



April is volunteer appreciation month at

Beth-El
Farmworker Ministry, Inc.





How Did They Do That?

Anyone who has enjoyed the performance of a master magician will frequently leave the show with one thought in mind:

“How did they do that?”

It is an expression we hear frequently when folks visit Beth-El for the first time. People are amazed at the number of people and services the mission supports. But unlike our magician friends, there is no trick involved. Beth-El Farmworker Ministry's success is due to the countless

friends and volunteers who daily pray and support our mission and the people we serve. Indeed, it would be impossible for our small staff of six full time workers to do all we do without the love and support of our faithful volunteers.



April is volunteer appreciation month at Beth-El. It is our opportunity to show our gratitude to those who have faithfully made Beth-El a regular part of their daily lives. There is Bob and his crew from Siesta Key Chapel who regularly volunteer during the Tuesday food pantry. Bob's group also comes up two additional days a month to help package food for distribution. Junie and her team from Peace Presbyterian, along with our gang from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sun City Center have committed to volunteering one to two days a week. Roser Memorial of Anna Maria Island has committed to one Monday a month. John and Carol from Palma Ceia along with Robert (aka Roberto) from FPC St.



Petersburg, and Bob, Carol and Sue help out regularly at the Tuesday food pantry.

Then there are all our wonderful church and community members –



many of whom rely on our services, but also give back in Christian love. Hardly a week will go by without the help of Carmen and Luis, Silvia, Nydia, Vero, Peter, Mare T, Rosalinda, and Betty. For others, Beth-El is like a second home. Emma, Marlene, Lizseth and Caritina frequently volunteer 3 or 4 days a week!

In reality, it would be nearly impossible to name all those who give of their time to support Beth-El. Yet, there are three things of which I am certain:

1. ***There is always an unmet need just waiting for a new volunteer.***
2. ***At the end of the day, your feet may be tired, but your heart will be full.***
3. ***Whatever names I fail to remember, God knows.***

Magicians are masters of illusion, but there is no slight of hand in the work of Beth-El. We know and confess that all we do, we do, in the name of Christ our Lord. These are our small acts of discipleship in gratitude for the one who walks beside and before us. Won't you come walk with us, too?

Dios le bendiga,

Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain
Executive Director



Robert Shaw, from St. Petersburg, FL, drives to Beth-El Mission at least once a week to volunteer at the food pantry. Robert felt the call to volunteer at the food pantry about 8 years ago when he inquired about volunteer opportunities in the area. He is motivated by the spirit of cooperation from the staff and volunteers. Robert says that interacting with members of the community and the farmworkers has helped him have better understanding of their daily struggle. Thank you, Robert for your faithfulness to this ministry.



The weekly food pantry is one of the busiest days of the week. It takes 15 to 20 volunteers to help distribute the food and other resources to the hundreds of families that pass through our doors every Tuesday.





Beth-El Farmworker Ministry's need for volunteers was recently featured on Spectrum BayNews 9. Click the above photo to view the story.

Holy Week and Beyond



Greetings from the worshipping community Nuevo Camino at Beth-El!

During Lent we make time to reflect on God's grace through Jesus' ministry, passion and resurrection. We also make time to consider how we live our lives.

A key song we use in worship is *Escudriñemos Nuestros Caminos*, by Rev. Julio Elías, which means "let us examine our ways" based on Lamentations 3. The scripture outlines God's faithfulness through experiences of suffering and mistakes and reminds us of the power of considering our lives and our choices within the life of faith.

We prepare for Holy Week and Easter individually and corporately as members of all ages participate in ministry and mission within and beyond our walls. Youth volunteered at the mission and served lunch at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sun City Center. Members have spent several Sundays preparing for our Holy Week play set for Maundy Thursday. All are welcome to join us.

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him"...40 Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord. Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands to God in heaven. Lamentations 3: 22-24, 40-41 (NRSV)



In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tamara Lara".

Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara
Mission Pastor, Nuevo Camino





Pastor Tamara led the youth of Nuevo Camino on various service activities during their Spring Break. The group helped serve a lunch at St. Andrew Presbyterian in Sun City Center, distributed food during the weekly food pantry, and helped with yard work around the mission. Gracias pastora y jóvenes!



Career Professionals Volunteer Their Services in a Variety of Ways.



**Volunteer
Opportunities**



Beth-El has a number of opportunities for volunteers who would like to share their professional skills to help improve the quality of life of our farm working families, including:

- **Mentors** - For career coaching and job interview training.
- **Teachers** - Bi-lingual who can help with basic skills (ESOL, GED).
- **Dentists/Hygenists** - to add to our volunteers for our clinic.
- **Translators** - to work with professional dental teams.
- **Counselors** - (bi-lingual) to help with needs assessments.

Blessed are the Flexible!

Kathy demonstrates the unwritten beatitude to volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church of Bradenton. If you'd like to learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please email us at outreach@beth-el.org.



Many thanks to the volunteers from Trinity Lutheran of Bradenton and the nurses of the State College of Florida who prepared and served a lunch to farmworkers picking tomatoes at a nearby farm.



I would like to become more involved at Beth-El Mission as a Volunteer:

- Step Up for Success Mentor
- Food Pantry
- Lead VBS
- Organize a Workgroup
- Organize a Food Drive
- Organize a Clothing Drive

I would like to donate \$_____

- Summer Camp Scholarships
- Back to School Program
- VBS Supplies
- Education Scholarships
- Dental Clinic
- Food Pantry
- Mission's Greatest Need

Immediate Needs

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has an immediate need for the following items:

- **Bath Towels**
- **Deodorant**
- **New Socks**
- **Hats (baseball style)**
- **Shampoo for Men, Women, & Children**
- **Men's Pants Sizes 30-36**
- **Toothpaste**

- Disposable Razors
- Feminine Products
- New Men's & Women's Underwear - All Sizes
- Adult Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Insect Repellent
- Sunblock



Spending a week at summer camp can be a life changing experience for the child of a farmworker.

Every year the mission sends 30 to 40 children and teens to Cedarkirk, but we need your support.

The average cost per child is \$400.

Won't you help sponsor a child to Cedarkirk this summer?

Sponsor a Child to Cedarkirk

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Accept my Donation to send a child to camp. \$ _____

Please use my donation where most needed. \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry - PO Box 860 Wimauma FL

A Printable Copy of this Newsletter is Available on our Website

at: www.beth-el.org or by emailing us at:

info@beth-el.org

Leave a Lasting Legacy



Consider making Beth-El Farmworker Ministry part of your will or living trust. Your gift will help the farm working community for generations to come.

Support Beth-El Mission with your online contribution today.



Beth-El
Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

Fueled by Volunteers and Your Faithful Prayers and Support

Our mailing address is:

18240 Highway 301 South

PO Box 860

Wimauma, FL 33598-0860

Phone: 813-633-1548

Email: info@beth-el.org

Web: www.beth-el.org

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is open
Monday through Thursday from 8a.m. to
5p.m., Friday 8a.m. to 2p.m. Other times by
appointment.



Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Staff

Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain, Executive Director

ext. 223 email: kathy@beth-el.org

Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara, Pastor

ext. 222 email: tamara@beth-el.org

Roberto Villadoniga, Property Administrator

ext. 224 email: roberto@beth-el.org

MaryEllen Welton Barragan, Outreach Mgr

ext. 228 email: outreach@beth-el.org

Rosalva Serrano, Exec. Admin. Assistant

ext. 231 email: rosalva@beth-el.org

Kimberly Leonard, Bookkeeper

ext. 227 email: bookkeeper@beth-el.org

Extraordinary Support Staff:

Maria Galarza

Jesus Gallardo

Angel Santos

Arturo Lozano



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