

Dear Editor,

All of us at COOL Ministries are once again so thankful this year for the generosity and support of your readers who give to the Help Them To Hope campaign as well as for the volunteers who work to make this annual giving event successful. COOL and those we serve have benefited from the Help Them To Hope campaign for many years and we're in need of the support that the it gives this year more than ever before. The grant from Help Them To Hope assisted COOL in feeding over 17,000 people in the last three months alone. We here at COOL have never seen so many new faces come through the door, telling us that the need for food is great. COOL Food Pantry distributed more than 700,300 meals to hungry families throughout Lake County in 2022. Our food pantry not only helps Lake County families to meet their nutritional needs, but we also provide toiletry boxes for Veterans as well. These boxes filled with toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste and other hygiene products help our veterans to stretch their budgets and meet their basic needs. Recently I had the pleasure of having a conversation with one of our veterans at the pantry, he expressed to me how grateful he was for the toiletry box, but he said he is even more grateful for the smiling faces he is greeted by at the pantry. The once-a-month trip filled with conversations between himself, and the other patrons and employees is one he always looks forward to. COOL is so very thankful to Help Them to Hope and all their partners, without the help of organizations like yours it would not be possible for COOL to continue feeding the hungry and housing the homeless of Lake County and we hope that your contributors will continue to support the HelpThem To Hope campaign for many years to come.

Gratefully,

Mindy Lindholm

Executive Director, COOL Ministries