

THE DELIVERY October 2017



So far in 2017...

Families served:	96,250
Seniors served:	5,586
Adults served:	87,901
Youth served:	25,801
Children served:	54,030
Product Received:	1,797,609 lbs.
Recommitments/Salvations:	925

Whose Business Is It Anyway?

Though the business world can often be challenging, it is by far, an exhilarating platform to have the privilege of stepping foot on. Inevitably, there are expenses to pay and hurdles to overcome, but nevertheless, each day is another opportunity to make a fresh mark on society as we know it.

In our office, it has gradually become common practice for our staff to remind one another that we are, in fact, a business. Being classified as a non-profit can sometimes have the awful tendency of suggesting that we can (or ought to) operate in a way that is distant from the general affairs of the business world. Certainly, there is a pronounced wedging block between us and many businesses in that we do not operate for profit; however, we are reminded that, as a member of the independent business sector, we likewise function on the basis of similar values; e.g. operational efficiency, mission, clientele relationship building, marketing, business networking, etc.

What this means is that non-profits and for-profits are not the “second cousins twice removed” that so many of us liken them to. Ultimately, it implies that the three business sectors (private, public and independent) have a tremendous question to answer: “how can each of us collaborate to further one another in our respective missions and benefit our community?”

To cultivate these relationships with other local businesses in our community, we have been blessed to hold membership with both the West Orange Chamber of Commerce and the Central Florida Christian Chamber. It is within these very meetings that business owners and representatives interact, discussing the broader scope of opportunity for promoting the welfare of each other and our community.

Chambers like these provide substantial support to the concept that the various business sectors actually have more commonalities than differences. Further, they evidence that businesses and local communities can thrive simultaneously.

A great example of how Southeastern Food Bank seeks to harness this chemistry between businesses and community is our Thanksgiving “Food for Families” event. Each November, Publix, a private company, partners with us to generously donate ~48,000 lbs. of food product, enough for 1,200 local needy families, over the holiday. The food is sorted and packed by community volunteers at Ocoee High School (public sector), who provides the venue for us.

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This is a prime example of the effectiveness drawn from business-community collaboration.

“It Takes One to Know One”

Since the beginning of their partnership with us just over two years ago, Living His Word Church has faithfully served and labored with 1225 Central Florida families. Among this number of recipients is a couple named Terry and Wanda, who began attending the food program in November of 2016. Almost a year later, they have since gotten married to one another, been baptized, freed from alcoholism, miraculously healed of an ear condition (Terry), become members of the church, and now function as integral volunteers of the same food ministry that so sincerely served them.

As we see with Terry and Wanda, it was by being served that they were empowered to serve others. Today's recipient is tomorrow's provider. This is the multiplying work of Christ's redeeming love!



Thank you... Our October Yard Sale this month was a hit! Thank you to everyone who participated by coming out to browse and purchase our select items. Because of your generosity, together we raised enough money to provide 400 boxes of food for needy families! *Thank you*, and enjoy your new purchases!

We would also like to recognize those who served as volunteers and coordinators at the post-Irma FEMA food distribution event in Osceola County. We especially appreciated having the presence of Florida House Representative John Cortes and Kissimmee's City Commissioner, Angela Eady. 504 Southeastern food boxes went home with families that day.

CALENDAR

Important update:

Black and Gold
Annual Fundraising
Gala

Our annual dinner is being postponed until next year. We apologize for this inconvenience, and would kindly ask that you stay tuned for more information in the upcoming future. Thank you for your understanding!

2017 Thanksgiving Food for Families packing event	Ocoee High School 1925 Ocoee Crown Point Parkway Ocoee, FL 34761	Wednesday, Nov. 22, 7PM-12PM Thursday, Nov. 23, 8AM-10AM
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Be a community team player this Thanksgiving by spending a few hours to help pack enough food for 1,200 families! No registration is necessary to volunteer.

Find more information for this event at:
<http://www.southeasternfoodbank.com/>

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