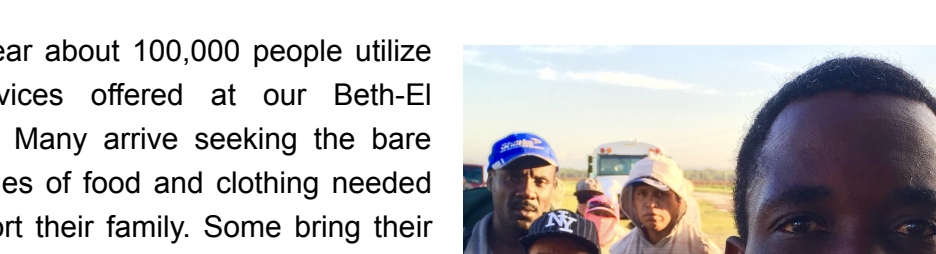


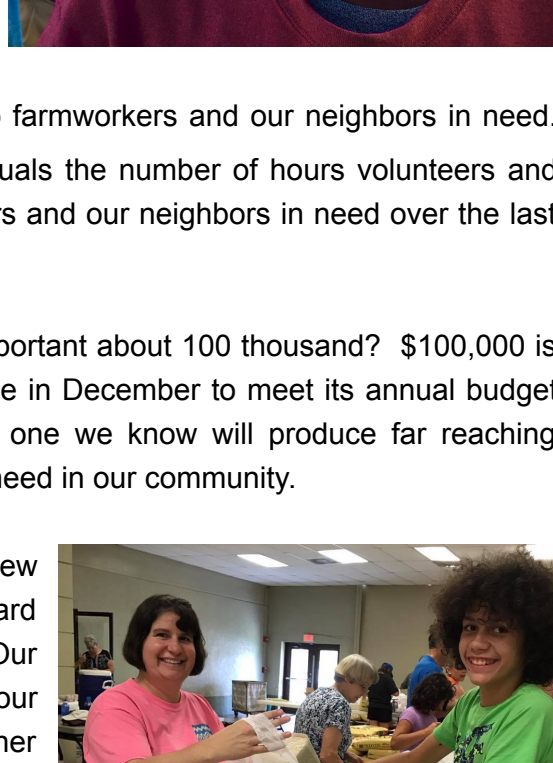
December 2017

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100 Thousand Reasons

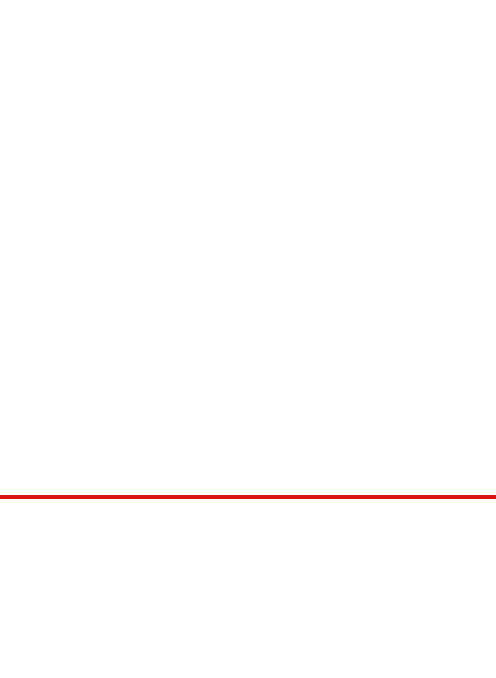
Every year about 100,000 people utilize the services offered at our Beth-El campus. Many arrive seeking the bare necessities of food and clothing needed to support their family. Some bring their children with dreams of a better future through educational opportunities provided by the RCMA Learning Academy, or the Beth-El Step Up for Success and scholarship programs.



In the last two months over 100,000 pounds of food, clothing, paper and hygiene products have been distributed to farmworkers and our neighbors in need. 100,000¹⁻² (100,000 multiplied by 10) equals the number of hours volunteers and staff have dedicated to serving farmworkers and our neighbors in need over the last 41 years.

