



## *Resolutions...*

We are barely into the new year and I can't help but wonder how many of our well-intentioned resolutions have already fallen by the wayside. I resolved to lose weight (I do that every year) but then Javier brings in the most delicious doughnuts from a bakery in Plant City and my resolve quickly evaporates!



One resolve that never seems to diminish, however, is the dedication of our volunteers. Every week scores of adults and young people arrive at the mission to help support our farmworking families and neighbors in need. These are not glamorous tasks, but they come nonetheless, to help provide for this vital ministry.

Last summer, our leadership decided to give our staff a well deserved week off between Christmas and New Years. However, thanks to our volunteers, the mission was able to continue our weekly food distribution program. This vital ministry requires more than just handing out bags of groceries on Tuesdays. There are rice and beans that need to be repackaged (about 1,200 bags per week). There is the forklift driver who meets our distributor from Feeding Tampa Bay, and there are all those bags to pack and get ready for pick-up. All in all, over 50 volunteers took time off from their holiday festivities to help make

the holidays brighter for those in need. Now, that's what I call resolve!

What resolutions did you make this year? Would you please consider adding one more to your list? Might you resolve to join us through an offering of your time, talent or financial gifts? Most importantly, would you resolve to pray every day for our ministry, and most especially those we serve? Together, we are making a difference to the members of our community, and that is one resolution we will not break.

Feliz Año Nuevo!



Rev. Kathleen Dain  
Executive Director



Every Tuesday hundreds of people line up for the mission's weekly food distribution.



Javier's wife, Laura, helps distribute food to the workers in the fields. In addition to farm workers from Mexico and Central America, there is also a large Haitian population working in the fields.

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The Beth-El Youth Group traveled to Orlando over the holidays to visit "Ice" while all the kids at the mission enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus.

## ***Step Up For Success***



Hello, my name is Veronica Barrios-Monroy. As a migrant student growing up in Wimauma, I was eligible for a scholarship to attend Michigan State University where I received a Bachelor's degree in Social Science. I have worked at the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research and at Mathematica Policy Research in Washington D.C. I have also volunteered in many organizations that advocate for families in need. My personal and professional experiences have helped prepare me for my new role as the mission's resource coordinator. It is a wonderful opportunity to give back to my community and promote the Step Up for Success program.

***Step Up For Success*** is a mentorship program designed to help those in our community living in poverty seeking to achieve economic self-sufficiency. We are looking for volunteers who have skills and proficiency in areas such as: financial management, budgeting, human resources, public speaking, resume building, and computer skills. If you would like to volunteer, or learn more about the Step Up For Success program, please contact: Veronica at [veronica@beth-el.org](mailto:veronica@beth-el.org).

***Teamwork makes the dream work!***



**Come out for a fun day of golf, and help raise support to send Beth-El kids to Cedarkirk Camp and Christian Center.**

**Every foursome in the Beth-El Golf Tournament equals the cost to send one child to Cedarkirk this summer.**

**The Legacy Golf Course is an Arnold Palmer design course located off University Parkway in Lakewood Ranch.**

**Saturday, March 11th at the Legacy Golf Club  
Lakewood Ranch Florida  
8a.m. Shotgun**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Foursome: \_\_\_\_\_

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_____	# of Players (\$100 per person)	\$ _____
_____	Unable to Play, Accept my Donation	\$ _____
	TOTAL	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Golf Tournament - PO Box 860  
Wimauma FL 33598.  
Deadline to Register is March 1, 2017

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## *Muchas Gracias!*



The 2016 Adopt a Family Program was a huge success! At first, I thought this would be a huge undertaking because our church received a lot of new families this year with multiple children per family. I was worried that there wouldn't be enough people to adopt all the children. However, thanks to all the adopting churches all of Beth-El's families were adopted, and that was a huge blessing for all the farm working families that couldn't afford to buy their kids anything for Christmas.

I also got a firsthand glimpse of all the work involved after one donor had to leave on an emergency, but left money to buy things for their adopted family. I now understand how hard it is to buy things for kids that you thought they would like based on the age and a simple gift they had asked for. As if buying the gifts wasn't hard enough, the lines were extremely long and full of people who seemed to be buying the entire store. After all the buying was done, then came the struggle



to wrap strangely shaped boxes without crinkling the entire paper. It's all part of the Christmas spirit though and for all those churches who adopted Beth-El's families, a huge thank you. You all must have a very warm and kind heart to go through all that trouble for a family you don't even know and probably will never get to meet. Without all of you, this year's 2016 Adopt a Family Program wouldn't have been possible.

The gifts were given out after our Christmas pageant with faces that showed genuine joy. The common words heard were "Please tell those who got this for us, *muchas gracias* and blessings to all of them!" Next winter when I knock on your door will you be willing to welcome our farm working families again?

Blessings,

Walter F Chuquimia  
Pastor, Beth-El Mission

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## Immediate Needs

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

- **Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6)**
- **Deodorant: men/women**
- **Powdered milk (Enfamil)**
- **Clear plastic storage bins (20) sizes S/M**
- **\$25 Walmart Gift cards**
- **Small beds for children in need**
- **Flannel long sleeves shirts**

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

- Community Dinner
- Food Pantry
- Lead VBS
- Organize a Workgroup
- Organize a Food Drive
- Organize a Clothing Drive



Hello Friends, we are in need of volunteers to help bag bulk wheat, lentils, black beans and corn approximately 10 bins totals, please contact Javier or Sheila at (813) 633-1548 for more details.

I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_

- Summer Camp Scholarships
- Back to School Program
- VBS Supplies
- College Scholarships
- Music Lessons for Youth
- Food Pantry
- Mission's Greatest Need

[Support Beth-El Mission with your online contribution today.](#)



**A Printable Copy of this Newsletter is Available on our Website at:**

**[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org) or by emailing us at:**

**[info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org)**

**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](mailto:info@beth-el.org)**

**Web: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)**



Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is open Monday through Thursday from 8a.m. to 5p.m., or by special appointment.

We are closed from noon until 1p.m. for lunch.



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# Beth-El

*Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*

