



Between the Lines

Someone asked me if things slowed down at Beth-El the way many churches do during the summer months. I laughed.

July is perhaps our busiest month, and one of my favorite times of year. That's because in addition to all of our regular activities, our hallways are also filled with the sounds of children. This year we have over 60 children and youth signed up for our Vacation Bible School. Some of these kids have been coming to Beth-El for years, while for some this will be a new experience.





Several of these “new kids” are the grandchildren of one of our long-time community members. Her daughter, Monica, was able to seek asylum in this country after her life, and the life of her one-year old daughter were threatened by the child’s father. Monica faced horrific abuse that I cannot possibly convey or imagine. She had been beaten, her ribs broken, and had a knife held against her throat and her child’s. Thankfully, she and her children were allowed

to stay with her mom here in Wimauma while her case awaits trial. She has to wear an ankle bracelet, but she is safe.

It is practically impossible to turn on the news these days without hearing something about the state of our borders and the immigration crisis. Monica said that she would never have let anyone take her children from her, thankfully she did not have to. But what would the alternative have been—to stay in a life-threatening situation? Stories like hers remind us of the complexity our nation faces, and the goodness that still abounds in our humanity. I can’t tell you how much I am looking forward to hearing those little voices this summer. There is no greater joy than to hear a child’s laughter.

Every day a new story unfolds at Beth-El. Please pray, and join us in the journey.

Dios le bendiga

Rev. Kathleen Dain
Executive Director



With the end of the school year and the crop season we have had an increase in our number of households served during our Food Pantry. In June our volunteers distributed USDA canned food, vegetables, meat, rice and beans, feminine products, beverages, toilet paper and bread to *over 600 families per week!*

Larissa's Journal

My name is Larissa Saldaña. I am 16 years old and I'm going into my junior year at Lenard High School.

My dream job is to become a lawyer or to work in the department of law. I've been at Beth-El since I was very little. I was even one of the kids for Vacation Bible School, but now I volunteer to help VBS.



This summer, I've been volunteering every Tuesday to gain some community service hours for college. What I do at Beth-El can depend on various things. Sometimes I help in the food pantry: helping pass out tickets, or helping people put their bags of groceries in their car. Sometimes I work in the warehouse to help bag up rice. I work inside and outside the church and its tiring work at times but at the end of the day it feels good to help people out and the community, too.

Each experience at Beth-El has been a key to help with my communication skills. I've worked with other volunteer groups and its taught me how to work with others and communicate with various age groups. Even helping in Vacation Bible School has been a big learning experience for me. I get to learn about the kids as well as work with them. I also get to learn more about the groups that come to help out and work with them.

Vacation Bible School has helped me learn how to become a leader and has helped me mature as a person. Although Vacation Bible School doesn't benefit my community service hours for college, it does help me benefit as a person who's still growing and learning. I also love working with the kids and the people every year, so anytime summer rolls around, that's when I know I'm going to see "my" kids and it makes me happy. Overall volunteering for Beth-el this summer has helped me as a person and it also helped me learn new things every Tuesday.

Larissa

Beth-El Scholarship Recipient Graduates from Hillsborough Community College

My name is Estefany Villamar. I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Beth-El Scholarships. I am the first in my family to graduate college. I have been accepted into the University of South Florida to complete my Bachelors in Science. I have registered and will start classes in the fall. After completion I will then go to Dental School. I want to thank Beth-El for their generous support in helping me to finish my college degree. Their help means a lot to me, because they have been with me since I started learning English as a



second language. Also, having their help gave me the opportunity to attend school to keep improving my education. Beth-El is one of the reasons I have made my goals come true and I would not be where I am right now without their scholarships.

Again, thank you Beth-El.

Estefany

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

- Lunch at the Farm (Sept-May)
- 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



Our **Back to School Crew** will start production pretty soon. Thanks to your donations, Beth-El distributes **more than 500 backpacks** filled with school supplies. Here is an idea of what you could donate!

Back to School Supplies Wish List

- Back Packs (Middle and High School size)
- Glue Sticks
- Binders (1",2",3")
- Washable markers
- Coloring pencils
- Notebooks
- Highlighters
- Loose leaf paper
- College ruled paper
- Composition notebooks
- Scissors
- Pens (black, blue, red)
- Pencils
- Erasers of any type
- Hand sanitizers (pocket size)
- Index Cards
- Three hole dividers
- 3 prong folders with pockets
- White board markers
- Pencil pouch



















Immediate Needs

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

- **Shampoo**
- **Deodorant**
- **Bar soaps**
- **Baseball style caps**
- **Body wash and lotion**
- **Tennis shoes**
- **Diapers New born/size 1**





SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
01 Worship Service 11 am 	02 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	03 Food Pantry Distribution Day 	04 	05 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	06 Mobile Food Pantry 	07
08 Worship Service 11 am 	09 Rice & Beans packing day! 	10 Food Pantry Distribution Day 	11 Worship Service 7 pm 	12 Groceries packing day 	13 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	14
15 Worship Service 11 am 	16 Sorting Clothing 	17 Food Pantry Distribution Day 	18 Groceries packing day 	19 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	20 Sorting Clothing 	21
22 Worship Service 11 am 	23 Produce packing day! 	24 Food Pantry Distribution Day 	25 Worship Service 7 pm 	26 Groceries packing day 	27 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	28
29 Worship Service 11 am 	30 Sorting Clothing 	31 Food Pantry Distribution Day 	01	02	03	04

For farm deliveries or lunch at the farms times, please contact Javier at Javier@beth-el.org (813) 633 1548 ext. 228 for more details.



Many thanks to all who donated tickets to see the Tampa Bay Rays. 30 members of our Beth-El community were able to enjoy the game.

Beth-El Dental Clinic



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.
- Teachers - Bi-lingual who can help with basic skills (ESOL, GED).

The dental clinic will be opening this September. In preparation, we continue to collect hygiene kits to offer our patients after their treatment. We are looking for packaged toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss. To learn more how you can help, please call us at 813-633-1548.

- **Dentists/Hygenists - to add to our volunteers for our clinic.**
- **Translators - to work with professional dental teams.**
- **Counselors - (bi-lingual) to help with needs assessments.**



Many thanks to all our supporters!

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.

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:

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Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is open Monday through Thursday from 8a.m. to 5p.m., Friday 8a.m. to 2p.m. Other times by appointment.

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