You might be asking yourself what's so important about 100 thousand? \$100,000 is also the amount the mission needs to raise in December to meet its annual budget for 2017. It is a significant amount, but one we know will produce far reaching dividends to support those in the greatest need in our community.

Over the last year we have called a new pastor and begun the journey toward developing a new worshipping community. Our mission outreach has grown beyond our campus to providing food and other resources directly to farmworkers where they work and live; and in just a month's time the first phase of our Health & Wellness campus will open with the launch of our free dental clinic. Those are just a few of the 100,000 reasons I ask for your prayers and support.



Many years ago, it must have seemed 100,000 stars illumined the night sky, but one star shone brighter than the rest. Its light led humanity into a new hope. It is into that light, we pray, our ministry will continue to follow. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

From our family to yours: Feliz Navidad!

Kathy

Rev. Kathleen Dain
Executive Director

Happy Advent!

Advent is a time of waiting, as we anticipate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Even as we wait, we wait in faith, and we wait together. As we gather into community, we celebrate God's grace and care. We remember God's promises, and Jesus' teaching about new life for all who long for a different way. We seek to live into this reality as we gather together.



As we begin the Advent Season, I find my thoughts turning to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, a Scripture passage we've used this November at Beth-El during Adult Sunday School, our Tuesday gathering and Sunday worship. We have had good discussions about unity and mutual dependence. God offers good gifts to every member of the community to be used for the building up of the community. God calls us to respect and care for all we meet, for every member of the community is valuable. At times when we often hear strong words in the world around us about division and the differences between "us" and "them" I am reminded about God's call for mutual cooperation and care in living out God's will and God's way.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Corinthians 12:12, 25-27)



I am grateful to each person connected to the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry for your faith and your care for the community as you walk with us. It has been a joy to begin to get to know members of the worshipping community and staff during my first full month here. I have seen with my own eyes how our staff and many many volunteers make meaningful ministry happen through your gifts of time, talent and resources, and how these gifts become blessings to the entire worshipping community. I have heard about the deep faith of those who have gone before us to establish and maintain a worshipping community here and I have learned of the deep faith present in members of the worshipping community as they seek after God's future.

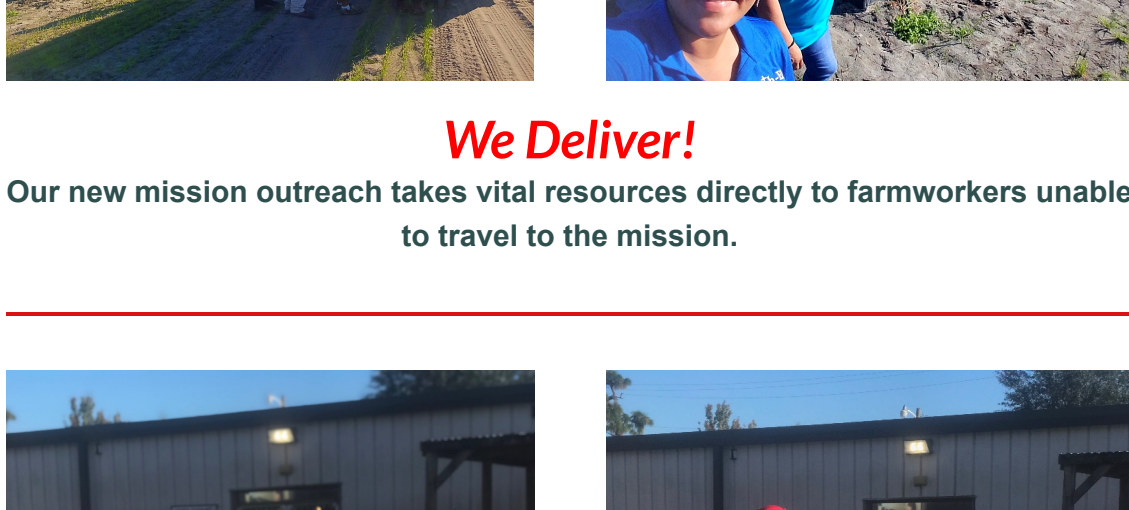
Here we are actively waiting for the arrival of the baby Jesus! Men, women and children are busy making plans to decorate for the season. A work day is scheduled for December 10 to create a set by December 17, the date of the annual and much awaited Christmas play. We'll gather to see the play then we'll enjoy hot chocolate, sweet breads and a visit from Santa complete with gifts provided through the Adopt a Family Program.



