



SPRING 2026

CROS CURRENTS

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



Dear Friends,

Hunger and food insecurity do not look the same for everyone.

Lori, who I recently met at one of our food pantries, once worked full-time as a medical secretary. Today, a chronic health condition limits her ability to work to part-time. Over the last three years, she

has sought on-and-off food assistance from CROS: only when she needs it. Her wages do not cover all her bills, and navigating the medical care she needs has added another layer of strain.

Even amid the challenges of government shutdowns, funding cuts, and a growing number of people seeking food assistance, thousands of individuals and families come through our pantry doors or receive meals through our Caring Kitchen program each month. Some are first-time visitors who never expected to be in this position. Others return after months away when budgets tighten again. Many, like Lori, come only when the gap becomes too wide.

Those seeking food assistance often have jobs, but are having to make difficult choices on how to spend their limited resources due to the high cost of living. They are seniors balancing food, medicine, and HOA costs. They are our neighbors facing health challenges and the family next door whose paycheck is temporarily on hold until the government starts funding their position again.

This gleaning season has also brought unexpected challenges for our growing partners. The unprecedented South Florida cold weather continues to test our local farmers. But with our partners' planting determination and our volunteers' willingness to serve, the fruits of our labor continue to grow.

We are grateful for your ongoing investment. As we look ahead, we are confident that, with your generosity, CROS will remain a constant presence in our community. We continue to stand in the gap for the hungry with boots on the ground, ending hunger for one individual, one family at a time.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Ruth Mageria, CEO

GIVE ONLINE!



2025 CROS Impact

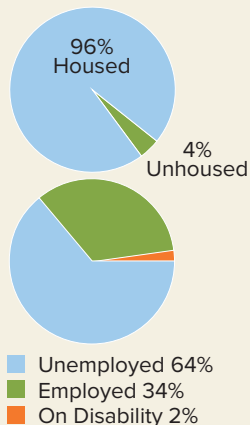
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Community Food Pantries

121,561
INDIVIDUALS SERVED
including 27% children
and 12% seniors

7,295
NEW INDIVIDUALS
sought food for first time

1,107,668
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



38,336
MEALS SERVED
(Noon Meals and Meals
to the Homebound)

3,707
GLEANNING VOLUNTEERS

We extend a special thank you to all our volunteers for their generosity and commitment to CROS Ministries and our goal to Tackle Hunger.



Caring Kitchen

16,760
WEEKEND BAGGED LUNCHES
distributed through partner
Cason UMC

800
AFTER-SCHOOL SNACKS
provided to
community programs

Jeans & Jerseys for the Winning Touchdown

Jeans and Jerseys Pre-Game to the Big Game was a success! The evening was filled with food, fun and fellowship. Special thanks to Jack Wu from CBS 12 News and Dwight Stephenson, former Miami Dolphin and Hall of Famer who brought the night together!

Wu led a question and answer session with Stephenson. The football great shared stories about his time playing for the University of Alabama and the Dolphins, various people who have inspired him throughout his life, and why he and his wife Dinah choose to give back to their South Florida community.

Stephenson explained he is drawn to CROS and the Souper Bowl of Caring initiative because of its play on the NFL and the need to assist now more than ever with the recent cuts to certain programs, "I wanted to help out. I want to do what I can...I always give back. That's very, very important, especially to myself as well as Dinah. We want to help out."

Thank you to all who attended and to our sponsors!



Dwight Stephenson, Ruth Mageria, and Jack Wu

The King's Academy Steps Up for CROS Ministries

The King's Academy has been a faithful partner to CROS for many years. What began as a simple collaboration has grown into a meaningful relationship that engages students through gleaning opportunities and the school's annual Thanksgiving food drive.

"Each year, I am incredibly proud of our students, but last year they truly outdid themselves," said Heidi Martin, Executive Assistant to the President. "In just one week, more than 200 members of The King's Service Organization came together to lead the school in collecting a record number of items for CROS. The students' compassion, leadership, and commitment to helping families in need through CROS show the very best of what The King's Academy stands for. The food drive and partnership with CROS Ministries is

more than a tradition. It is a powerful reminder of what is possible when young people unite to serve Jesus, the King of kings." Last year, the school collected an incredible 15,506 pounds of food, doubling the amount gathered during their 2024 drive.

