



SERVING THE HUNGRY

FALL 2026

CROS CURRENTS

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



Dear Friends,

September is Hunger Action Month, a time to raise awareness about hunger in America and, most importantly, take action. At CROS Ministries, we believe every action, big or small, can help create a community where everyone has access to healthy food. Thanks to our volunteers, community partners, funders, growers, and donors, CROS is taking action every day. And as the need continues to grow, we are grateful to have you standing with us.

The 2025-2026 gleaning season is a wonderful example of what we can accomplish when a community comes together. This season, 3,278 volunteers participated in 186 gleaning events with 12 growing partners, recovering 402,582 pounds of fresh produce that might otherwise have gone to waste.

But gleaning is about so much more than pounds of produce. It's about the grower who chooses to share a harvest rather than see it go to waste. It's about the volunteer who gives up a morning to work in the fields. It's about our food pantries and hot meal program receiving fresh fruits and vegetables. And it's about the individual or family who brings home nutritious produce they might not otherwise be able to afford.

Behind every hand-picked tomato, ear of corn, potato, or mango is a story and a common thread: people choosing to take action against hunger, one individual and one family at a time.

Our generous donors and supporters also make this work possible. The Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties recently granted \$90,000 to CROS, and The Jim Moran Foundation is once again renewing their commitment of \$180,000 for the next two years. The investment in our programs provides a vital lifeline for people facing rising living costs, fixed or insufficient incomes, and unexpected financial challenges. Continued and increased support helps us reach more communities and provide additional hunger relief throughout Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

During Hunger Action Month, I invite you to take action with us. Volunteer at one of our food pantries or with our hot meal program in Delray Beach. Host a food drive. Organize a gleaning group. Make a financial gift. Whatever action you choose, you are helping ensure that our neighbors have access to the healthy food they need.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Ruth Mageria, CEO

Ensuring Access to Healthy Food for All in Need
GIVE ONLINE – IT'S SECURE & EASY!
www.crosministries.org



2026 Impact

January 1, 2026 - July 31, 2026

Community Food Pantries

67,248

individuals served, including
27% children and 12% seniors

3,166

new individuals sought food for the first time

592,999

pounds of food distributed

Gleaning

402,582

pounds recovered during the 2025-2026
gleaning season, equivalent to
335,385 meals based on Feeding America's
equation of 1.2lbs of food = 1 meal

3,278

volunteers participated

Caring Kitchen

15,927

meals served
(Noon Meals and Meals
to the Homebound)

1,504

meals to
community
partners

A Meal, a Welcome, and a New Beginning

It had been more than a year since Joseph last visited our Caring Kitchen program, so it was especially meaningful when he stopped by recently to say hello and express his gratitude.



More than two years ago, Joseph found himself homeless after losing his construction job. During that difficult time, he became a regular visitor at our Caring Kitchen meal sites. He knew he could always count on a warm, nutritious meal and, just as importantly, a place where he felt welcomed, respected, and cared for.

After a lengthy job search, Joseph was given an opportunity with an electrical company whose owner saw potential in him and offered him a chance to start over. Joseph worked hard, learned the business, and continued moving forward. Today, he is an assistant project manager.

Joseph's story is a powerful reminder that our Caring Kitchen program provides much more than food. It is a place of hope, dignity, encouragement, and connection during a challenging time in someone's life.

We are thankful that our program could be part of Joseph's journey and even more grateful that he came back to share how far he has come. His visit was a wonderful reminder of the lasting impact CROS Ministries can have in someone's life.



Upcoming Events

Hustle to End HUNGER 5K
PRESENTED BY GENETICS INSTITUTE OF AMERICA LAKE WORTH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2026
7:30AM
JOHN PRINCE PARK LAKE WORTH BEACH

SIGN UP today!
SCAN TO REGISTER

RACE DAY INCLUDES:
FINISHER MEDALS, RACE TECH SHIRTS, ACCUCHIP TIMING, AGE GROUP AWARDS, FOOD & MUSIC

Out of town? VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE
WALKER FRIENDLY | FAMILY FUN | KIDS DASH

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS:
THE CORELLA & BERTRAM RUNNER FOUNDATION, CHARITIES, THE CONDE CENTER, Valley, SEARCY LAW, and others.