Christmas Eve, we'll gather for worship and a candle light service to remember the light of Christ which the darkness cannot overcome.

What family and church traditions bring you hope? Whatever your plans, as you wait for the birth of our Savior, my prayer is that each of you might take a moment to give thanks for God's gifts of faith, hope and love and you might continue to live out those gifts in community.

Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara

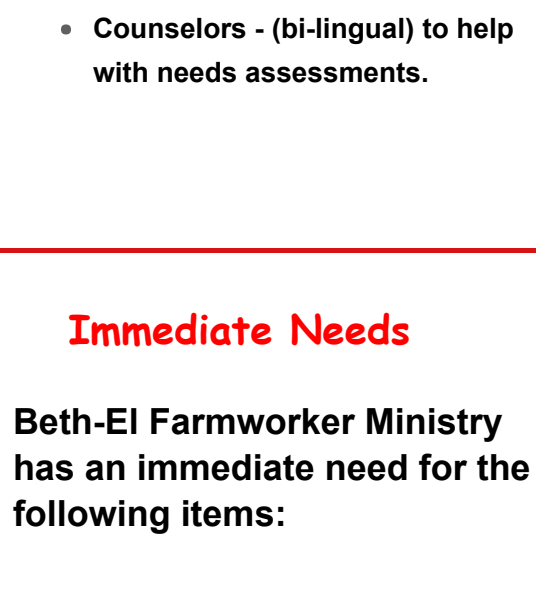
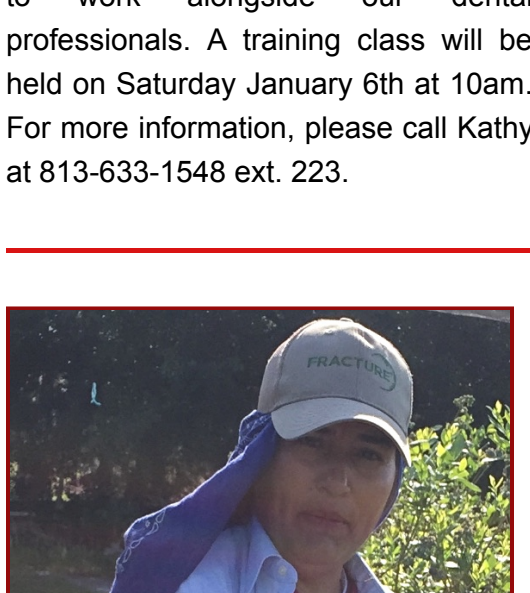
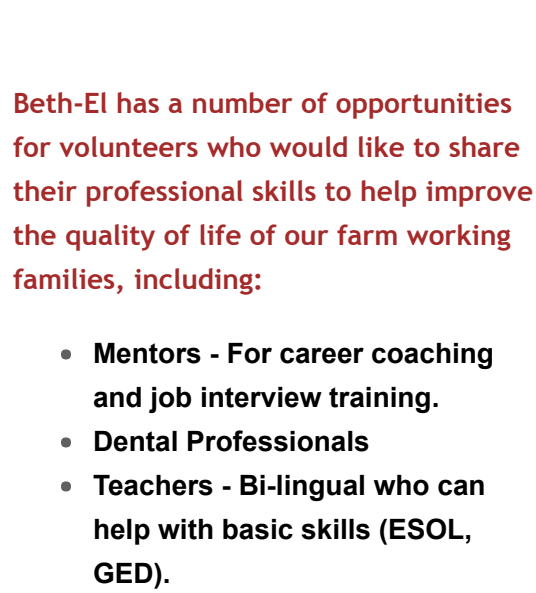


This Saturday the mission will be serving a holiday meal at one of our local farms. It's not too late to volunteer. Please call Kathy at 813-633-1548 ext. 223 to find out how you can lend a helping hand.

