



# OUTWARD BOUND!

THE CAFE OF LIFE INC.

SPRING 2019

**CARING... SHARING... SERVING**

## Marietta Bala, Board Chairwoman: OUTWARD BOUND

Dear Friends,

The Café of Life staff and volunteers have been there for the poor and hungry people who come to the Leitner Park site for a hot nutritious meal, to get groceries and clothing to take home, and are assisted with other needs. The park site is also used for many community events and private parties on the weekend. However, there are so many others who are not reached who also have these needs. Our goal is to go out to the poor neighborhoods and migrant camps to fulfill these needs for people there too.

Through a **holistic approach** we meet basic **physical needs** of food, clothing, medical care at the site and transport people to doctors, dental and other medical appointments. We help find housing and provide furnishings, appliances and household goods to make a livable home. **Emotional and mental needs** are resolved by our case managers through discussion of problems with clients and referrals when needed for outside help. The women's support group is empowering as they discuss problems, give support and pray together. There are classes in women's health and nutrition, literacy training, and planning for income generating projects. Children are enriched by craft programs, piano and guitar lessons, transportation for school tutoring, and. summer church camp.

The outreach program is providing more services to needy Seniors with delivery of hot meals, providing transportation and helping with their challenges. As part of Outreach to the community other non-profits use our building space for meetings. **Spiritual needs** are met for a Hispanic AA group, men's meditation group and Yesukan, an adult Christian Learning program. We are all equal in the eyes of God and we hope by reaching out and giving encouragement, we will help individuals find strength they did not know that they have and will gain confidence to reach their dreams. Helen Keller said, "although the world is full of suffering it is also full of overcoming of it".

There is that of God in every man and it can be appealed to with love. That is what our volunteers do who serve our clients with dignity, warmth and smiles; they feel loved and worthy just as they are.

We thank you and our donors for helping us to fulfill our mission to reach out, touch hearts and help those in need.

God Bless You!  
Marietta Bala, Chairperson  
Board of Directors, Café of Life



Partner agency

## TRANSPORTATION

Our recent and exciting news is the acquisition of a 2015 bus that includes newer safety features and space for our clients, their carry-on items and our volunteer drivers. This investment was necessary as the replacement for the nearly worn out 2003 bus. Our bus is used daily to transport clients from four pickup locations to our serving site at Leitner Park.



## OUTREACH PROGRAM

Our Outreach Program continues to expand with a full-time coordinator, Lety Santos with assistance from Nina Hart. This program focuses on providing case management, i.e. one-on-one assistance to clients while also distributing food, clothing and other essential items to clients unable to partake of services provided at our feeding site. Outreach is providing assistance to 350+ people monthly, with more than 20 of those senior citizens. Every Wednesday we deliver bags of food to alternating migrant camps and every Tuesday we deliver 10 complete meals, provided by Christus Victor Church, to local seniors.

### DANIEL

“To all the hard working people at THE CAFÉ OF LIFE - thank you so much for the amazing help I've been getting. After having gone through 2 different social work agencies that did more harm than good I was guided your way by a Lee County Deputy. I have a progressive form of Multiple Sclerosis that limits all activity. It has been very hard on me down here physically and mentally.

Between the food, rides to appointments, barber, the food preparers, the schedule team, office staff, and Nina who can brighten up my day, the Cafe has been a real blessing. I get depressed a lot due to the disease taking over and family abandoning me, but just to get this help I so desperately needed, I now at least am not as worried about how, when and where I am going to get my aforementioned items. MS is enough to worry about”.

Thank you so very much,  
Daniel.



## DONATE ONLINE

### MARIA



Maria and her husband are seniors whom the Café started helping after their home was flooded during Hurricane Irma. Having nowhere to go they spent 22 days in their flooded home before meeting Lety who was in the neighborhood checking for people in need. The husband suffers from diabetes and they live on a very low income.

“Lety has provided us with hot meals, groceries, fresh produce, transportation to the pharmacy, and provided us with financial assistance for our prescriptions. Café of Life has been a God-sent to us”.

The Café continues to provide support to Maria and her husband.

### JOANNE

A middle aged male contacted the Café about assistance with an electric bill for the home in which he and his mother, Joanne, resided. As part of our case management it was discovered that the home was in deplorable condition and the unemployed son who struggled with addiction was not making his 80-year-old mother's situation any better. Joanne, a diabetic receiving dialysis 3 times per week, had only a small social security income barely able to support herself.

