

C.R.O.S. Currents

A quarterly publication for the friends of Christians Reaching Out to Society, Inc.

Fall 2007

Dear **Friends** of CROS Ministries,



More and more people are depending on assistance to feed themselves and their children. We are serving 60% more people this year and half are children. Our numbers in all of our programs are up. Your support of the CROS Walk is especially important.

You may feel like what you do is small but it makes a huge difference to those that need care, love, and support. Remember what Oscar Romero, the martyred archbishop of El Salvador said, *"It helps now and then, to step back and take a long view. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest."*

Thank you for planting seeds and watering seeds that others have planted, and building strong foundations. We are blessed to be a blessing, thank you for blessing so many.

Peace and Grace,

Pam

Rev. Pamela A. Cahoon

Come Join Us for the 13th Annual CROS Walk



The 13th Annual CROS Walk will be held on Sunday, October 14th at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Registration begins at 2:30pm and starts at 3pm. This 5K walk, along Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach, is a fundraiser to benefit C.R.O.S.'s local endeavors to demonstrate God's love through our food pantries, mentoring and hurricane recovery programs, summer camps and The Caring Kitchen. Join us rain or shine.



Consider partnering with C.R.O.S. to meet the needs of our local community. Is your congregation participating? Are you a member of a local Rotary or Kiwanis club that would be interested in joining the walk? Walkers are asked to solicit at least \$80 in pledges. If you are unable to walk, you can still help by sponsoring a walker.

Now, more than ever, we need everyone in the community to participate and help C.R.O.S. raise the necessary funds to continue serving the "least of these" in Palm Beach County. Join us in praying for a safe walk, good weather and a bountiful response that will assist C.R.O.S. in ending hunger in our community. For more information about the CROS Walk and how you can be a part of this event, please contact the C.R.O.S. office at (561)833-9499 or e-mail info@crosministries.org.



C.R.O.S.'s 30th Anniversary



Mark your calendars to join C.R.O.S. Ministries in celebrating 30 years of ministry. A dinner and celebration will be held Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at the United Methodist Church of the Palm Beaches in West Palm Beach. The festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. and tickets are \$30. Invitations will be mailed in late December. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Need for Food Increases

The number of people seeking food assistance at the C.R.O.S. Ministries' food pantries has increased by over 60%. Numbers at The Caring Kitchen are up by 18%. Already this year, we have spent \$53,000 on food costs which include food for the pantries and The Caring Kitchen. Reasons for this increase include the problems people are facing getting food stamps, the high cost of fuel that raises the cost of everything else, low service industry jobs and the high cost of housing.



There are a number of ways that you can help us continue to meet the ever-increasing need for assistance within our community. First, you can organize a food drive at your church or workplace as part of our *Harvest for Hope* campaign. Second, you could return the enclosed envelope with your tax-deductible contribution. Third, you can participate in the upcoming CROS Walk event and gather pledges for each mile you walk. And lastly, we ask you to pray for this ministry and our community as a whole. Together we can continue offering hope to those in need.

Hurricane Recovery

C.R.O.S. Ministries is pleased to inform you that our Long-Term Hurricane Recovery Program has been awarded a \$269,000 grant from the Storm Recovery Center of the Florida United Methodist Conference.



There are more than 20 homes awaiting repairs. C.R.O.S. continues to seek help from individuals (at least 16 yrs. old) and groups of all skill levels. A construction supervisor is on-site for all projects so volunteers simply need to bring a willingness to work and a strong desire to make a difference in our community. Contact Sue Grimm at (561) 833-9499 or e-mail sgrimm@crosmministries.org to schedule your next workday.

Christmas Gift Card Program



Christmas is just around the corner and C.R.O.S. will again be offering assistance to families during the holidays by providing them with gift cards to purchase gifts. The names of children and families needing assistance will be available in late September. Please call the C.R.O.S. office at (561) 833-9499 to sign-out Christmas names.

Charitable Giving through IRA Rollover

Donors who give from their IRA to charities like C.R.O.S. Ministries reap tax benefits. By transferring money from an IRA account to C.R.O.S., donors not only support our ministry but also help to meet their IRA's minimum annual distribution requirement and exclude the distribution from their taxable income. Donors must be age 70 1/2 or older on the date of the distribution, and the maximum amount allowed is \$100,000 per year. Gifts made in 2006 or by December 31, 2007, will qualify. Consult your tax advisor today. December is just around the corner.

Gleaning Season Just Around the Corner

The 2007-2008 Gleaning season begins in October and we are currently scheduling groups for weekend gleaning events. Last season, volunteers helped to glean over 150,000 lbs. of fresh produce that was distributed to local feeding programs. If you are interested in gleaning, please call Ian Oudit, Gleaning Coordinator, at (561) 833-9499 or e-mail ioudit@crosmministries.org.



