

## THE DELIVERY

November/December 2017



### *Hungry for the Holidays*

While other Orange County public schools are vacant over Thanksgiving break, Ocoee High School proved to be the exception as families and friends flooded through the courtyard doors on the night before Thanksgiving.

An assembly line of volunteers stretching across the length of the cafeteria readied themselves in order to sort and pack food for 1,200 local households. Being the 25th anniversary of *Food for Families*, a number of these volunteers have called this their Thanksgiving tradition for *as many as 15 straight years*. These men and women are truly veterans in their own right!

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, *Food for Families* is a community-wide effort to help bring local food-insecure households what they are frequently without—hope. This is, in its entirety, an operation that our whole community takes ownership of. It ought to be no easy feat in keeping a project of this scale on the calendar

each consecutive year, but amazingly, it has been, and is, consistently being fueled by the enthusiasm and generosity of those around us. The success of our operations lies in the hands of concerned and charitable individuals, and Food for Families is just one of many great examples of that.

Though the needs of many families are met over the holidays through programs like *Food for Families*, a challenge worthy of consideration is how these same mouths are to be filled during every other part of the year. Furthermore, how are needy residents able to receive food from local outreaches and pantries if they are physically disabled or home-bound?

To begin remedying this, starting this past February, Southeastern Food Bank launched a new program to serve as a mobile food pantry for home-bound

seniors throughout the community. Manageable to maneuver through neighborhoods such as mobile home parks and senior communities, our tandem trailer holds approximately 1,000 boxes of food to feed 500 households. This piece of capital has been indispensable toward the program, and again, is one more thing that has been made possible by you.

***“The success of our operations lies in the hands of concerned and charitable individuals”***

In the most recent months, we have had the pleasure of spending an afternoon at both *The Spanish Village* in Leesburg as well as *Hacienda Village* in Winter Springs. In remaining faithful to our vision of being a provider of “spiritual food”, we are thus excited to also have had the opportunity of sharing the Gospel in these contexts as well. In doing so, this month, we have seen several homeowners commit to Christ! Praise God!

## Charitable Sportsmanship

*Southeastern Food Bank has had the pleasure of partnering with the Casselberry Police Department on two occasions now. Most recently, they, in conjunction with Oviedo's police department, organized and played a charity basketball game against South Seminole Middle School. This event, we were told, was a huge success! It served as an opportunity for the local student population to have friendly exposure with their police departments; not to mention, the admission to the game was canned food donations for the school pantry! What goes around comes around! Though Southeastern Food Bank did as little as provide drinks and snacks for the event, we nevertheless were given opportunity to contribute as a catalyst for the upbuilding of relationships between our beloved officers and students in Central Florida. This couldn't have happened apart from your support!*



**Thank you...** We couldn't have been more pleased with the outcome of our November Food for Families event. We would like to reemphasize our deepest appreciation to Publix Supermarkets and all who volunteered and donated toward this benefit. Thank you parents, children, independents and seniors for your valuable time and labor. Additionally, thank you to the numerous organizations that were represented at the event: Jason Walker & Associates, Disney VoluntEARS, Windermere Cub Scouts, Total Freedom, Spirit of Life and more. We are honored to serve alongside you!

*From all of us here at Southeastern Food Bank, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!*

## CALENDAR

2017 Christmas  
Food for Families  
packing event

Ocoee High School  
1925 Ocoee Crown Point  
Parkway  
Ocoee, FL 34761

Sunday, Dec. 24,  
5pm-10pm  
Monday, Dec. 25,  
8am-10am

If you haven't already, consider making Food for Families a part of your Christmas tradition by helping sort, pack and deliver 2,000 boxes of food to local families! Visit our website for more information. No registration necessary!

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