



WINTER 2025

# CROS CURRENTS

CROS Ministries provides food for the hungry and the food insecure in collaboration with our partners in the community.



Dear Friends,

Set, SNAP, hike! Pun (or punt) intended, CROS Ministries is snapping into action to “Tackle Hunger” as we sprint to the 2025 end zone. The last few months have sent us into an unprecedented offense with the government remaining shut and the temporary delay of SNAP benefits. This has increased the needs of the 192,000 residents in Palm Beach County who struggle with hunger. As a result, our food pantries have seen more individuals

and families. Thankfully, our offense includes the best players: a team of incredible community partners, donors, volunteers, and fully-committed staff, who work tirelessly on the frontlines to feed the hungry in Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

We recently met Teresa, a mother in her 60’s who takes care of her older disabled son and has been fostering her granddaughter since she was three days old. Teresa is on disability as she continues chemo treatments which she has been undergoing for years. She showed up to one of our food pantry locations at the end of October to ask for help for the first time in her life because she faces the real worry of losing more than \$900/month in SNAP benefits. Thankfully, we were there to fill in that gap for food to help Teresa and her family.

In the spirit of the holiday season, we are grateful for your support to ensure access to healthy food for all in need. I call on you to join our offensive team and help give others, like Teresa renewed hope and tomorrows. Join me in in standing in the gap and ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry, not just today or tomorrow, but throughout the year. You can make a real difference! With 92 cents of every dollar going directly to our programs, your support will put food on the table for our brothers and sisters in need.

**Snap into action and join us in tackling hunger by helping to provide access to healthy food for all.**

With Gratitude and Hope,

*Ruth*

Ruth Mageria, CEO

Ensuring Access to Healthy Food for All in Need  
**GIVE ONLINE – IT’S SECURE & EASY!**  
[www.crosministries.org](http://www.crosministries.org)



## 2025 Impact

January 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025

### Community Food Pantries

**100,681**

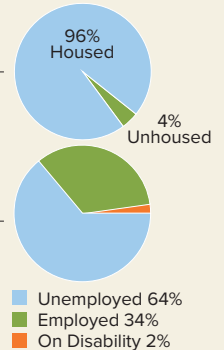
individuals served,  
including 27% children  
and 12% seniors

**5,912**

new individuals sought  
food for the first time

**808,042**

pounds of food distributed



### Gleaning

**460,245**

pounds of fresh produce recovered during  
the 2024-2025 gleaning season, equivalent to  
**383,537 meals** based on Feeding America’s  
equation of 1.2lbs of food = 1 meal

### Caring Kitchen

**30,609**

meals served  
(Noon Meals and Meals  
to the Homebound)

**3,600**

meals and after-school  
snacks provided to  
community partners

**13,760**

weekend bagged lunches  
distributed through partner  
Cason UMC

## Together at the Table: The Elks Lodge Welcomes the Caring Kitchen

When the Caring Kitchen needed a new home to serve lunch, one of our dedicated volunteers led us to the Delray Elks Lodge and what we found was far more than just a venue. We discovered true allies in our mission to fight hunger.

The Elks have generously welcomed us into their space, hosting our community meals twice a week. Their ballroom has become a haven where neighbors gather not just for nourishment, but for connection and camaraderie.

The Elks have also joined us in celebration helping us belt out tunes and build memories during our recent Do Good Delray Karaoke Competition Night, filling the room with joy and laughter. And their commitment doesn't stop there. Starting in the new year, the Elks will host a food drive during one of their monthly events, continuing to support our mission with heart and purpose.

This partnership has moved us deeply. So much so that the Caring Kitchen Program Director, Shona Castillo, was inspired to become a proud member of the Elks herself a testament to the powerful bond we've built in service of our community.

## Faith That Feeds: St. Peter's and CROS Ministries Share Bread and Hope

For well over a decade, St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Wellington has been a valued partner of CROS Ministries, playing an essential role in advancing our mission to address food insecurity throughout Palm Beach and Martin Counties. What began as a simple partnership has grown into one of our strongest and most dedicated collaborations. St. Peter's has steadily expanded its efforts in tackling hunger by, engaging in volunteer service, food collection, and logistical support that directly benefits our community programs and participants.



Many of their congregation members have served faithfully at our sites throughout the years, and today, several continue to volunteer regularly at our Belle Glade and Lake Worth Pantries as well as helping with the Warehouse deliveries, ensuring food reaches those who need it most. Each week, St. Peter's teams collect hundreds of pounds of bread and pastries from Publix to support our food distribution efforts. What started as small acts of service have blossomed into a lasting relationship built on compassion and shared purpose. Together, we continue to tackle hunger and bring hope to our neighbors in need.



