

# C.R.O.S. Currents

A special publication celebrating C.R.O.S. Volunteers

Volunteer Appreciation 2007

## Director's Corner



Dear Friends:

I often say I get to work with the best people in the world, our volunteers.

C.R.O.S.'s

volunteers are caring, committed, hard working, loving, and fun people. There is not a way this ministry would be possible if it were not for our volunteers. In fact it is not the ministry of C.R.O.S. that takes place, rather it is the ministry of the volunteers and congregations. C.R.O.S. is here to serve as a bridge for congregations to meet the needs of our communities.

This newsletter is dedicated to our wonderful volunteers that enable so many to find hope in tomorrow. We are so grateful and we appreciate you so very much. THANK YOU.

If you want to make a difference in your community and touch people with hope and care give us a call. We would love to have you as part of the C.R.O.S. family.

Peace and Grace,

*Pam*

Rev. Pamela A. Cahoon

*Is your faith, hope and love for C.R.O.S. Ministries reflected in your will and estate plan?*

## 2007 Volunteer of the Year

### Mary Jane Sickel

Mary Jane Sickel has been a strong advocate and promoter of C.R.O.S. in her congregation, First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, her neighborhood, and where ever she can. She has recruited wonderful volunteers, in-kind supporters and donors for our programs.

Mary Jane has also secured a monthly donor. The woman called to get more information on who we were and what we do. Mary Jane just so happened to answer that call. She expressed her true passion for C.R.O.S. and the hope that is offered to so many each and every day. Because of Mary Jane's strong promotion and enthusiasm the woman has now found the same passion for C.R.O.S.

Mary Jane serves as the treasurer of our Board of Directors and has volunteered as an office volunteer for the Community Food Pantry in Delray for 9 years. She has helped with several fundraising events and is always willing to go the extra mile when we really need her. Thanks Mary Jane for your heartfelt support of C.R.O.S. Ministries.



*Mary Jane Sickel at the 13th Annual CROS Walk in October 2006.*

*Caring Hearts, Caring Hands, Offering Hope*

## Mentoring Children of Promise Volunteer of the Year



Stephanie Graniero motivates success through example and inspiration. From the beginning, she and her mentee, Suxein, were a good match. They share a love for fashion and spend time together engaging in many fun activities including jewelry making. Stephanie consistently goes above and beyond as a friend and mentor.

She is an entrepreneur, fashion designer and the owner of "Oh My Bod" clothing boutique in Delray Beach. She always has a smile on her face and a motivating word to share. Despite waiting a year to be matched, she maintained a positive attitude and commitment to helping a child in MCP. She possesses a unique combination of intellect, spirituality, compassion, and ambition, coupled with a heart-felt sincere desire to see others be successful. In 2006, MCP was able to make 28 matches because volunteers are serving as mentors.

## Gleaning Volunteers of the Year

During the 2006/2007 Gleaning season the youth group at Trinity United Methodist Church was the group that gleaned the most amount of produce (7000 lbs) in a single gleaning event. They also showed the most enthusiasm to the program because of their willingness to glean more than two times.



The youth group has over fifty students participating in its program. These students are passionate about actively reaching out to their community through local service projects. Like gleaning, these projects are used to exhibit and reinforce the humility of Christ and to prepare students for short term mission trips.

Thank you for your contribution and for making a difference in the lives of people right here in our community. In 2006, 50,933 lbs. of produce was gleaned through the efforts of numerous volunteers.

## Hurricane Recovery Volunteer of the Year



About a year ago, Everett discovered that C.R.O.S. Ministries was assisting residents of Palm Beach County with Hurricane Recovery. Everett jumped right in to help.

Whenever Rick, C.R.O.S.'s Construction Coordinator, needs a helping hand Everett is ready and willing. His dedication to the program is exemplified in all that he does including traveling to job sites anywhere in the county from his home in Boca.

Everett has recruited and coordinated members from his own church to commit to one day a month working on homes. Everett has coordinated projects from Riviera Beach to Delray Beach and even into the Glades. His big heart for serving others has been a tremendous blessing to so many families. 445 families were helped with hurricane repair and recovery.

## Summer Camp Volunteer of the Year



Ray Feran has been a camp counselor at Camp Outreach for 3 years, and will be joining us again this coming summer. During camp Ray made sure that the children experienced God in a real way. His servant's heart is seen as he helped during meals, leading activities, during Bible study, and the talent show.

In addition to being a camp counselor, Ray has helped with the Holiday Gift Program. For the past 3 years he has ensured that children who attended the Day Camps receive a gift at Christmas time. He has also helped and recruited friends for the annual Camp Car Wash.

Ray is an asset to the camping programs. He has shown the children and fellow counselors God's unconditional love. Because of volunteers like Ray, 240 campers experienced God's love at the days camps held in 2006.

## Food Pantry Volunteer of the Year

Charles Gates can be described in many ways: he is a native Floridian, a singer in the Master Works chorus, a veteran, and a pioneer in community service. But the way we at C.R.O.S. like to describe him is as a willing soul, eager to serve and always having a broad smile on his face.

At the Lake Worth Pantry, Charles has volunteered with C.R.O.S. as a shopper, food drive volunteer, food pick up, shelf stocker, food sorter and a number one organizer. Charles has been serving as a volunteer with C.R.O.S. for five years. Not only is he a volunteer but also a financial supporter through monetary donations and his assistance with the CROS Walk. In 2006, Charles and other volunteers like him helped provide 32,061 individuals with food from our food pantries.



