

# Connecting With CROS

Bt Helen Vogt Greene

Ruth Megeria, Executive Director of CROS Ministries, located at 3677 23rd Avenue South, Lake Worth (#B-101) is ever so “grateful for the overwhelming support of the many individuals, congregations, foundations, and groups. You are making a difference in the lives of our brothers, sisters and neighbors.”

According to the seven food pantries, with three pantries closed for four months due to the Covid-19, 71,986 have received food from CROS. Of that number 8,379 received food for the first time and 778,803 pounds of food

were distributed.

The Mission of CROS Ministries is to serve and feed the hungry of Palm Beach and Martin Counties. With a great deal of volunteer help, they are accomplishing this mission.

One of the most important programs is Gleaning. This program, in collaboration with the generous farmers and the work of volunteers, brings fresh produce to the tables of those in need.

Volunteers have recovered 631,430 pounds of fresh vegetables and are used by the local food programs.

Keith Cutshall, Gleaning Director, has indicated that there is a need for volunteers to glean. Available

in the fields are: Potatoes, sweet corn, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and peppers. Anyone wishing to volunteer can email Cutshall at kcutshall@crosministries.org.

One of the many churches that are working with CROS is the Cason United Methodist Church of Delray. Each week they prepare 16,320 weekend bagged lunches. Now, that is being ‘connected’.

One of the best outreach programs of CROS is their Mobile Pantry. This wonderful service delivers food and fresh produce to six food locations. These locations are called Caring Kitchens and they are there feeding, last year,

32,866 individuals with a hot meal.

Last year was a true blessing. The Jim Moran Foundation gave CROS Ministries a gift that keeps on giving. Funds were provided by the Jim Moran Foundation that funded the purchase of a new, much needed, refrigerated truck. Today, food and produce are delivered fresh or frozen.

For over 40 years CROS Ministries and their partners have been making a difference feeding the hungry. If you wish to ‘connect’ with CROS, there is a volunteer place for you. Call 561-233-9009 or e-mail crosministries.org. They are waiting for your call.

# Okechee Park May Events

## Birding 101

Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. Ages 15+, \$3/participant (Reservations required)

Learn to identify south Florida’s birds using visual cues and by applying the basic steps that will lead you to a proper ID. Discussions will be held on characteristics such as foot and beak shape, flight silhouettes, coloration, diet, and habitat preferences. Please bring binoculars if you have them.

## Nature Meditation

Saturday, May 8, 9:30 a.m. Ages 12+, Free (Reservations required)

Join an ONC Naturalist in a guided outdoor meditation experience. The goal is to facilitate an aware and peaceful mental state while imparting a deeper appreciation of the natural world. Beginners are welcome.

## ONC Behind the Scenes

Tuesday, May 11, 3:30 p.m. Families/all ages, \$3/participant (Reservations required)

Take a behind the scenes tour to see where the outdoor animals live when they are not “working”. Feed the white-tailed deer and meet several other animals

up-close while learning all about them.

## Florida Natives

Saturday, May 15, 10:30 a.m. Families/all ages, \$3/participant (Reservations required)

Learn all about Florida’s native wildlife during this fun presentation. Meet several of ONC’s animal ambassadors up-close, including a native arthropod, a mammal, a reptile, and a bird. You’ll even get to watch some of them eat!

## Archery For Beginners

Wednesday, May 19, 3:30 p.m. Ages 8+, \$10/participant (Reservations required) Learn the basics of archery from safety to shooting and develop a great new skill. All equipment is provided. Space is limited.

## Guided Nature Walk

Saturday, May 22, 10:30 a.m. Families/all ages, Free (Reservations required)

Join an ONC Naturalist for a guided nature walk through our pine flatwoods forest and learn about the animals and plants that live in this habitat. Please bring binoculars if you have them.

# Legislature Passes Gail’s Law Rape Kit Tracking Bill

TALLAHASSEE – On April 26 the Florida Senate unanimously passed HB 673, Gail’s Law, by Representative Emily Slosberg (D-Boca Raton) and Senator Linda Stewart (D-Orlando). Gail’s Law requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to create and maintain a statewide system for tracking sexual assault evidence kits from the point of collection through the criminal justice process. That tracking system must be accessible

to sexual assault survivors, giving them the option of receiving updates on the status of the evidence in their case. Currently, 30 states and Washington D.C. have implemented statewide databases for tracking sexual assault kits.

HB 673 is named Gail’s Law in honor of the dedicated advocacy of Ms. Gail Gardner, an Orlando woman who survived a vicious sexual assault in 1988 by an armed man who broke into her home and raped

her at knifepoint. Despite courageously consenting to an invasive physical exam where investigators collected forensic evidence, Gail waited over 30 years before her kit was tested. Police recently identified Gail’s attacker as a serial rapist who was already serving a life sentence in prison for another sexual assault. Sadly, evidence that could have led to his conviction sat on a shelf for 33 years.

Representative Slos-

berg, the Co-Chair of the Florida Women’s Legislative Caucus, said, “I am thrilled to see Gail’s Law passed by both chambers of the Florida Legislature with such broad support, especially during National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. There is no reason why we should be able to track a pizza more efficiently than we can track critical evidence in a sexual assault case. By passing Gail’s Law, we are addressing the historical lack of accountability surrounding sexual assault investigations, reducing the potential for evidence to go untested, and empowering survivors of sexual assault.”

“I’m so proud to see Gail’s Law pass unanimously,” said Senator Stewart. “After suffering through an assault, many survivors feel powerless in a system that often fails to provide the appropriate support. Gail’s Law would bring accountability and transparency to the process – placing the power back in the hands of survivors.”

“I am proud to have this bill named after me and to know that it will bring information and answers to sexual assault survivors, like me,” said Gail Gardner, the namesake of Gail’s Law. “I waited 32 fear and anxiety-filled years to hear anything about my kit and my case, and I know others are experiencing that tragedy right now. My heart aches for them. Gail’s Law will help fix the problem and bring some healing to survivors who deserve no less.”

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# CRIME STOPPERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC.

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc., is seeking the public’s assistance in locating two fugitives.

Shane Redding is wanted as of April 22, 2021 for violation of probation: Grand theft.

Redding was born on July 27, 1995, is 5’11” and weighs 160 lbs. He has brown hair and blue eyes with multiple tattoos. Last known address is listed as J Street, Lake Worth.

Dorriane Lassinger

is wanted as of April 22, 2021, for failure to appear: Sale of cocaine.

Lassinger was born on August 13, 1966, is 5’1” and weighs 150 lbs. She has brown hair and brown eyes. Last known address is listed as S. Federal Highway, Lake Worth.

If you have information on either of the above you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-TIPS and remain anonymous. You may be eligible for a reward of up to \$3000.



Redding



Lassinger

MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

**FoundCare COVID-19 Vaccine Event**

**SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021**

**J&J JANSSEN ONE-DOSE VACCINE**

**TO REGISTER VISIT LAKEWORTHBEACHFL.GOV**

**NORMAN WIMBLEY GYMNASIUM**  
 1515 WINGFIELD STREET  
 LAKE WORTH BEACH, FL 33460

**PARKING: OSBORNE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 1699 WINGFIELD STREET  
 LAKE WORTH BEACH, FL 33460

City of Lake Worth Florida, Florida Health, Palm Beach County Florida, foundcare

FoundCare is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n).