Mitch Katz, Delray Elks Lodge Board Member



### Scoreboard: Our Goals for the Season

**\$200,000**  
Donations  
Raised

**250,000**  
Pounds of  
Food Collected

### Join Us for Giving Gamedays

#### Lunch & Learn

**Friday, November 21, 2025**  
Wellington Community Center

#### Jeans & Jerseys

**Saturday, January 31, 2026**  
Coastal Karma Brewery

#### Souper Bowl of Caring

**Sunday, February 8, 2026**  
Local Congregations and Groups

### Every Player Makes a Difference

Visit [crosministries.org/take-action](https://crosministries.org/take-action) or scan the QR code to make a donation and RSVP for an upcoming event.





## A Shared Mission to Serve: Temple Israel and Jupiter Christian Unite in Compassion

For over a decade, Temple Israel in downtown West Palm Beach has been a dedicated partner to us. Over the years, their congregation has volunteered not only in our CROS warehouse where they sort and bag donated food for distribution, but also at several of our food pantry locations throughout the county. Recently, Temple Israel teamed up with Jupiter Christian School for a special volunteer project that brought two faith communities together in service.



During their time together, the students from Jupiter Christian learned about the Jewish New Year, including Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah, while working side by side to prepare food for those in need. Temple Israel members enjoyed the opportunity to connect with students from another faith tradition and share in meaningful dialogue. “Both sides were receptive to each other’s beliefs and united in their commitment to feed the hungry,” said volunteer Jim Eisenberg.

The group found common ground in their shared calling to care for the poor, an act deeply rooted in both Jewish and Christian teachings. Teacher, Lyndsey Cornell said “Serving at CROS was an eye-opening experience for our students. They were moved to learn how many families in our county face food insecurity, and it was inspiring for them to serve alongside the local Jewish community. Packing food together became not just an act of service, but a shared moment of learning, gratitude, and connection.” The experience was a beautiful example of interfaith collaboration in action.

Students from Jupiter Christian School & Temple Israel team

## Game On for Good: CROS and PBA Team Up to Tackle Hunger

As we kick off gleaning season on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, CROS Ministries is tackling hunger alongside students from Palm Beach Atlantic University and the Jewish Federation of the Palm Beach. Together, we’re recovering one piece of produce at a time to help put fresh, healthy food on the tables of those facing food insecurity.

PBA students have been a vital part of our gleaning and warehouse programs for years, dedicating their service hours to support CROS and our mission. Over our long-term partnership, which predates 2005, PBA students have contributed an incredible 7,412 volunteer hours.

Each bag of recovered produce and every shift in our food pantry program represents their commitment to making a real difference in our community. The collaboration between PBA and CROS shows how service and faith can work hand in hand to fight hunger. This gleaning season, as we prepare to “score a touchdown” in the fight against hunger, we celebrate the energy and dedication of the PBA students who make it possible. Together, we’re kicking off another year of teamwork! If you want to join us, please reach out today!



Students from Palm Beach Atlantic University

# Strategic Year-End Giving: Maximize Generosity and Tax Benefits

## Sharing Wealth with Charitable Giving

As the end of the year approaches, consider making philanthropic giving part of your financial plan. New legislation has created benefits for donors to make strategic charitable contributions by December 31, 2025. Consult your financial advisor about the advantages of year-end giving and help set tax-smart philanthropic goals to amplify your generosity.

## Qualified Charitable Distribution

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a way for individuals aged 70½ or older to donate money from their IRA directly to a qualified charity, with the donation counting toward their required minimum distribution (RMD). This allows the IRA owner to satisfy their RMD and potentially avoid paying income tax on the distribution, as the money is excluded from their gross income. Contact your IRA administrator to make a qualified charitable distribution to CROS.

## How Will You Be Remembered?

### Leave a Lasting Legacy with CROS

Did you know that you can help us stand in the gap for the hungry for perpetuity? We have two Endowment Funds: one with the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, and another with the Florida United Methodist Foundation. Contact Ruth Mageria at 561-317-5319 or [rmageria@crosministries.org](mailto:rmageria@crosministries.org) to learn more about providing for CROS Ministries for decades to come – whether through estate gifts or present-day contributions.



✂ Cut along line and return in the enclosed envelope

## WAYS TO CONNECT WITH CROS!

- ☐ Host a Food Drive
- ☐ Pick Fresh Produce at a Gleaning Event
- ☐ Help Bag or Sort Food for our Food Pantries
- ☐ Become a Monthly Donor
- ☐ Remember CROS in Your Will and Estate Planning
- ☐ Volunteer with The Caring Kitchen to Prepare Food or Deliver Homebound Meals
- ☐ Make a Donation  
(please make checks payable to CROS Ministries)

GIVE ONLINE!



**Does your company offer a matching gift program for charitable donations?  
Consider signing us up for their matching gift program to double your impact! Ask us how.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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