100% OF PROCEEDS BENEFIT CROS MINISTRIES

Fall Festival
Join us for an amazing afternoon of music, food, face painting, bounce houses, games, Trunk or Treat and MORE!

OCTOBER 3RD 4-7PM

Dress up in your best Halloween costume for a chance to win our costume contest!

Sunlight Community Church
1325 North A St.
Lake Worth, FL 33460

SPONSORS: IFC, GLORY CITY, CROS, SUNLIGHT

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MIC Karaoke Competition
Tackling Hunger One Song at a Time

Whether you're a shower singer or a seasoned performer, this is your chance to shine and help our community. Every note you sing and every dollar donated will go directly toward tackling hunger in our community.

Wednesday, October 7
5:30 - 8:00 pm
Delray Elks Lodge #1770
265 NE 4th Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33483
TBD, Master of Ceremony
TBD, Karaoke/Music Host

Tickets \$20 Per Person
Includes pizza, soft beverage, and raffle tickets. Cash bar available.
For More Information
www.crosministries.org/events

KARAOKE COMPETITION
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Prizes

RAFFLE BASKETS
Support a Great Cause

Sponsored By: AMY & NOREEN, LANG REALTY, and others.

Eagle Scout Project Makes a Lasting Impact for CROS Gleaning



When Michael Magaro began planning his Eagle Scout Service Project, he wanted to do more than simply fulfill the requirements for earning his Eagle Scout rank. He wanted to make a meaningful contribution that would continue benefiting the community long after the project was completed.

After meeting with our Gleaning team and learning about our program's needs, Michael decided his project would focus on improving the safety, organization, and durability of CROS' existing gleaning equipment. Michael and his team rebuilt slider boards and constructed a wall-mounted storage system for mango-picking poles and harvesting heads.

"What made the project meaningful to me was understanding that we weren't just building boards and a storage rack, we were improving the tools that CROS volunteers depend on to carry out the mission of the Gleaning Program. That gave the work a much greater purpose and was something I tried to communicate to everyone involved in the project," said Michael.

He also organized a food drive through his Scout troop and his school, The King's Academy. Along with support from family, friends, and members of the community, Michael orchestrated collecting 718 cans of food and raising \$4,798. After covering the project expenses, Michael donated the remaining \$2,782 to CROS to support our Gleaning Program.

The project Michael planned and led ultimately involved 57 people and totaled 562 hours of service, from planning and fundraising through construction and installation. Leading such a large team became one of the most valuable parts of Michael's experience.

"Looking back, I think the most important lesson I took from the experience is that the real measure of leadership isn't how much you can accomplish by yourself, but what you can bring people together to accomplish for a greater purpose," said Michael.

Michael completed the project in March, and he earned his Eagle Scout rank in May. We are grateful for the time, leadership, and dedication he invested in making a lasting difference for CROS' Gleaning Program. Great job, Michael!

Atlantic Christian Academy Students Put Service Into Action

Atlantic Christian Academy (ACA) students and staff found meaningful ways to support our food pantries and make a difference in the lives of our hungry neighbors throughout the 2025–2026 school year.

In the fall, ACA hosted a food drive on campus as part of our Tackle Hunger campaign. Following the drive, members of the National Honor Society rolled up their sleeves and worked alongside the CROS team to sort and process the donations, preparing them for distribution at our pantries.

As the school year continued, students helped wrap plastic utensils in napkins for our homebound participants, wrote positive messages on note cards, and hosted another sorting event to help CROS process another large food donation.

Our partnership with ACA did not end when school let out. This summer, CROS Director of Outreach Emily Zarzycki joined the school's summer camp program for "Serve Wednesdays," working with campers on a variety of service projects. The campers also collected macaroni and cheese for CROS' food pantries, demonstrating that even small acts of service can make a big difference.



A huge thank you to the students, summer campers, faculty, and staff at ACA for their hard work and generosity. We are incredibly grateful for their enthusiasm and commitment to serving others. We look forward to continuing this wonderful partnership with ACA!

Want to help Tackle Hunger?

Our Tackle Hunger Campaign begins in September and runs through February. To learn more about how your school, company, or community group can host a food drive for CROS, contact Emily at emilyz@crosministries.org.

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

IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are 70½ or older you may also be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals. An IRA charitable rollover is a way you can help continue our work and benefit this year. Contact your IRA plan administrator to discuss how you can have your IRA funds be directly transferred to CROS.



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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