

Feeding Florida – Bayer Crop Science Report 2016-2017

Feeding Florida received \$10,000 from Bayer Crop Science, in cooperation with the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation, for its Farmers Feeding Florida Initiative to continue the support of the Redlands Christian Migrant Association families (RCMA). The grant provides recovered, donated wholesome fruits and vegetables to RCMA families at centers. Centers were matched with Feeding Florida's Regional Food Bank, Feeding Tampa Bay, that provided direct food assistance to the RCMA centers. Feeding Tampa Bay provided deliveries of fresh produce such as cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, carrots, strawberries, cabbage and zucchini and other items to the RCMA centers in their respective service areas. In keeping with their missions to address food insecurity, they have provided additional services beyond the scope of the grant (in the form of food and non-food items) to the RCMA centers and plan to continue to do so in the future. The relationships developed through this grant continue to grow.

Feeding Tampa Bay (Tampa, FL)

Feeding Tampa Bay has partnered with the RCMA area office in Plant City (1402 W. Knights Griffin Road) and has distributed 18,000 pounds over 7 distributions. Feeding Tampa Bay is currently servicing 5 sites and expects to add 2 new sites that the RCMA is opening due to the large increase in the number of children / families.

The 5 sites currently receiving distributions are:

- RCMA Dover Child Development Center 3103 San Jose Mission Dr., Dover FL 33527
- RCMA Westside Village Child Development Center 3102 Sammonds Road, Apt. #82, Plant City FL 33563
- RCMA Central Plant City Child Development Center 508 Lakewood Ave., Plant City FL 33563
- RCMA Plant City Child Development Center 1402 W. Knights Griffin Road, Plant City FL 33565
- RCMA Sam Allen Child Development Center 2701 DeMontmillan Rd., Plant City FL 33565

Additional Sites:

Dover II (not open yet)

RCMA Dade City Learning Center

15048 14th St. Dade City FL 33523

Feeding Tampa Bay is scheduled to make 19 distributions through May. Based on the estimated average pounds delivered for each distribution they will distribute an additional 47,000 pounds, for a total 2017-2018 estimated distribution of 65,000 pounds.

The need for food at the RCMA Centers continues to exceed what produce may be readily/seasonally available from the growers. Feeding Florida member food banks in other regions are interested in expanding their programs to work cooperatively with RCMA to broaden the food composition for families and include an assortment of dry and canned goods, drinks, meats and, of course, a high percentage of the best quality fresh produce available from Florida's Farmers.

We are grateful to Bayer Crop Science and to the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation for enabling us to expand our members' relationships with RCMA for a broader geographic reach across the state. The relationships developed through this grant allowed the Feeding Florida network of food banks to assist RCMA during Hurricane Irma in distributing food to those communities immediately after the storm.

Thank you, Bayer Crop Science and the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation, for your valued partnership in service to our neighbors