

## *A Letter from the Chairman of the Board of Directors*

Dear Friends,

For the past months we have watched the economic downturn from a front row seat. This summer as many as 190 people came a day, increased because children could not eat free breakfast and lunch at school. Many of the new faces are people who are unemployed and who have never had to rely on others before. But there are also a lot of working families who are stretching their paychecks by relying on us for food and clothing.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke so often of his vision for a beloved community in which love and compassion replaced hunger, racism and poverty. The Café of Life's vision is the same, and we strive each day to live it out as people join together to help brothers and sisters in need. It starts with our belief that we belong to each other. Not just the people who look like us...not just the people who are in our family or our religion or our political party...not just the people who live in our house or in our neighborhood, but everybody. Our hearts keep opening more and more as we meet the needs of those who come. And our work becomes a prayer- not just for the one we face at the moment, but for all those we can't touch- for every child in peril, for every person carrying heavy burdens, for all who are suffering.

Through good times and bad times, the Café works, not only because of the generous loving hearts of our volunteers but from our clients too who help each other and want to give back. The Café of Life lives out this basic vision of a beloved community, thanks to all of you!

With loving gratitude,  
Marietta Bala

# NEWSLETTER

## Fall 2009 Issue



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

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

*Café of Life, Inc.*

*P.O. Box 367794*

*Bonita Springs, FL 34136*

## *A Beloved Community*



*School Children on summer recess*

### *Vision Statement*

We are joined together as one, as brothers and sisters. Therefore, we will assist our community's population who are in need of food, support, and necessities so that all might have the benefit of a warm meal and opportunities for a better life. Through our caring, sharing, and serving we will seek to preserve the dignity of all people.

*Sharing food  
from grocery  
stores in our  
community  
with our  
brothers and  
sisters*



*A new life,  
a new  
Chance for  
a better  
world*

# Our Beloved Community of Bonita Springs



## Community Congregational Church

Many, many thanks for being a faithful friend to Café of Life. By providing our first van to store and transport our daily supplies and allowing us to store our meat and perishable foods in your freezer, you serve Café of Life clients every day. In addition, members of your congregation have volunteered and shared their talents and gifts with Café of Life in ways too numerous to count.

The Café of Life is proud to be a United Way Partner Agency. United Way funding helps Café of Life to meet its mission goal of providing a nourishing meal five days a week to anyone who comes to us hungry. All money raised during the United Way campaign stays in our local community to help support local partner agencies like Café of Life. In addition to raising funds, United Way promotes partnerships and collaborations among agencies, helping us to work together focusing on issues and solutions that continue to improve lives.



Partner Agency

During the 2009 summer, United Way provided a special grant to Café of Life. That grant allowed us every weekend to provide 40 of our client families with a frozen chicken and a bag of rice or beans. The families gratefully received these packages at Benson's store.

## Our Priceless Volunteers and Supporters

Café of Life is blessed with volunteers and supporters of all shapes and sizes, young and old, rich and poor, who all have a willingness to share their gifts and talents with those in need. There are restaurants in our community that not only cook meals for Café of Life, but that also step up to the plate in very creative ways. For the past three years, Sneaky Pete's has sponsored a golf tournament which has benefited Café of Life. This year the tournament generated \$1750 for us. Susan Sneed, manager of Sneaky Pete's, organized the tournament and did a wonderful job. Thanks, Susan. Al and Chip Greenwood, the owners of another Bonita Springs restaurant, Buffalo Chips, come to the park and grill meat for our clients.



Susan Sneed



Coconut Point Ford has supported Café of Life in our recent effort to purchase a new van which is custom fitted to Café of Life's specifications, inside and out. Look for it as you ride by the park at lunch time.

