



SMDP Outreach  
PO Box 50754  
Fort Myers, FL 33994

**July, 2020**

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The COVID19 Virus has left no one untouched and while the virus does not discriminate, its impact has not affected us all in the same way. In this crisis no one can pretend that what happens to people who live in different circumstances is not our concern. With so much at stake, many people's eyes have been opened to the fragility of other's circumstances.

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*Hello, my name is Jeannine, and this is part of my story.*

*To say that a lot of us are a few missed paychecks away from serious money problems is an understatement. Then one right after another, things continued to get worse.*

*My husband tore his rotator cuff at work. He had to take a leave of absence from his job to heal up. In that time he collected Workmen's compensations. (Which isn't much.) My son got laid off. He had to move back home so he could save money to get his own place but you can't save money when nobody in the home is working. My daughter came home pregnant. It was a "high risk" pregnancy, so with her boyfriend working all the time, at least someone was always home to care for and help her.*

*This situation went on for little over a year. All I could do is pray about it. Always praying that things would get better! But, thanking God for what I do have because things could be so much worse.*

*During this time I was really pinching my pennies. I never thought that I would be in a situation where food was an issue. One of my neighbors told me about SMDP's Food Bank. It was truly a life saver! The volunteers were very kind and helpful. I never felt like I was being judged or looked down upon. (I'm beginning to cry while writing this.)*

*I went through a lot back then! It brings me to tears just to write this. The volunteers, especially Fernando, have prayed with me and counseled me when needed. Having someone to listen to me, pray with me and advise me was very helpful.*

*Even with all that going on, I never gave up hope. Finding SMDP was the beginning of "things getting better" in my life, the change for me and my family.*

*First: My son was called back to work after 9 months. He moved out on his own with his girlfriend and she is now pregnant.*

*Second: My daughter had a healthy bouncing baby boy! Nicholas was 7 pounds, 6 ounces, 22 inches long. She moved out with her boyfriend to their own place.*

*Third: After 17 months, my husband was cleared to go back to work. We were able to get caught up on our bills and everything was going smooth.*

*Well time went by. I hadn't been to the food bank in quite some time. Then...right after Hurricane Irma...I was driving past the food bank and I saw Fernando all by himself unloading water from his truck. I asked him if he wanted some help. He said "yes," and I've been volunteering ever since. As long as there is a SMDP Outreach, I will be volunteering!*

*I would also like to mention the Café. I'm very impressed with that whole operation! Mostly because the people that come are waited on, almost like they're in a restaurant. (Volunteers) treat the people with dignity; they treat with kindness in their hearts. Also, the food is really, really so good!*

*Jeannine*

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While we are all struggling, SMDP Outreach is working hard to keep our clients fed. And we are blessed with support of our many donors who help us with the necessary funds to continue to insure that the most vulnerable of us have enough to eat. You may not know any of the folks you help, but they are as near as our door at SMDP Outreach.

We see the homeless as they come for a hot meal, handed to them by a smiling, albeit masked volunteer. We see the family whose bread winner has lost that ability because of a job loss. We see those who have worked all day but the hours and pay are not enough to feed their family. They may come for a meal. They may come for our pantry. They may come for our help and that help relies on you, our donors.

**Please Donate Today!**

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**SMDP Outreach** is an all volunteer 501c(3) organization whose mission is to serve the people with an open heart for humanity by providing food, clothing and educational training, thus setting the pace for families to self sustain. We are located at 4711 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

Donations are also accepted by mail or through our website

Send donations to **P.O. Box 50754 Fort Myers, FL 33994**

<https://www.smdpoutreach.org>

