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# Heifer International Opens Area Office at the York Center Church of the Brethren



By Christy Waltersdorff Tuesday at 12:15 p.m.



## Heifer International Opens Area Office at York Center Church

Heifer International, a nonprofit organization with world-wide programs to help end poverty and at the same time care for the Earth, has established a Chicago area office at the York Center Church of the Brethren.

Heifer International, with headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas, helps people in the United States and more than 50 countries through training, through “living loans” of livestock, and through Heifer’s signature “Passing on the Gift,” in which recipients share offspring of their animals and knowledge with others.

Since 1944, the total number of families assisted directly and indirectly through Heifer programs is 13.6 million — more than 70.5 million men, women and children. In 2009 alone, a total of 1.63 million families were assisted within the global areas in which Heifer operates.

Why is Heifer so effective? The byproducts of farm animals—milk, eggs, wool, meat—can improve nutrition directly when recipients consume them, or raise incomes when sold locally, improving housing and access to health care and education. Animal manure becomes organic compost to increase crop yields for better nutrition and income.

Heifer trains project participants in environmentally sound agricultural methods because building long-term self-reliance depends not only on increasing farm production, but also on improving the environment. Project participants plant fruit- and nitrogen-fixing trees, use worm beds and composting to improve the soil, cultivate bees for pollination and honey, build efficient stoves to reduce firewood use, and many other techniques to maximize farm output. Everything works together to improve agricultural production while conserving and improving the environment.

The purpose of the York Center Heifer office located at 1S071 Luther Avenue, is to provide assistance to local churches, community groups, libraries, and other organizations in their activities to raise funds and awareness for the Heifer projects. The office, operated by local volunteers, has available a range of brochures, DVDs, posters, and other materials describing the Heifer programs

Information about the activities of the local Heifer International volunteers, including opportunities for volunteering with Heifer in the Chicago area, is available at [heiferchicago.org](http://heiferchicago.org). General information about Heifer International is at [heifer.org](http://heifer.org). Questions or comments can be sent to [chicagoheifer@gmail.com](mailto:chicagoheifer@gmail.com).