The Café worked with two of Joanne's children to find a suitable home for her, assisted in getting her relocated and paid her security deposit and worked with a partner agency to help with rent. It's been nearly a year since Joanne's relocation and she's living a peaceful life and able to keep her bills paid.



## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

For the Christmas/Holiday Season the Café had many wonderful events:

- The Shadow Wood Women's Tennis Group provided an event at the Park distributing T-shirts, books and gifts for young children.
- The Girl Scouts provided toys, pillows and pajamas.
- Bags of items for our Outreach seniors were distributed.
- First United Methodist Church provided stuffed stockings.
- Gift bags for our single clients filled with hygiene items were distributed.
- Churches and individuals sponsored several of our client families with wonderful gifts for Christmas.
- AND our holiday celebration climaxed with a HUGE party where some 350 gifts, 60 gift cards, 140 stuffed stocking, lots of stuffed toys, candy goodie bags and more were distributed to children. Gifts were donated by the Worthington's Women's Golf Association; Altaira at The Colony; Florencia at The Colony; Community School of Naples; Bonita Springs Chartered School; the City of Bonita Springs; Kathy at Palmira; Kids 4 Stockings and the Lee County Sheriff's Office.



## YESUKAN ADULT CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Yesukan Adult Christian Learning Center has started their 4th year of providing classes for adults in the community. The Café of Life has been instrumental in their start-up and continuing ministry by hosting and promoting the classes. Yesukan provides FREE classes which include: Reading/Writing, English, Mathematics and Computers along with biblically based services. Yesukan restores hope and renews faith in the students' lives to help them fulfill their God-given purpose. Contact Donna Martin at 407-694-2876 about volunteer opportunities.



## MUSIC PROGRAM

Last newsletter we introduced you to our children's Music Program established just over a year ago. Well, we are delighted to report it is going great and expanding. The first recital held last December at Hope Lutheran Church was a tremendous success and we now have ten students learning piano and guitar. Our thanks to the volunteers, sponsors and instructors who are enabling this valuable life experience to deserving children.



## OUR FACILITIES

Besides the adult education program, Yesukan, there are other stand-alone causes that the Café is delighted to support. Our office building is made available to them at no charge and they include - two nights a week a Spanish speaking Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and the Naples Intergroup Meditation group one day a week. These are in addition to our own Music Program which uses the facility a couple of evenings a week for lessons.

Leitner Neighborhood Park, aka "the Park" to us is a tremendous asset to the Rosemary area. When the Café is not using the facility to provide services, the pavilion, basketball courts, playground and soccer field are open to the public. In addition there were 52

parties at the Park in 2018 – lots of birthdays, baby showers and other events were celebrated. We are very proud of the Park and thankful our donors provided the resources to build the facility in 2014 and to maintain, insure and cover operating expenses.





PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM Retail

**CARING... SHARING... SERVING**

P.O. Box 367794  
Bonita Springs, FL 34136

Local  
Postal Customer

### **NEWLY ARRIVED IMMIGRANTS**

We are seeing a fairly large influx of new immigrants from Guatemala who are formally seeking asylum. Most are young males who have found their way to Bonita because they have a relative or friend here who can help. They experience barriers to finding good work. These include difficulties with language, no permanent legal status, lack of education and the few possessions they carried. They look for day labor each morning but when none is available our bus brings them to our site for a hot meal, some take-home food and much needed clothing.



A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA OR ONLINE AT [www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com), REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. " REGISTRATION #: CH25732

### **Café of Life Contact Information**

**Café of Life, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 367794**  
**Bonita Springs, FL 34136**

OFFICE & DROP OFF LOCATION:  
10540 Childers Street, Bonita Springs, FL 34135

PHONE: 239-495-9325

WEB: [cafeoflife.org](http://cafeoflife.org)

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/caringsharingserving](https://facebook.com/caringsharingserving)



*The Café of Life is a faith-based institution, believing in the teaching of all great religions that one must love and assist one's neighbor in times of need. The Café is not affiliated with any particular religion nor denomination. Our mission is to provide basic human needs to the very poor and hungry people of Bonita Springs, in a manner that preserves the dignity of the client in a respectful environment.*

The Café of Life, Inc. is a registered 501(C)(3) tax exempt organization. Your gifts to the Café are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