Josh Bartz, MDiv, Director of MS/HS Student Ministries, added, "For nearly two decades, our partnership with CROS Ministries has allowed us to put our faith into action, collecting food, gleaning fields, and ensuring families in our community are cared for."

We are grateful for the continued support of The King's Academy students, faculty, and staff. If your school or company is interested in volunteering with CROS, please contact Emily Zarzycki at emilyz@crosministries.org.



A "Thank You" from a Grateful Wanderer



I'm the old guy who grumbles and shuffles and creaks,
With knees that go snap! and a voice full of leaks.
I may not pray to the sky or believe in its rules,
But I do tip my hat to the kind-hearted still in school.

I found in my bag, past the beans and the bread,
A note full of hope and a few hearts tainted red.
It said "We are praying," with stickers to mind,
One said "Keep going," the other "Be kind."

Now I don't talk to angels, or whisper to saints,
And my soul's full of coffee and grumbly complaints.
But this scrap of bright paper, this child-sized grace,
Put a lump in my throat and a smile on my face.

So thank you, small scribbler, whoever you are,
With your markers and stickers and faith from afar.
You don't know my name, or the ache in my knees,
But you sent me a breeze through my skeptical trees.

I'm the Lorax-ish geezer who lives on canned peas,
With a beard full of crumbs and a heart full of please.
And though I don't kneel, I do stand and applaud,
The kindness of kids and the mystery of God.

– Paul Hazard, CROS Pantry Visitor



Raise Your Glass to End Hunger

Saturday, April 11, 2026 • 5-7pm

Aberdeen East Clubhouse

\$60 Ticket Includes: Light Bites & Nibbles,
Wine Tasting, Souvenir Wine Glass
and 1 Raffle Ticket



Robert Cordoba and Gary Woodfield Join CROS Ministries Board of Directors

Robert Cordoba and Gary Woodfield have been appointed to CROS' Board of Directors. They join the existing members in bringing their professional expertise and personal talents to address the issues related to hunger and food insecurity in Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

Cordoba serves as a vice president and the Florida office manager at Old Dominion National Bank, specializing in consumer and business banking, lending, investment products, and personalized financial planning for both individuals and businesses. Woodfield is an Of Counsel at Nason Yeager where he practices in the areas of general civil, commercial, and probate litigation in both state and federal courts throughout the country.

2026 CROS Board of Directors includes: Ken Treadwell, President; Joe Black, Vice President; Christine Stiller, Secretary; Jack Lansing, Treasurer; Dr. Steve Anderson; Robert Cordoba; Carol Rose; Felicia Slappy; Gary Woodfield; and Rev. Vidalis Lopez, Ex-officio



Robert Cordoba



Gary Woodfield

Caring Kitchen and Partner Meal Schedule



Congregate Meal

Mondays & Wednesdays • 12-1pm

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Parish Hall
404 SW 3rd St., Delray Beach

Cason UMC Breakfast

Tuesdays • 7-8am

342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach

The Lord's Place Food Truck

Tuesdays • 11am-12pm

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
(near shower truck)
404 SW 3rd St., Delray Beach

Congregate Meal

Thursdays • 12-1pm

Delray Beach Elks Lodge #1770
265 NE 4th Ave., Delray Beach

Sandwich Distribution

Fridays • 10-11am

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
(near shower truck)
404 SW 3rd St., Delray Beach

Bag Lunch Distribution

Saturdays • 8:30-9:45am

Cason UMC (outside Fellowship Hall)
342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach

Temple Sinai Sandwich Distribution

Sundays • 3-4pm

Cason UMC
342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach

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@crosmministries.org to learn more about providing for CROS Ministries for decades to come – whether through estate gifts or present-day contributions.



Save the Date!
Saturday, October 3, 2026
John Prince Park
Lake Worth Beach

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!



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