Jerry and Valerie Sauber have supported Café of Life with several thousand dollars to provide high quality meat to feed our clients. Meat accounts for the largest portion of our costs and with their generosity, Café of Life has established a *Meat Fund*. Every penny donated to this fund goes to providing our clients with a nourishing hot meal. You too can join Jerry and Valerie who help supply our willing volunteer cooks with the ingredients to prepare hot wholesome food for our hungry brothers and sisters in our *Beloved Community*.



## *An Update from Cindy* *...why it feels so good to help someone in our Beloved Community*



Cindy when  
we first met

In a previous newsletter, we published a message from a former client, Cindy. Those who knew Cindy when she was a Cafe client saw a face full of anxiety, suffering and despair. Cindy has kept in contact with us while she has worked at coming back to a place in life where she wants to be. She wrote to us again, sending two pictures that speak much louder than words! In her letter she said:

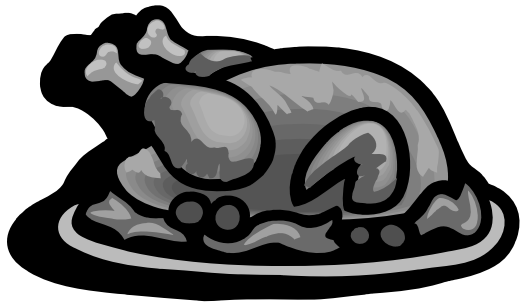
*"...I'm doing good. I'm still working at Goodwill (almost 2 years). I've made full time, am getting more hours and benefits. I'm still sober and clean. I joined the church I've been going to for two years. I will be moving into a house the first of August. ... Well I had these pictures I thought you might like. After all you were part of the journey. And once again, thank you so much for all your unconditional love and help. God Bless you all. You and the people you help are in my prayers. Tell everyone hello and that God loves them, for me okay.*

*From a very thankful heart, Cindy"*



Cindy now

## *Holiday Season*



As we approach the holiday season, our very capable volunteer coordinator, Mary Ann Beatie, is busy answering the phone and scheduling all the people who want to help on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas. There is much to do since we try to provide a really memorable meal on these two special days and we welcome all the support.

Again this year we will be giving bags of necessary items to homeless and single people and a complete meal (including a frozen chicken, rice, beans, and everything else it takes to complete the meal) as a special gift from Fred Klaucke and his Lion and the Lamb Foundation.

This year, Bonita Springs' charity groups are working together to make sure all our families and people in need are included in the food and gifts that are so valued and welcomed. It is really nice to see the cooperation at the meetings with representatives from Café of Life, Bonita Assistance, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, and others. Yadi, our Site Manager is attending the meetings and helping with assignments and making sure we continue to have input into the process.



## *A Tribute to Bill Maybrook*

Café of Life would like to say a big "thank you" and "best wishes" to a very dedicated Board member and volunteer, William (Bill) Maybrook. Bill was born and raised in Chicago, graduated from the University of Illinois, and spent 30 years in the home building industry. He served on several home builder associations in the Chicago area.

Before moving to Bonita Springs in 2002, he volunteered for the Chicago United Way. Bill starting volunteering at Cafe of Life in 2004, picking up groceries at local groceries and serving our clients one day a week. Bill was a valued Café of Life Board member from 2005 until moving to Tampa this summer.



Café of Life, Inc.  
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# Café of Life

*Newsletter Fall 2009*



Congress has extended IRA distributions to charity through December 31, 2009. A distribution can be used to satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) without increasing your taxable income for 2009. The IRA

holder must be 70 1/2 or older and have the distribution made directly to the charity. You can gift any amount up to \$100,000 to Café of Life and save the tax that would otherwise be due. Take advantage of this opportunity to reduce your income tax.

## *Café of Life Contact Information*

For donations to or information about *Café of Life*

Call (239) 593-9325

Our mailing address is:

Café of Life, Inc.

P.O. Box 367794, Bonita Springs, FL 34136

*Café of Life is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.  
Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent permitted  
by law.*

Visit us at Café of Life's Website

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

