



Faith Partners Handbook



Prepared by
THE SHARING CENTER
www.thesharingcenter.org

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Working in Faith

As the saying goes, “It takes a village” and that could not be more true than here at The Sharing Center. With your generous support, we are able to provide the urgently needed services, to those most in need throughout our communities in Seminole County.

In 1986, seventeen local churches recognized the best way to serve our neighbors in need was to unite together and form a single organization focused on assisting the many individuals and families that looked to the congregations for help. The churches wanted to become better stewards of their limited resources of food, finances and household goods by centralizing the care for needy families, avoiding duplication of benefits, and ensuring all of the needs of the families were addressed with both services and community referrals.

Over the last 36 years, we have helped over 400,000 individuals. With COVID-19, we saw an increase in demand for our services. Thanks to our faith partners, we were able to go above and beyond for our neighbors in need.

As President and CEO of The Sharing Center, I am honored and humbled by the community’s outpouring of support, so THANK YOU! The Sharing Center is able to provide individualized, and in many cases, life-changing services to those most in need because of you!

May the Lord continue to bless you as you serve Him by fulfilling the needs of His people.



Nina Yon
President/CEO

Faith Partner Collaborations



We believe actions speak louder than words. We strive to work alongside the faith community as the hands and feet to all whom we serve. Our neighbors receive compassionate and dignified support as they navigate through their hardships. Our mission is to prevent hunger and homelessness in Seminole County. We collaborate with other local social services non-profits to provide a network of care for those in need without duplicating services.

Through wide collaborations with our partners, we are able to serve the most vulnerable. It is critical we work together to provide essential resources to those in need while ensuring dignity, reflecting Christian generosity, and sharing God's love.

Hands And Feet Alliance



The Hands and Feet Alliance (HAFA) was created to bridge a partnership between The Sharing Center and supporting faith communities.

HAFA allows church partners to become referral partners for members and non-members in a time of crisis. The HAFA partnerships open a direct path to our team and directly addresses the needs of families in crisis. The church partner referrals are contacted and given the information they need to start the process.

The Hands and Feet Alliance is held twice per year in the Fall and Spring. Email john.cooney@thesharingcenter.org to find dates and details.

Families & Individuals We Serve



Community Needs

Every year, more than 13,000 families and individuals find themselves experiencing tough times and struggling to make ends meet. The Sharing Center serves as a community resource for anyone who is experiencing hardships living in Seminole County.

We are dedicated to this mission and realize the enormity of providing for our neighbors in need when they need it most. Nearly 40% of Seminole County's residents are living paycheck to paycheck and are one crisis away from financial ruin. Your partnership is so critical. On a regular basis, we are asked, "How can I help?" Below are a few ways you can support.

- Host a food drive. On page 5, we list items always needed to keep The Pantry stocked.
- Donate gently used clothing, household goods, or furniture items.
- Volunteer! Your time and talent plays a critical role in our mission.
- Make a financial contribution - a monthly gift will ensure we can continue life-changing programs throughout the year.

Referring Neighbors In Need

The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these. - Mark 12:31



1

CALL

Call (407) 260-9155 to set up an appointment for the family in crisis.

2

VISIT

Prior to the scheduled appointment, complete the [Client Referral form](#) on behalf of the family and send via email to clientservices@thesharingcenter.org.

3

CASE MANAGEMENT

Our case managers will work to determine eligibility and the best services to meet the families most immediate needs.

4

FEEDBACK

If requested, the assigned case manager will provide you with a summary of services provided and recommendations.

More information about our schedule of services or eligibility on page 7.

Community Support



"For it is in giving
that we receive."
- St. Francis of Assisi

Food & Goods Drives

Hosting a food or collection drive greatly helps fill our Pantry and further assists our neighbors in need with clothes, toiletries, and basic necessities. Throughout the year, we welcome you to collect food and/or goods. Below is a small list of items we are always collecting.

Pantry Needs

- Mac-n-Cheese
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Pork-n-Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Fruit
- Snack Pack Pudding
- Beef Jerky
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Tooth Brushes
- Lysol Wipes

Oasis Needs

- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Industrial Spray Bottles
- Trash Bags
- Foot Powder
- Flip Flops
- Non-Powdered Gloves
- Cough Medicine
- Cough Drops
- Men's Socks
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Nail Clippers
- Vaseline
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Unisex T-Shirts (M or L)
- Q-Tips
- Travel Size Toiletries

Contact us to find out about seasonal or specialty items needed.



Volunteer Service

We have plenty of volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups to support our mission!

Group Projects

Form a group from your faith community to assist us in various projects. We can customize the volunteer experience depending on our current needs. A morning or afternoon of service goes a long way to assist with fulfilling our ever-growing needs. Projects are generally assigned to help in our Distribution Center or Thrift Store to sort and organize donations.

Special Events

Serve Saturdays

On Saturday mornings and afternoons, we welcome groups up to 25 to serve. You can help sort and organize donations for three - four hours.

Family Volunteer Nights

On the second Friday of every month between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., we host an opportunity for families to serve with their children and grandchildren, aged five or older. Activities are designed to have fun and a way for families to bond together.

Holiday Food Distribution Days

For Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, families receive holiday food bags. Volunteers help fill these bags with grocery items the family needs to celebrate the holiday. Also, volunteers are needed to give the bags to our neighbors in needs on the distribution days.

Community Food Distribution Days

Several times a year, we bless the community in need with food to fill their pantries in partnership with a local church and Second Harvest Food Bank. We call on volunteers to help during the large event in various roles.

Visit thesharingcenter.org/events for dates & details.

Key Contacts

Faith Relations, Tours & Drives, Financial Gifts

JOHN COONEY

Community & Faith Relations
Manager

(407) 260-9155 x2116

john.cooney@thesharingcenter.org

Referrals

DEBORAH DEL MORAL

Program Manager

(407) 260-9155 x2139

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Volunteerism

MELISSA SILEO

Volunteer Coordinator

(407) 260-9155 x2118

melissa.sileo@thesharingcenter.org

Schedule of Services

Food: Up to five times per year with visits a minimum of 30 days apart, plus holiday food programs as offered during Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas

Clothing: Once every four months for each member of the family

Financial Assistance: Assessments are conducted Monday through Friday

Non-Financial Assistance: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thank you!