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NEWS FROM DECEMBER 2018

The month of December started with a wonderful donation of "Florida's Natural" orange juice and fresh Florida grown fruit from "Give Fresh Challenge" acceptors, Keith Wedgworth and Katie Morris, representing the Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau. We are so appreciative of Keith Wedgworth not only for this generous delivery but also for being one of the first people to initiate the "10-gallon Milk Challenge" with us as the recipient, as well as the newest #GiveFreshChallenge supporting Florida farmers! A BIG thank you for your continued support!

The beginning of December, we were also visited by amazing students from Glades Central High School that are members of the "Tea and Book Club" and the "Spanish Book Club". It was such a delight to have these students come and help us prepare and serve lunch! Then, the very next day we had another group of students from Glades Central High School's "TOP Teen Outreach Program" come to visit. These wonderful students brought boxes of Christmas decorations that they made and beautifully decorated the Light House Café! In addition, they also brought hygiene bags for us to give during our annual Christmas party, helped to organize Ella's Closet, and assisted with the preparing and serving of lunch! We are so grateful for Tiffanee Thorpe for her leadership in coordinating this incredible visit, as well as the dedication and generosity of all the students!

Mid-December was a busy time! On the 12th, a group from "Leadership Glades" visited us to learn more about the history and future plans of The Light House Café and Ella's Closet. As always it is such a blessing to have all of these groups visit us! Also on December 12th, Pete Rolle and I attended the Christmas Pot Luck Party at Glades Initiative. We are so appreciative of Glades Initiative as they have been a great supporter of The Light House Café. Then, on December 17th Micheal Flihs, Janis Flihs, & Bonnie Laird from St. Peter's Lutheran Church accepted the #GiveFreshChallenge and donated more "Florida's Natural" orange juice and fresh Florida grown fruit! We are so grateful for their generosity!

On December 21st, we held our annual Christmas dinner and gift giving. We were so blessed by the many donations for the hygiene gift bags! A special thanks to Lake Shore Middle for bringing some extra gift bags at the last minute to ensure we did not run out! The dinner menu included: Turkey with Dressing, Gravy, Fresh Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, a Dinner Roll, and a choice of Peach Cobbler, Apple Pie, or Pumpkin Pie for dessert! We served 220 plates that evening in addition to serving 2,190 lunches and 858 breakfasts during the month of December!

As a new year begins and we look back at 2018, we are overwhelmed and grateful for God's blessings to the Light House Café! In addition to being blessed with ongoing support from the community, we were also able to add a generator to the Light House Café this year, giving us the ability to be a disaster relief site in case of a hurricane or other natural disaster. Likewise, we are so thankful for the walk-in freezer and refrigerator which has given us the ability to receive more food from donors and the local food bank. There are so many people, businesses, and churches that support us and allow our outreach to be possible, and we are so incredibly thankful to each and every one of them!

As we look forward to 2019, we continue to commit ourselves to fulfill our mission in carrying out God's will to help those affected by drugs, alcohol, mental illness, and poverty. As always we ask you to pray for the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and patrons of the Light House Café.

God Bless,

Martha Lynn Weeks

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