilled by them.
- For all of our projects we need to be able to reach those hard-to-reach places;
 - Kortendick Ace Hardware donated a 6' ladder.

These are just a few of our overwhelmingly generous partners and sponsors that we have been able to acknowledge. We are currently waiting on permission from many others that have given of their goods and services so we can share them with you.

We also have had many generous sponsors, both companies and individuals, who have supported our food pantry/community outreach project through their generous monetary giving: Lamers Bus Lines, Inc., Green Bay, WI; Roman Electric Company, Inc., Racine, WI; and Kiwanis Club of Greater Racine, WI, just to name a few.

And Volunteers! Have I mentioned how wonderful our volunteers are?

Without our volunteers, none of the projects above (which are just a few of our projects) would be in process or accomplished. They have scrubbed, pressure washed, taken out walls and ceilings, put up walls and ceilings, fixed leaks in the plumbing and on the roof, and removed sections of the drive in-awning - and that's not all! Our website was created and is maintained by a volunteer. The food and hygiene products list that our food pantry will carry has been created by a volunteer, who is also putting together a nutrition program for us. Our client check-in system is being created by a team of volunteers. We even have volunteers waiting in the wings. Our volunteers get stuff done.

It's important to mention that our volunteers could not have found us without our awesome partner The Volunteer Center of Racine and all of their staff who continually make our project and need for volunteers known throughout the Racine community.

We have accomplished so much because of all of your generous support through materials, services, labor and time. We still have a lot to do, but know as needs arise, we are in the best community we can be in to help meet that need and continue to move our food pantry/community outreach project forward to truly be A PLACE OF PROVISION for this community.

2017 has been filled with so many blessings. I'm excited to see what 2018 will bring with it!

Thank you to our existing partners, sponsors and volunteers; we would not be where we are today without you. We are looking forward to the new partners, sponsors and volunteers that we will have the privilege to meet and work with in 2018.

With Great Appreciation,
Pastor Lynn



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