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THE BETH-EL FARMWORKER

Issue Num. 1

Feeding the Mind, Body, and Spirit - Because YOU Care!

mind YOU GAVE PEACE OF MIND DURING THE HOLIDAYS

You helped 43 families to stay at home during the holidays. Even though Hillsborough County had an eviction moratorium that would expire Dec. 31, and would later be extended; many families in our community were stressed by looming evictions, if not during the holidays, soon after.

With your gifts, we helped **166** individuals avoid evictions between the months of Nov-Dec, 2020. This was due in part to a collaboration between Beth-El, the Wimauma Together Collaborative, a group of local agencies working together to rapidly respond to the needs of families impacted by the virus, and local property managers. This meant that these families were able to have a peaceful holiday at home.

*Sandra, a single mother of four struggled to help her children transition to e-learning.

Her main concern was to protect them from exposure to the virus. However, when she tested positive for Covid-19 she had to stop working to quarantine for the mandatory time. Initially she experienced a total loss of her sense of smell and taste. Sandra reached out to us asking for help with her rent. She is hopeful to get more hours from her job so that she can meet the needs of her family. She is feeling optimistic and says, "I cannot wait for this pandemic to be over."



We provided rental assistance at an average of \$932 for one month's rent per household. Your gift of \$75 a month helps a family of four avoid eviction.

YOU PROVIDED COMFORT THROUGH FOOD body



Hilda: "While there isn't much to chicken sandwich recipes to pass down," she said, "It is really good to know we have food to eat. These are some hard times and we didn't have much money to get food. It makes me happy that I can feed my daughter."

It's been dubbed "corona coping" and you may have gone through it as well. While stuck at home and with restaurants closed, we turned to the kitchen to cook and bake our favorites, like banana bread or trying something new like making bread from scratch. Many of us have the resources to go grocery shopping online. However, many of the families in our community still have to brave the crowds to get the food staples they need to keep their children well fed and healthy. At Beth-El, we knew that the pandemic would cause distress. And when we are anxious we go for the comfort foods that remind us of home. Unfortunately, many of the staples of Latin American cuisine, which include lots of fresh fruit and vegetables, are not commonly available through our pantry. That is why we initiated Beth-El con Sazon (Beth-El with Flavor) a program that supplements the typical pantry bags with what its known as *culturally appropriate* items commonly used in countries from Central, South America, and the Caribbean. Then we engaged our families by inviting them to share pictures of their culinary creations and their stories. Here is a sample of their submissions. **Buen Provecho!*



Adela: "This is a traditional Mexican dish my mom taught me how to cook. I stay connected with my mom today through cooking."



Buen Provecho is Spanish for French **Bon Apetit! which in English is close to **Enjoy Your Meal!***



Delfina: "We cook at home and with the whole family. We eat this dish when the whole family is celebrating together."

spirit

YOU PRAY FOR US; WE PRAY TOGETHER

By Rev. Tamara Leonard-Lara, Pastor

During the season of Epiphany we remember the manifestation of the divine in our very midst. We gather to praise God who made us, who knows us and who “hems us in behind and before and lays God’s hand upon us”. God is with us always. We are precious to God. What good news!

Church members continue to serve one another by helping to prepare food bags for those who gather for worship. Others volunteer to deliver food bags to shut ins following worship.

We continue to practice prayerful planning and faithful flexibility, finding ways to stay connected to share the good news and to pray with and for one another. Currently we gather for an abbreviated worship service in our parking lot and share the recorded service online and we continue with virtual worship on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The community continues in faith, trusting in God even during difficult days due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic.

Within our worshipping community of 35-40 families 12 families have at least one person in their household having tested positive for the virus, in many cases several family members have had the virus.

We have prayed with members of our community following the death of family members in Honduras, Mexico and Colombia and the illness or death of extended family members here and in other parts of Florida and Texas.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.[...] You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

PSALM 139: 1,6



Recent data shows that Hillsborough County has a 12+ percent positivity rate. At the date of this writing; 1,600 of the 7,000 residents of Wimauma have tested positive for Covid-19.

PRAY



*Please pray for : *Farmworkers, especially those working in packing plants where social distancing is nearly impossible.* School children and their teachers - over 90% of whom are in person 100% of the time. *CNAs and LPN’s and other medical staff working in hospitals and long term care facilities.*

JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR AN EVENING OF STORY TELLING

**LIVE
AUCTION!**

To Support
Beth-El Farmworker
Ministry

Share Our Stories

Visit www.beth-el.org/virtual-event
for more information.

**Thursday,
March 4th
at 7PM**



Needed Items

- Canned Food (no snacks, nor fruit) tuna, canned meats, vegetables.
- Paper goods: toilet paper, paper towels
- Diapers: Sizes 4, 5, 6
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Bandanas / Beanie Hats
- Reusable Grocery Bags

Beth-El
Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

Engage!



Volunteer!
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