

Beth-El

Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



A short while back I came across a letter written to Eckerd College by one of the council members of Beth-El. The letter described the services our ministry provided: food for the hungry, clothing for those in need, and medical and legal assistance through community partners. At the time of the letter, the

mission had helped 1,450 families so far that year. That was November 1, 1983!

Fast-forward to today and it would seem that not much has changed. We still provide food for the hungry; clothe those in need; and provide medical and legal assistance through community partners. Indeed, the need for some of these services has grown exponentially. Today, the mission is supporting close to 2000 families a month, while countless families have received support of one kind or another during times of challenge. One of the mission's greatest achievements, however, has been our dedication to education. In the last



fifteen years countless individuals have received their GED, learned English, or proudly watched their child graduate from the RCMA academy. Education opens doorways; it promotes self-confidence; and allows both pupil and teacher to explore horizons beyond the classroom.

We are grateful for our partnerships with RCMA and Hillsborough Public Schools for their on-campus presence in educating young and old alike. As we give thanks for these continued partnerships, we also look forward to the beginnings of a new chapter at the mission.



This fall, Beth-El will add one more opportunity for advancement. *“Step Up For Success”* is a new mentorship program that will help those in our community living in poverty who wish to improve their economic well-being, but who lack the resources or guidance to turn their dreams into reality. The mission's outreach resource coordinator (a new staff position created for this project) will work one on one with individuals in creating a comprehensive assessment and plan of action that specifically addresses the client's current financial needs while setting reasonable attainable goals for the future. Our hope is that this project will be the first step in equipping individuals toward a more economically secure future.

Step Up for Success is one of many initiatives Beth-El will launch in 2017. We hope you will join us during our anniversary dinner on November 5th, as we share the mission's hope for the future, and for those we serve.

Forty years forward the cruelty of poverty persists, but Beth-El Farmworker Ministry moves ahead, one step at a time, on our knees, through faithful prayers and by God's abundant grace.

Dios le bendiga

Kathleen Dain, Executive Director

Yo soy la vid y ustedes son las ramas...

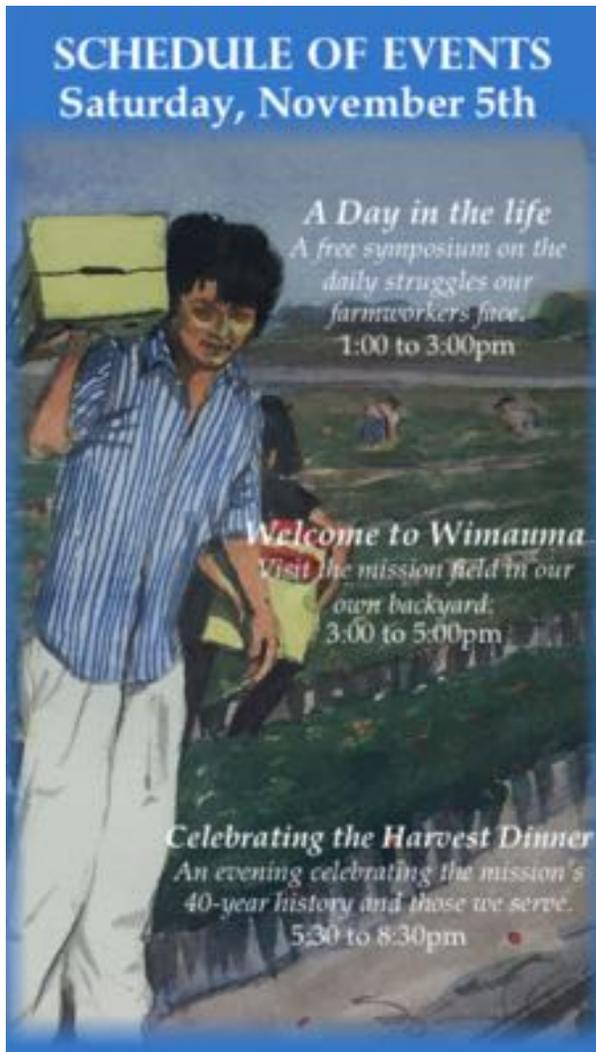
I am the vine you are the
branches...

Every day our tables are filled with fruits and vegetables picked by the hands of a farmworker. Their hours of toil in the fields fill us with the bounty of the harvest.

Yet, for most farmworkers, their table will remain bare.

For 40 years Beth-El has been a source of support and encouragement for the farmworking community in southwest Florida. Please join us November 5th as we celebrate the lives of those we serve.





Round Table Discussion on Farmworkers' Daily Struggles

Saturday afternoon Beth-El farmworker Ministry will host a round table symposium on the life and challenges our farmworkers face every day.

Guest speakers include members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Frontera de Cristo Border Ministry, and the National Farmworker Ministry, and local farmworkers.

This event is free and open to the public.

Celebrando la Cosecha: Celebrating the Harvest

The Celebration will include a look back at our 40-year history along with innovative plans for the future.

Saturday evening, you are invited to a special dinner of thanksgiving in support of the farmworker community. Dinner tickets may be purchased for yourself, for a farmworker or both.

Space is limited; please reserve your seat today!



Beth El is celebrating forty years of doing the right thing for the community. We at RCMA have been actively partnering with Beth El for about twenty of those years, and have become neighbors on site for at least fifteen of them. So we know what we are talking about. The vision of Evan Jorn, and his persistence, played the biggest part of our becoming close neighbors. Our child care center and then the charter school gave him almost as much joy as it did us! He gave tours, took groups of our children with him to talks and had high hopes for a community for farm workers on the Beth El land.

Then Dave Moore came in and adapted to different times with different passions. The food pantry grew, and missions spread out to Immokalee and Arcadia. What this proved to us was that Beth El was flexible and able to shift priorities without hurting their base. After Dave's retirement, we rejoiced in a woman leader, and Kathy Dain has not disappointed us one bit! She is the real deal.



Reading the recent piece by Sue Rice, the bus lady, made me both happy and proud for RCMA to be connected to Beth El. The constant caring and attention by Javier Izaguirre has provided all of us who are a part of Beth El the assurance we needed throughout the changes. Congratulations to the Board and to the supporters who know we all make a difference one child, one adult at a time. RCMA is proud of the role we believe we have played as a partner and look forward to many more years of "loving our neighbor" with you.

Barbara Mainster
Executive Director, RCMA.

Making the Grade



With all of the building permits approved, our much anticipated warehouse is almost complete. We hope you will join us for the building dedication during our anniversary celebration on November 5th.

Immediate Needs

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

- **Toothpaste**
- **Toothbrushes**
- **Soap bars**
- **Disposable razors**
- **Mosquito repellent-protection against Zika**
- **Baby Formula**
- **Baby Wipes**
- **Socks**
- **Toilet Paper**
- **Laundry Detergent**
- **Linens and bedding sheets**
- **New or gently used shoes for adult men and women**
- **Long sleeve shirts**
- **Hats – baseball caps**
- **Canned Goods**



We are in desperate need of anyone who can help us with some floor demolition work. Our 40th anniversary event is coming up fast and we would like to make our main building floors look nice before that occasion. Some wonderful work was done by a group of youth from Brenthaven Presbyterian Church in Tennessee. Although they worked really hard, they were only able to make part of the entire project. Anyone construction inclined please reach out to Javier or Sheila at 813-633-1548. Individuals are welcome but work groups get a lot more done. Let us know if you can put a work group together.

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.



**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**

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.



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