



## Summer 2019 Newsletter

### Northeast Community Fund Board Members

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John Hubert, Vice President  
Frank Whitehead, Treasurer  
Susan Avery, Secretary

#### Directors:

Jerome C. Pelz  
Joyce Keller  
Michael Baggett  
Jim Schroeder

### Staff

Ed Bacon, Executive Director  
Anne Bradley, Assistant Director  
Jim German, Micro-Finance  
Diane Maddox, Clothing & Household Items  
Karol Schaefer, Food Pantry & Financial Asst.  
Amy Schneider, Family Investment Program



## In 2018 we...

- provided **food boxes to 17,769 families**, with a total of 32,905 members served. Thanksgiving baskets: 391, Christmas: 411, Easter: 89
- transitioned multiple families **off public assistance**
- provided **\$77,133 in monetary assistance** to help families with water bills, housing, ID cards, and more

Have you seen our  
new truck around town?



Through a Walmart Foundation Grant of \$51,000, we purchased a brand new refrigerated box truck.

## We provided options for individuals who fell victim to predatory lending.

In 2018 \$13,994 was lent out to help community members pay off "Payday" and Title loans. Our micro-loan program assists individuals who have a payday or car title loan and are paying close to 400% interest on their loan. If an applicant's request is accepted, we pay off their loan and they pay us back at no interest.

WE INTENSIVELY  
**PARTNER  
WITH  
FAMILIES**  
TO HELP THEM  
TRANSITION OFF  
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

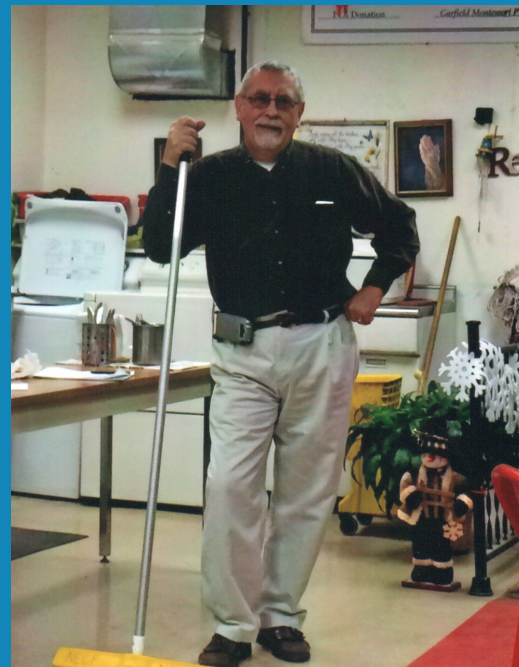
Family Investment Program graduate Taevia Cooper-Currie with son, Anthony.  
Photo courtesy of Clay Jackson, The Herald and Review

In February 2019, we graduated eight more families from Northeast Community Fund's Family Investment Program. Since 2014 this program has intensively partnered with families to transition them off public assistance.

From a single mother with three children who was thinking about continuing her education but didn't know how she could afford it to a young couple who wanted a better life for their new baby to a 40 year old grandmother who has lived her entire life on public assistance, our graduates are people who wanted a bigger, better lives for themselves and their children. They just didn't know where to start.

*"The want something better for themselves and their families." - Amy Schneider, program coordinator*

We are so proud of our Family Investment Program graduates, as, this is just the beginning of their journey. They are no longer dependent on financial assistance for food, housing and healthcare. They have new career and educational opportunities. And, most importantly, they have created a better life and future for their children.



BUILDING UPDATE



April 12



April 29



May 6



May 31

# A final note from former Executive Director, Jerry Pelz

An old rundown house at 1119 E Condit served both as my first home and the first office for NECF. It wasn't much to look at, but as a "poverty worker" fresh out of college, it was just fine. I had a place to live, a \$150 per month salary, and passion to change the world.

I soon learned that I was probably not going to change the world, but I could make a positive difference in the lives of people I came in contact with. So, that's what I did, for 50 years in my work at Northeast. I quickly discovered that to make significant impact on people in need, I needed to meet them where they are at.

In the late 60s and early 70s agencies like DMCOC, NECF, Dove and CHIC were founded with humble beginnings by community partners. Through strong leadership, community support, and a little bit of faith, these agencies have grown to be part of the backbone of our community.

At NECF, faith means more than just a religious affiliation. We operated for 50 years under the premise that, if we remain true to the mission and ministry that we have been called to do, the agency will be blessed. And, we have been.

***"Anyone can distribute food, but it is how and why you do it that makes a difference."***

A half of a century is a long time. When I first started at Northeast Community Fund in June of 1969 - an eager college grad - I never would have believed I would be at the same agency for 50 years or that a new 2 million dollar building would be constructed to meet the growing needs of the agency.

**Opening  
Fall 2019!**

*Jerome C. Pelz*

**July 4**



**We are grateful**  
to our community!

Thanks to generous contributions from many individuals, local businesses and foundations, we will be opening this fall!

Our new 17,000 sq. ft. building will be a HUGE blessing to our clients and community. The building will enable us to assist many more families. We are currently busting at the seams as we meet with people, store and distribute food, and hand out free clothing.

*"The larger building will provide more privacy for interviews, conversations and praying time with our clients. Right now, my office is also a storage area."*

-Jim German,  
NECF Micro-loan Program Director



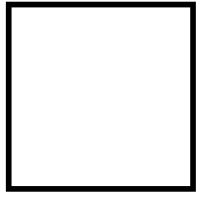
**DRIVE BY AND WATCH  
THE PROGRESS FOR  
YOURSELF AT 839 N.  
MLK JR. DR!**

In order to make the new building operational, we have set a goal of raising \$100,000 for interior and furnishings.





825 N. Water Street, Decatur, Illinois 62523  
NECommunityFund.org



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 1. Updates & photos of our new building
- 2. A final note from Jerry Pelz
- 3. Micro-loan Program info
- 4. Family Investment Program highlights

"Anyone can distribute food, but it is how and why you do it  
that makes a difference."  
- Jerry Pelz

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
OF SERVICE**  
Sunday, October 6, 2019, 2 pm - 5pm  
839 N. Martin Luther King Jr Dr.  
Decatur, IL 62521

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**OPEN HOUSE**



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?



- 1. Volunteer
- 2. Come inside
- 3. Donate food
- 4. Make a financial donation
- 5. Donate clothes
- 6. Donate household items
- 7. Sponsor a food drive