### Delray Pantry Volunteers of the Year



*Tom Pemberton (L) & Peter Ryland (R)  
unloading food from a recent  
shopping trip.*

Peter Ryland started volunteering with his son Sean in November of 2002, helping with weekend and evening food pick-ups. Tom Pemberton started volunteering with us in April 2005, helping with weekly food pick ups from the Daily Bread Food Bank and shopping at Save-A-Lots.

In 2005, Peter retired from work and we soon had him paired up with Tom. The two have been inseparable ever since. They shop at Save-A-Lots and pick up food from our storage unit. It has become an even bigger job now that we are serving over 900 people each month and the Lake Worth Save-A-Lot is still closed due to hurricane damage.

Peter and Tom work diligently to ensure that our pantry shelves are replenished every Monday. This duo is essential to the Delray Pantry because without them we would struggle keeping food on the shelves!

### Indiantown Volunteer of the Year

Mary Gomez is a quiet, humble person with a great sense of humor and is a true joy to work with. She began volunteering several years ago when the Outreach Center began broadening its service delivery along with the monthly food allotment.



Mary has put her heart into her time at the center. There are many days that she says she will stay after to help with whatever is needed. She has also been a caring and non-judgmental translator as clients share their stories. There are so many examples of her demonstrating Christian love to everyone she meets.

Thank you Mary for all that you have done to live Micah 6: 8, "What more does the Lord require of you than to love kindness, do justice, and walk humbly with your God?" In 2006, 118 referrals to agencies for services and programs were made through the Indiantown Outreach Center.

### CROS Walk Volunteer of the Year



For the past 13 years Brian Nehemias has worked behind the scenes at our annual CROS Walk to ensure all goes well. Brian works diligently to make sure that we have everything needed in order to ensure the event goes smoothly. Brian puts up the CROS Walk banner, sets up tables, helps with water stations and cleans the bathrooms. Through it all he even finds time to collect pledges and walk the 5K.

Join us in celebrating our volunteers by supporting C.R.O.S. Ministries.

Honor a volunteer or someone special in your life through a donation on their behalf.

Please include their name and address and we will send them a letter acknowledging that you have made a donation to C.R.O.S. in his/her name.

## C.R.O.S. Currents

Volunteer Newsletter 2007  
A special publication celebrating C.R.O.S. Volunteers.

Offices located at:  
4401 Garden Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405-2541  
Telephone: (561) 833-9499  
Fax: (561) 833-1299  
E-mail: [info@crosmministries.org](mailto:info@crosmministries.org)  
Web: [www.crosmministries.org](http://www.crosmministries.org)

#### Our Mission

The mission of Christians Reaching Out to Society is to enable people of all faiths to work together to identify needs and collaborate with community groups in creating solutions.

#### C.R.O.S. Staff

Rev. Pamela Cahoon  
Rev. Juanita Bryant Goode  
Ian Oudit  
Ruth Mageria  
Gail Hipps  
April Hazamy  
Claribel Baron  
Lindsay Zimmerman  
Elaine Thomas  
Lee Washington  
Guillermo Carrasco



**Caring Kitchen Volunteer of the Year**

Jean Robert Francois has been nominated as the Caring Kitchen volunteer of the year for his flexibility, willingness to go that extra mile and all around caring for the people that we serve.

Jean Robert has been assisting at the Caring Kitchen for two years now and has been called upon to perform a variety of tasks. From unloading trucks, to visiting with shut-ins, to leading prayer groups, Jean Robert has shown the utmost respect and love for those that we serve.

Jean Robert has been instrumental in helping a Caring Kitchen participant to reinstate her food stamps, spending one entire afternoon at the food stamp office helping to present and explain the misunderstanding that had led to the family being disqualified for the benefit. We have called upon Jean Robert to interpret on many occasions, which makes our work with the Creole speaking community ever so much more effective. Because of volunteers serving at the Caring Kitchen, hot lunch is served to an average of 177 people each day.

**A Worker Bee Behind the Scenes**

We would like to recognize Paul Rudzites as an unsung hero of the Caring Kitchen. Paul is responsible for the Sunday Costco delivery. He faithfully picks up Costco items each Sunday Morning and deposits them in our coolers. Paul never misses a beat and even though we rarely see him, we can depend on his "behind the scenes" consistency to keep that part of our ball rolling.

This past year Paul even organized the extra holiday giving from Costco, taking the additional time needed to scan each item to ensure proper accounting for Costco. Doing things the way that our donors like them done is one way we keep healthy relationships that, in turn, keep the "goods" coming in for those who need them.

**Funding Announcement**

C.R.O.S. Ministries' Long-Term Hurricane Recovery Program has been awarded a \$269,000 grant from the Storm Recovery Center of the Florida United Methodist Conference. These funds are made possible through your generous offerings to UMCOR. Thank you for giving.

**We are grateful for the many volunteers of these additional C.R.O.S. programs.**

*After School Snacks*  
*Office & Newsletter Volunteers*

**Saturday Bag Lunch**

**Special Events**

*Thanksgiving Boxes*

*Christmas Gifts & Food Boxes*



**Return Service Requested**

**Christians Reaching Out to Society, Inc.  
4401 Garden Ave.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405-2541**

**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
West Palm Beach, FL  
Permit No. 218**