

Angels Visit East United Way House

CAC is the lead agency at the East United Way House, a bilingual, multi-agency community-based resource center designed specifically to serve the community in East Fort Myers. One of the services we provide there is our Food4U choice food pantry.

Back in December, a group of dynamic students, staff and parents from Oak Hammock Elementary School stepped up and contributed to our East House food pantry in a big way.



They did this on their own because we helped one of their school social workers, by providing food from our pantry to a family in need. The students, staff and parents wanted to give back, and what better way than a food drive. As a result of their efforts, they delivered a truck and van full of non-perishable goods to our pantry. The timing was perfect because we hadn't had a food delivery two weeks in a row. Their drive filled our pantry at a very crucial time, right around the holidays. We were able to help a total of 500 people— enough for our families to have food for Christmas.

Then, just last month, we had an angel (otherwise known as a GE appliance repairman) come to East House. Our upright freezer purchased last January had a faulty part. Unfortunately, the one-year limited warranty had expired just a few weeks before. He informed us that the part would cost \$396 and his service call for that day would be \$98.

Rosie Martinez, our East House manager, took a leap of faith. She took the time to tell him everything that we do in our emergency food pantry and how much the families appreciate us being able to provide frozen meats. He witnessed firsthand our families receiving food from the pantry and was touched. He said to Rosie, "You're doing things right, this is what we should be doing to help others. So, I won't charge you for the service call and will teach you how to replace the part that I will send you by mail at no charge." Wow.

So thank you to these and all the angels who look out for us, believe in the work we do and help us to achieve our goals. Without you, much of what we do would not be possible.

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