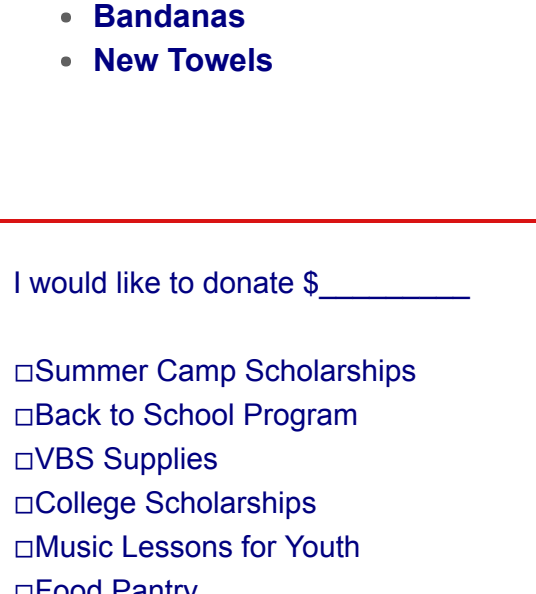
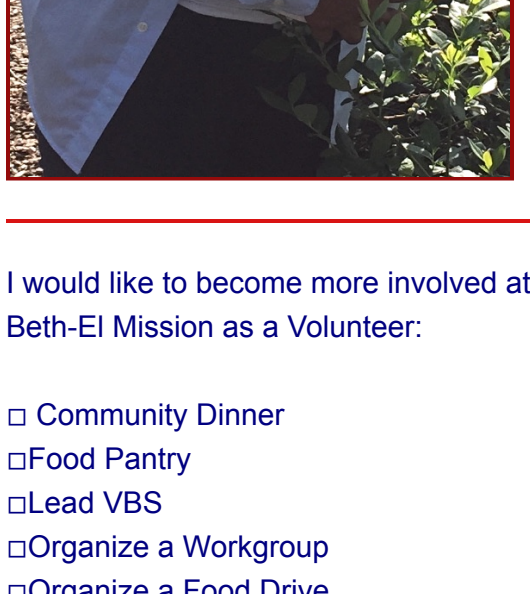


We Deliver!

Our new mission outreach takes vital resources directly to farmworkers unable to travel to the mission.



The Mobile Food Pantry of Feeding Tampa Bay comes to Beth-El on the first Friday of the month. This is an additional opportunity for the families in our community to receive needed resources to help their families.



The mission and community welcomed Dr. Barry Kellogg back to the mission campus on December 5th. Dr. Kellogg provided free vaccinations to over 100 dogs and cats. He and his wife will be back again throughout the winter months to provide support to our furry friends. Thanks Doc!

Beth-El Dental Clinic



The Beth-El dental clinic will be opening soon, and we need your help! We are looking for volunteer translators to work alongside our dental professionals. A training class will be held on Saturday January 6th at 10am. For more information, please call Kathy at 813-633-1548 ext. 223.

Beth-El has a number of opportunities for volunteers who would like to share their professional skills to help improve the quality of life of our farm working families, including:

- Mentors - For career coaching and job interview training.
- Dental Professionals
- Teachers - Bi-lingual who can help with basic skills (ESOL, GED).
- Translators - to work with professional dental teams.
- Counselors (bi-lingual) to help with needs assessments.

Immediate Needs

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

- Long sleeve T-shirts / Sweaters
- Men's pants size 26 to 34
- New or Gently used blankets
- Caps (baseball cap style)
- Gently used sneakers
- Men/Women underwear (boxers)
- Socks: Adult and children
- Bandanas
- New Towels

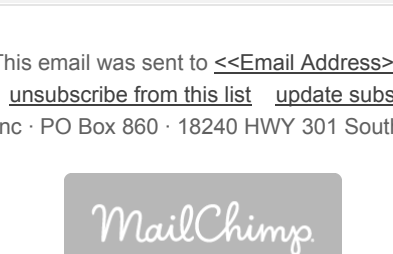
I would like to become more involved at Beth-El Mission as a Volunteer:

- 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

Leave a Lasting Legacy



Consider making Beth-El Farmworker Ministry part of your will or living trust. Your gift will help the farm working community for generations to come.

Many thanks to all our supporters!

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

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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