

CROS MINISTRIES

CROS Currents

Spring | 2018

CROS Ministries serves the hungry in Palm Beach and Martin Counties through community collaborations.



Dear Friends,

CROS Ministries turns 40 this year! I am grateful that in 1978, a group of United Methodist Churches came together with the sole purpose of meeting the community's unmet needs. These congregations realized that together they could make a bigger difference, and *Christians Reaching Out to Society,*

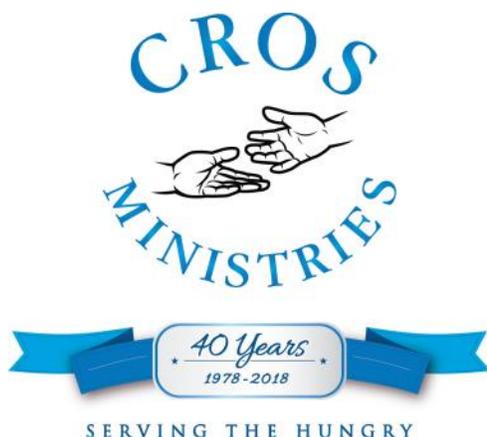
Inc. was born. Overtime, CROS Ministries became both ecumenical and interfaith, collaborating and working together with individuals and groups from different faith communities.

Although there have been numerous changes during the last forty years, the goal remains the same - to offer hope to those who are hurting. Whether it is a hot meal through the Caring Kitchen, a bag of food at the pantry, a safe environment for a child at camp, snacks to children in after school programs, weekend bags of food to chronically hungry children, or gleaning nutritious fruits and vegetables, CROS' service to individuals and families is constant throughout the year.

Together we have made, and will continue making a difference in the years to come!

With Gratitude,

Ruth Mageria
Executive Director



CROS' IMPACT in 2017

Programs to Eliminate Hunger



- Seven Community Food Pantries distributed food to 66,570 individuals, 35% of whom were children.
- The Caring Kitchen served 68,841 meals.
- Cason UMC distributed 15,360 brown bag weekend lunches.
- CROS Gleaning recovered 497,142 pounds of fresh produce which was distributed to local food programs by the Palm Beach County Food Bank (2016-2017 gleaning season).

Programs to Support Children and Families



- 219 children participated in our summer camp program focused on school readiness.
- 40 children participated in a two-week Christmas camp program.
- Nutrition in a Knapsack provided weekend bags of food to 295 students (2016-2017 school year).
- CROS After School Snack program provided 11,980 afterschool snacks in Delray Beach.

Programs Encouraging Self-Sufficiency

- The Caring Kitchen provided 12,799 referrals and services for basic needs.
- CROS volunteers helped 40 people apply online for government benefits including SNAP (food stamps), Medicaid, and temporary cash assistance.

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CROS Food Pantries



CROS Ministries' seven food pantries, located in Delray Beach, Lake Worth, West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Belle Glade, Jupiter, and Indiantown, serve the hungry in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Our clients come from various backgrounds, ages, races, genders, and situations. We provide them with emergency food that will last a family of four a minimum of four days or 12 meals. This gives

them time to partner with other resources and apply for needed benefits like SNAP (Food Stamps). Each bag of food contains shelf-stable dry goods. Some of our pantries are able to offer fresh foods as well.

This year, we plan to convert some of our current pantries to choice pantries, which will allow clients to choose which particular products they would like. We feel this change will empower the clients by giving them the ability to choose the foods they bring home, allowing for dietary choices and cultural backgrounds.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our pantries, and we could not serve the clients without them. Each pantry has a crew of dedicated men



and women that give a few hours each week to make sure that bags are packed, shelves are stocked, and food is distributed. These volunteers get to be the face of giving to our clients, who are often going through a point of economic crisis. Volunteers' smiles and kindness go a long way during difficult times. - Brian Rowe, Director of Food Pantries



Please remember CROS Ministries in your Will and Estate Planning

Did you know that April is National Volunteer Month?

THANK YOU to all of our Volunteers!

We could not serve the hungry in Palm Beach and Martin Counties without you!

Thank you!

Food Pantries

Steven and his wife, Jennifer, relocated to Florida two years ago for a new employment opportunity. Unfortunately, Steven was downsized from his job shortly after Jennifer was diagnosed with cancer. Healthcare bills have eaten up a lot of their savings. They needed CROS' help while they waited for their food stamp application to be approved. They are grateful that we were open and available to them during their time in need.

The Caring Kitchen

Dwayne did not know about CROS Ministries' homebound meal program until his aunt told him about it. His aunt volunteers through her congregation at one of the Caring Kitchen meal sites. Dwayne is on a fixed income and receives dialysis three times a week. It is often a challenge for him to eat nutritious food. Thanks to CROS' homebound meal program and his aunt's referral, Dwayne can have meals delivered three times a week while he is on dialysis. This gives him the comfort of knowing that a meal awaits him upon his return from the doctors and his aunt knows Dwayne is receiving the nutrition he needs.