Mentoring Children of Promise Day of Fun



On July 14th, 22 MCP mentors, mentees and parents enjoyed an exciting day of fun together during the MCP quarterly activity. The day at the Spirit Retreat Center in Lorida, Florida was filled with food, art projects, face painting, pony and boat rides. Special thanks to the staff at the retreat center for hosting such a great day and to the United Methodist Church of the Palm Beaches for providing transportation.

CROS CAMP Special Thanks

CROS CAMPS went very well this summer. We are so very grateful for the groups and individuals who made this ministry possible. Groups that contributed to CROS CAMPS 2007:

- Day Camp volunteer groups:**
- First Congregational Church, Lake Worth •
 - M-Fuge • Adventures in Mission •
 - First Baptist Church in West Palm Beach •
 - Harvest United Methodist Church, Bradenton •
 - Christ Presbyterian Church, Ormond Beach •
 - St. Peter's United Methodist Church •
 - Christ United Methodist Church, Ft. Lauderdale •

- Facilities for Day Camp provided by:**
- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach •
 - St. John's Haitian Mission United Methodist Church •
 - Community United Methodist Church in Belle Glade •
- Thank you for sharing your space.*

- Field trips were made possible through donations of time, transportation and tickets from:**
- First United Methodist Church in Boca Raton •
 - St. Peter's United Methodist Church • Dan Michelle •
 - Delray Beach Playhouse • Ava Sue Hickerson •

- Camp Outreach equipment donors, extra helpers and transportation providers:**
- First United Methodist Church in Boca Raton •
 - Scott Folsom, Canal Point United Methodist Church •
 - Carrie Neilsen, Christians Sound Consulting •
 - St. Peter's United Methodist Church •
 - Ava Sue Hickerson • Keller William Realty •



Special thanks to the Mid-High Sunday school class at Boca West United Methodist Church for raising enough money to send one child to camp for a week. One family "gave-up" fast food and contributed that money to this wonderful gift.

Corporate Hearts Give Back

C.R.O.S. has been blessed by the multitude of local businesses that continue to support our organization. Through the donation of services, food, supplies and space C.R.O.S. Ministries is able to offer hope to many in our community. This summer groups like Lexis Nexus of Boca Raton



took time out to prepare, serve and clean up a noon meal at The Caring Kitchen. Volunteers even spent time organizing the clothing closet. Would your business be interested in spending a day at The Caring Kitchen or helping repair a leaky, hurricane-damaged roof? Contact Donna Buchalter, Volunteer Coordinator, at (561) 833-9499 or e-mail dbcros@bellsouth.net to schedule a "give back" day for your business.

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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 in creating solutions.

C.R.O.S. Staff

Rev. Pamela Cahoon	Guillermo Carrasco
Rev. Juanita Bryant Goode	Jeanette Hemphill
Sister Mary Ann Caulfield	Gail Frymoyer
Ian Oudit	Donna Buchalter
Ruth Mageria	
Karen Mills	
April Hazamy	
Claribel Baron	
Lindsay Zimmerman	
Claudia Rosado	
Sue Grimm	
Mayra Echenique	
Donna Buchalter	

Self-Sufficiency Graduate

The Caring Kitchen's long-term self-sufficiency program has had its first successful graduate! Wanda Stewart has received certification as a Nail Technician from PBCC and secured a job at a local salon. A long-time client of The Caring Kitchen, Wanda's indomitable spirit has helped her persevere through homelessness and poverty. When Wanda decided that it was time to return to school and pursue her life-long dream of being a nail tech, The Caring Kitchen was there to help. Our staff set up weekly meetings with Wanda, giving her short-term goals to meet and eventually paid for the 12 week class. Wanda is a great role model to her four children, showing them that persistence and hard work can overcome any situation.



Birthday Gifts for the Pantry



For her 75th birthday, pantry volunteer, Mary Hanna, had a birthday party to support C.R.O.S. Ministries' Lake Worth Food Pantry. Instead of gifts for herself, Mary told people they could bring non-perishable goods for the pantry. Thank you Mary and Stan for your continued support.

Honor a loved one for a lifetime by making a contribution to C.R.O.S. Ministries' Endowment Fund. Call (561) 833-9499 for more information.

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events

October 14, 2007
13th Annual CROS Walk
along Flagler Drive
in West Palm Beach

November 19, 2007
2nd Annual End Hunger
Dinner
Greenfield's on Atlantic
in Delray Beach

Rev. Juanita Bryant Goode and Vickie Greenfield at last year's dinner.



January 29, 2008
C.R.O.S. Ministries' 30th Anniversary
United Methodist Church
of the Palm Beaches
in West Palm Beach



March 6, 2008
3rd Annual Magical Evening of Music
Old School Square
in Delray Beach
*Jon Levinson, Gary Eliopoulos and
Rev. Pamela Cahoon at last year's magical event.*

December 29, 2007
Gil's 80th FUNdraising Birthday Bash
to benefit The Caring Kitchen
1st United Methodist Church
in Boca Raton

Is the information on your mailing label correct? Are you receiving more than one copy of the newsletter? You can help us keep our mailing costs down by giving us name and address corrections and notifying us of duplicate mailings. THANK YOU!!



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