

Beth-El

Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



Spring Open House

Sunday, April 17th 2 to 5pm

Have you ever wondered how many strawberries a farmworker must pick in a day?
Or how many bags of food Beth-El distributes each year to families in need?

The mission of Beth-El is committed to supporting the farmworking community and our neighbors in need, through opportunities for hunger relief, education, healthcare, and spiritual growth.

During our open house you will be able to learn more about these initiatives; see many of our new renovations as you tour our campus; and take a bus tour to discover the farmworking community that surrounds us.

We will be collecting canned goods and back to school items during the Open House.

Hope to See You There!

Keeping up the Pace

Keeping pace seems to be the new buzzword of our culture. Not a day seems to go by without some reference to the speed at which our world moves. News outlets preach daily about the 'momentum' of one political candidate or the other.



Internet providers promise lightening fast connections, and even our farm workers who are paid daily by the amount they pick know the importance of keeping up the pace. Life can be frenetic, especially here at the mission where our staff of seven strives daily to meet the needs of those we serve. Thank goodness for volunteers!

This Spring has been especially hectic around the mission. Our food pantry is providing food to as many as 600 families a week! Plans for the summer youth activities and Cedarkirk scholarships take months of preparation. Transportation has been chaotic after the loss of our bus and van. And there has been a rush of activity in preparation for the construction of our new warehouse. And yet, regardless of this busy pace, there are just some things we cannot rush. It is impossible for us to rush through a conversation, a story, or a request from someone in need. It is in the stillness of those moments that the building blocks of community are formed. Like our Creator before us, we are called to be in relationship with one another.



I would like to offer you the invitation to grow in your relationship with Beth-El. One of our hopes for the future is to stand beside those we serve through a circle of support. For some it may be helping to set up a basic monthly budget; for others it might be

offering instruction on writing a resume, or career placement outside the farmlands. The opportunities for mentorship are as great as the hearts willing to serve. It is my personal hope that you will come and visit Beth-El during our open house on April 17th. Once here you can learn more about our current initiatives and our plans for the future. And no matter the pace of the afternoon, we pray for those still moments where the seeds of new friendships can be formed.

Dios le bendiga,



Kathleen Dain
Executive Director

Help make a dream come true for the child of a farm worker.

Every year Beth-El helps to send children and teens for a once in a lifetime opportunity to Cedarkirk summer camp. The cost to send one child for a week is about \$400--an amount far out of reach for our farm worker families. To learn how you can support a child, call 813-633-1548.



Dear Kathy and the entire Beth-El Community,

Sally and I wanted to write and thank you so very much for your incredible hospitality and help in bringing some basic veterinary care to your community.

The Migrant Farm Worker Community has always held a special place in our hearts due to the work they provide and the contribution they continually make to our country and economy. Sometimes basic veterinary care is just beyond their economic reach due to the increasing cost of veterinary services. We are reaching a crisis of sorts in the veterinary profession with appropriate access to care for a significant segment of our population.



We also recognize the importance of the pets in their families and wanted to try and bring a bit of that basic care to those pets. There are two major reasons for that desire.

1) We are cognizant of the problems with outbreaks of Parvovirus infections in the community and its devastating effect on the health and wellbeing of their animals. In a general population, reaching a critical percentage of animals that are vaccinated against a disease will help to prevent if not eradicate that disease from that population. We do not have good data at this point on the total number of animals being considered a part of that population but had figured the best approach was to enlist the community's help and vaccinate as many as possible. It certainly will make a difference in controlling outbreaks and the loss of their pets. With the amazing acceptance of the community, we have been able to vaccinate close to 400 animals for the primary dog diseases, namely Distemper, Hepatitis, Adenovirus and Parvovirus in the combination vaccine we were able to administer.



2) The pet population is the barrier between wildlife and the human population in the spread of Rabies to people. There are in the vicinity of 7,000 to 8,000 cases of rabies in the US every year. Wild animals accounted for 92% of reported cases of rabies in 2013, (the year with the most complete data). Raccoons continued to be the most frequently reported rabid wildlife species (32.3% of all animal cases during 2013), followed by bats (27.2%), skunks (24.6%), and foxes (5.9%). We obviously still

have an issue with Rabies in this country and the best thing we can do to protect ourselves and our families is to reach out to that pet population to provide Rabies vaccinations and create a "barrier" for the protection of our health. This is a classic "One Health Initiative" whereby the health of animals is directly tied to our own health and wellbeing. Thanks to Beth -El and their programs, we feel we have made a difference by also administering close to 400 Rabies vaccines to their pet community as well.

So again we sincerely thank the entire Beth-El community for the opportunity to reach out and hopefully make a difference in some small way. We look forward to being back in early 2017 to carry on with the program!

Barry and Sally

Barry N. Kellogg VMD
Veterinary Response, Inc

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is proud to be participating in the third annual Give Day Tampa Bay on May 3, 2016.

Give Day Tampa Bay is a 24-hour, online giving event, designed to increase philanthropy in the Tampa Bay area and raise awareness of the amazing work local non-profits (like Beth-El Mission) do in this community.



This year Beth-El hopes to raise \$5,000 through this one day event. To donate visit Givedaytampabay.org on May 3rd and click on Beth-El Farmworker Ministry.



Immediate Needs

- **Personal Hygiene Products**
- **Canned fruits & vegetables**
- **Cereal (assorted)**
- **Diapers (all sizes)**
- **Baby Formula**

Employment Opportunity

Beth-El is looking for an older teen or adult to lead the summer youth activities.

The position will lead all youth activities; serve as a liaison with

- **Baby wipes**
- **Children shoes (all sizes)**
- **Long sleeve shirts (small, medium, large)**
- **Work shoes/sneakers for men and women (up to size 10)**

Cedarkirk for our scholarship program, and assist the operations manager in coordinating incoming mission teams. A valid driver's license is required. For more information, or to apply, please contact Beth-El at info@beth-el.org.



We have regular volunteer opportunities every week at Beth-El.

Every other Monday, volunteers help sort and pack rice and beans for the weekly food pantry. On Tuesdays, numerous volunteers are needed to help out in the food distribution program. Wednesday and Thursday's are re-packing days to prepare for the following week's distribution. If none of those opportunities fit your schedule then give Javier a call at 813-633-1548 ext. 228. He has a whole list of special projects that can be customized to fit your schedule.



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

- Community Dinner
- Food Pantry
- Conduct Vacation Bible School
- 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
- College Scholarships
- Music Lessons for Youth
- Food Pantry
- Mission's Greatest Need

Support Beth-El Mission with your online contribution today.



Please Note!

Our email addresses are changing from .info to .org
Please update your address book accordingly.

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., or by special appointment.

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

**Be Sure to Visit Our New Website at
www.beth-el.org**



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