Nutrition in a Knapsack

I absolutely love this program! Thank you for caring so much about our kids. Your program is very beneficial to my students. They are focused and participate more in class. - Pine Grove Elementary Teacher

CROS MINISTRIES

CROS Camp

CROS Camp impacts our campers and their families in many ways. We help to show our campers that there are people outside of their family, friends, and school that really do love them, and care about them and their well-being. We impress upon them that learning can be fun in the camp setting while using the “Power of Play” and the



“Creative” classroom solutions through games, reading, math, science experiments, and field trips. This helps to prepare our campers for the new school year.

We help to instill in them a sense of self-worth; that

each camper is special and unique in the eyes of God.

We provide an environment of kindness, sharing, and

encouraging one another. I am thankful that our program strives to build each camper up and helps him or her to think towards the future with the thought that “anything is possible!” Lastly, I believe that we do our best to keep them feeling safe, laughing, while enjoying being with their friends.

As CROS Ministries’ Camp Director, I have always said that I believe everyone needs to have at least one summer camp experience in their lifetime whether it is as a camper, staff, or Director. Summer Camp affects people on all different kinds of levels. The impact may not be seen in that moment, but it is evident over a lifetime, through songs, friendships, and fond memories. - *Emily Zarzyki, Director of Camp and Children’s Programs*

CROS Ministries...

A Voice Across the World



In December 2017, Ruth Mageria, CROS’ Executive Director was a guest facilitator at the Eastern Africa Resource Mobilization Workshop held in Mombasa, Kenya. She was invited to speak because of her first-hand experience and professional input on the world stage to serving the hungry.

The workshop brought together 60 participants

from eight African countries, and was hosted by the Kenya Association of Fundraising Professionals. Its theme — Beyond Aid: Transforming an organization into a resource generating paradigm. It was designed to transform and educate members from participating countries to study the resource generating standards and explore new ways to reach out to people who are in need.

SAVE THE DATE!

END HUNGER WALK 2018

*October 6, John Prince Park, Lake Worth
Registration at 8:30 am, Walk at 9 am*



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CROS Gleaning

One of the things I love best about our gleaning program is the family nature of our volunteer efforts. Recently at a tomato gleaning, I met grandparents who brought their grand-



daughter to the field to pick tomatoes. I asked this little girl if she was ready for the day, and she responded with a shy, barely audible "Yes." Once the group had gathered I brought the volunteers to the field, and they started to pick. I noticed the grandmother taking the time to make sure her granddaughter knew what she was doing and as the gleaning progressed, I saw the three of them making their way down the field. After a time, the little girl came up to me to ask me if the tomato in her hand was a good one. Her smile was dazzling. I assured her that it was and with satisfaction she ran back to her grandparents. She soon discovered cherry tomatoes at the edge of the field and soon they were picking these treats with another level of excitement. After about an hour or so, I wished the family well and thanked them for their efforts as they took a tired little girl out of the field.

It is amazing to see the impact volunteering makes upon people who come to the field with a heart to serve. How grateful I am to grandparents like this couple and others that I meet in the field who instill the value of living for something bigger than yourself into the lives of their grandchildren. They make memories and moments that only time will reveal the full impact on young lives being formed. Being a community that cares about whether people have enough to eat relies upon creating people who care about more than themselves and their own comforts. Thank you to all of our volunteers who are working to shape a community of caring people.

- Keith Cutshall, Director of Gleaning



APRIL 18, 2018
6-8:30 PM

\$40 in advance; \$50 at the door
(Price increases at noon 4/18)

Old School Square Fieldhouse
51 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach

Make checks payable to CROS Ministries and write RAISEYOUR GLASS in the memo line.
Send to: 3677 23rd Avenue South, #B-101
Lake Worth, FL 33461

Online credit card sales, please go to:
fundraise.crosministries.org/ryg2018
Or call 561.233.9009x108

FEATURING

- Beer from Barrel of Monks
Wine from Vintage Wine Estates
- Gouguenheim Sparkling Rose of Malbec
 - Clos Pegase Chardonnay
 - Cherry Pie 3 Vineyard Pinot Noir
 - BR Cohn Silver Label Cabernet

Signature food pairings by local restaurants:
Banyon Restaurant and Bar
Culinary Flair Caterers
GSJ Bakery
Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine Bar
50 Ocean

Plus, incredible items to bid on at both a silent & live auction!

Music: Julius Sanna Trio

Emcee: CBS Sports Anchor, Jorge Andres

100% OF THE PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT CROS MINISTRIES' HUNGER PROGRAMS

SPONSORED BY

Ajram Family Foundation • Old School Square • The Corella and Bertram Bonner Foundation • Publix Super Market Charities • Ocean Properties Ltd. • Becky & Mark Walsh • Conde Center for Chiropractic Neurology • The Nordlander Family • Mark Gerretson Memorial Fishing Tournament • Delray Beach Elks Club • BG, Inc.



WAYS TO CONNECT WITH CROS!Tear Off and Return in the Enclosed Envelope

- Volunteer
- Pick fresh produce with Gleaning
- Help distribute food at the Food Pantries
- Prepare and Serve food at The Caring Kitchen
- Make a donation
- Become a Monthly Donor
- Remember CROS in Your Will
- Attend Raise Your Glass to End Hunger in April