

Beth-El

Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



Summer Days

I never went to summer camp when I was a kid. Instead, I spent my summers at our family cottage. I was a child of privilege, although I hardly knew it at the time. I never gave much thought to the migrant workers my mom and I would meet at the Laundromat on Sunday mornings, or the small cabins on stilts where the farmworkers lived. I was too busy enjoying the refreshing waters of Lake Leelanau—taking a dip at the first hint of daylight, or casting a line as the sun slipped below the horizon. Whether I realized it or not, I was a child of privilege.

Truthfully, I never gave much thought to those summers of bygone days until I came to work at Beth-El and heard Javier share his childhood memories of summer. “I hated it.” He would begin. He didn’t dislike the traveling and seeing new places; it was the work--the long hours in the fields that Javier hated so much. Like most children of farm workers, Javier spent his time out of school following his parents into the fields. There was no retreat at a cottage or summer camp; instead there was work—and plenty of it. That is why I believe one of the greatest gifts we offer at Beth-El is the opportunity for our farm worker kids to spend time just being a kid.





This summer Beth-El will once again send 40 to 50 kids to Cedarkirk for a week at summer camp. There will be Vacation Bible School at the mission along with other youth activities, and before summers' end we'll take the kids shopping for a new pair of shoes. They'll be backpacks to fill with school supplies, and college scholarships to distribute. But most importantly, for perhaps the briefest of moments, these farmworker kids will be able to bask in the waters, canoe, or zipline, and just be a kid.

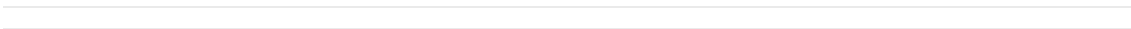
All life is treasured in the eyes of God. How blessed we are at Beth-El that every year we still somehow manage to find the resources to share God's love with these precious lives.

Thank-you for your support and prayers.

Dios le bendiga

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Dain
Executive Director





This is the Day!

Please help support Beth-El Farmworker Ministry through this one day giving opportunity sponsored by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

This year Beth-El hopes to raise \$5,000 to support its education and hunger relief initiatives. To learn more, or to donate go to: Giveday.org

**Feeding the Body,
Feeds the Soul**

The State College of Florida nurses, back in school for their BSNs, invaded again in April. Thanks to a generous donation of hot dogs, buns, and fruit from a Sun City Center couple one highlight of their time at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry was providing lunch at a farmworker camp one rainy day. This is always an enlightening learning experience. The nurses gain insights into the community and culture of our farmworkers and everyone gets to eat a picnic style lunch together!



Sharing a meal opens the door to a cultural exchange that promotes learning and understanding. As the students hand out lunch and information on the importance of hydration and prevention of Zika virus transmission to the orderly and seemingly endless line of men, they see the joy such simple acts brings on a boring day when pouring rain has rendered the fields impossible to tread upon--including the makeshift soccer field that would otherwise provide a diversion. Observing that the supervisors wait to take food until all of their men have been served provides insights into the character of these humble leaders.

Eating together opens the door to conversations about what farmworkers' lives are like—the work, the loved ones left behind while traveling to the US to tend our fields, the support this work provides for them, and the brighter futures the men plan for their children. The desire to see our children live a better life is universal.

After lunch there is time for fun—nurses and farmworkers play foosball while others watch and continue their conversations. What could be better than promoting health, learning, and understanding by sharing food, conversation, and fun on a rainy day?

Dr. Jean Davis
Florida State College

Immediate Needs

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

- Bath Towels
- Lice Shampoo
- Personal Hygiene Products
- Deodorant
- Diapers (adult, infant, and toddler)
- Baby Formula (Enfamil preferred)
- Baby Wipes
- Sun Block
- Socks
- Hats – baseball caps



*...into the world
and make disciples*

As Covenant Partners with the Cumberland
Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian

- Musical instruments (all kinds)
- Canned Goods

Church (U.S.A.), Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is excited to be one of the exhibitor's in this year's Youth Triennium, July 19th through 22nd at Purdue University. We hope to see you there!



Digging in for a brighter future!

Thanks to grants from funding partners including Matthew 25 Ministries and The Church of the Palms, our new warehouse is well under way. We hope to have the new building up and operational by early summer. Best of all, our new warehouse will serve as a distribution hub to help other missions in their ministry.

Who Said it was Going to be EASY!



If you stayed during one of the services at Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry, you would know that they don't have any instruments to go along with their singing. The only regular "instrument" they use is their hands. But when the Spirit moves people to take hold of the maracas and tambourines the singing becomes more joyful. So you can imagine the excitement when they found

out that the kids of the church will be taking music lessons. That possibility led the church to dream of maybe having music accompaniment in the future.

A selected group of boys and girls got to choose between the drums, piano, and the guitar and were quickly on their way to learning a whole new world about music. After a month had passed, the kids started realizing how hard it is to learn to play an instrument. They had to start with the basics and work their way up and that's what frustrated some of them. You see, most of them came with big goals of becoming a great drummer, an amazing piano player, or being an outstanding guitar player. However, what they didn't realize was that in order to achieve those goals they would have to work very hard and put lots of time and effort into it. Although to become a great musician it takes years and years of practicing and learning, here at Beth-El our short term goal is to have them play along with our singing.

Out of the thirteen students that were given this amazing opportunity, only nine remain to this day. Some of the kids had told me how in the beginning it was really hard for them but they also said that now it's becoming less difficult to play when they start a new piece. Alani, who is learning to play the guitar said, "It's really frustrating when you want to finish a piece but keep messing up." One day, the music teachers announced that on April 17th, 2016 they would be playing at Beth-El's open house, which meant they would have a big audience. The teacher rounded up the four that were ahead of the others and put them together to play Amazing Grace; while the others played some other songs on their own. They didn't feel ready to play in front of an audience but they wanted their parents to be proud of what they had accomplished and they also wanted Pastor Walter to see that they really appreciated the chance they were given.

The day of the concert finally arrived and everyone was excited but nervous at the same time. Johan, Alisson, Kenneth and Alani took the stage first to play Amazing Grace followed by Jeriel, Crystal, and Benjamin, playing their own solo pieces. The hardest part of being in a group was the timing and staying together. They all learn to have patience with themselves and that good things take time. But all in all, it was a great experience for both the students and their parents. The most important thing you need to remember is that it's not just about playing music, it's about becoming the music and portraying it in a way that sends a message to God's people because at the end of the day you're not just playing it for yourself, you're playing for God and all his people. I know that you help our ministry in so many ways but please allow me to intercede for a kind donation to support the music ministry of Beth-El.

Walter F. Chuquimia
Pastor

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

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.





Highlights from Beth-El's Open House and Presbytery Meeting of Tampa Bay.

Please Note!

Our email addresses are changing from .info to .org

Please update your address book accordingly.



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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