

## PROGRAMS

The Cooperative Feeding Program feeds hungry bodies, minds and souls - apart from hot meals, the children, women and men can also receive classes in life skills, they have access to job training, health clinics, haircuts, etc.. They are welcomed here with the respect to which all people are entitled. Many of our clients have mental health issues or they are "working poor" - i.e., they have minimum wage employment but even then cannot make ends meet; or they are families affected by unemployment or corporate layoffs. We are able to assist many through our diverse services and case management. Stereotypes about those we serve are often unfair and untrue.



Emergency Food Pantry – Hunger has no patience, especially when it afflicts children. A family cannot wait for red tape when there is no food in their cupboard or their stomachs. The Emergency Food Pantry is a place where people can turn to for emergency food. A Case Manager will recommend that emergency rations be given after an interview or with a referral from another agency. Basic staples – canned foods, tuna fish, peanut butter and some bread – are given in a bag or a box, depending upon the size of the family and the generosity of our supporters. Generally food can be obtained every three months. Special monthly food support is available for the elderly, the ill, and the disabled. Our main business is a simple act of profound love – feeding the hungry.



## "Feeding Hungry Bodies, Minds, & Souls"

When I heard the little boy cry in the lobby of our building last week, I knew there was something wrong. It was not a spoiled child whining or the result of an accident. It was a child crying for food. In the split second it took me to get up from my chair and look the nine year old in his sad brown eyes, I gave thanks for the fact that you and others allow me to go and immediately respond to such a basic human right: food.

Little Albert was with his concerned mom and I asked her why her son was crying, already knowing what the problem was - I have seen the ugly face of hunger on an innocent child's face many times before. The mother, too embarrassed to say it out loud, rubbed her stomach mouthing to me that he was hungry. I went straight to our dilapidated fridges and pulled out a yogurt and a fresh piece of fried chicken that had just been brought in by a volunteer who collects food for us from a nearby supermarket.

Within seconds, the sobbing child dug into one, two and three drumsticks - the fourth one, gently wrapped into a paper napkin and into his hip pocket. I pretended not to notice. It is so sad in this land of plenty that a child has to hide a piece of chicken as a reserve for the next meal missed.

The Cooperative Feeding Program gave food assistance to Albert's mother and our counselor spoke with her so she could access other available programs whilst she gets back on her feet. It is not fair that her children pay the price of corporate downsizing. We offered a school uniform for the next school year and job counseling too. She left with a box of food for her body and compassion for her soul. And you made it happen.

## SERVICES

- Emergency Food Boxes
- Clothing and Shoes
- WorkForce One Job Search Kiosk
- Personal Hygiene Supplies
- Baby Food, Diapers, and Formula
- School Uniforms, Backpacks, and School Supplies
- Mail and Phone Message Center
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Referrals to Other Service Agencies
- Natural Disaster Assistance
- Holiday Toy and Gift Baskets

[www.FeedingBroward.org](http://www.FeedingBroward.org)

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Mailroom Services - If you don't have a physical mailing address you are ineligible for many government support programs. So what do you do if you are homeless and the post office cannot deliver to your "home" under the bridge, or if you are evicted because you lost your job and cannot pay the rent? The Cooperative Feeding Program offers a Mailroom Service to the homeless, serving more than 500 people, thereby enabling them to access social services and to keep in touch with their families. Simple services provided by the CFP that bring important gains for people simply trying hard to make it.

Job Search Kiosk—Broward County's busiest WorkForce One employment computer kiosk is located at CFP and many of our clients find work through that service. Having showered, eaten, wearing a clean set of used clothes, and with that oh-so important last word of encouragement, many of the adult clients served by the CFP set out for job interviews and a chance at becoming more self sufficient.



School Uniforms, Backpacks, School Supplies - Many children of the homeless and hungry do not go to school simply because of a lack of a school uniform and/or school supplies. Each year in August, The Cooperative Feeding Program provides over 500 children with school uniforms and backpacks. Please help us collect old school uniforms or help us financially to provide a needy child with the tools to learn and build a better future. A \$25 donation will provide a school uniform for a child hungry to learn.