

NEWS RELEASE

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Client Needs Surge 30% at The Sharing Center

Longwood, FL – September 9, 2008 – When a distraught woman appeared at The Sharing Center’s Sanford office in need of help after hurricane flooding at her home, Sanford Site Director Isabel De La Camara said “Boy, could I relate! Her story sounded exactly like mine!”

Isabel said experiencing the hurricane flooding at her own home “has given me real empathy for my clients because I understand what they’ve gone through. I’ve been there!”

She was “up all night” with floodwater damage throughout her home, but Isabel still made it to work at The Sharing Center the next morning to help other people. “The Sanford utility came out to help me in the middle of the night,” she said. “I had roof damage, pipe damage, carpet damage, out of electricity two days, and then this woman comes in describing the same situation at her house. After all that, she needed new bedding, which she couldn’t afford, and I was glad we were able to help her.”

The Sharing Center is a designated disaster aid site for Seminole County, but the Center is here all year helping low-income families who have nowhere else to turn during a financial crisis. In recent weeks, The Sharing Center caseload has surged 30%, and some food pantry shelves are nearly empty.

The annual “Love Your Neighbor” Walk-a-Thon is a great way for the community to help The Sharing Center raise funds to fill those food pantry shelves and assist families in need in many other ways. A portion of Walk-a-Thon funds is designated to provide new school shoes for needy children. The Walk-a-Thon is scheduled 8 am – 10 am Saturday, Sept. 27 at Cranes Roost Park in Uptown Altamonte. Corporate sponsorships still available from \$200 - \$2,000. To sponsor or to walk, contact Mark Romagosa at 321-945-2895.

The Sharing Center assists Seminole County families in need at two locations: 600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Longwood, and 515 E. 25th Street, Sanford. The Sharing Center Thrift Store is open year ‘round as the center’s largest fund-raiser at 600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Longwood.

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The Sharing Center is located in Fairmont Plaza, 600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Longwood, approx. 1 mile north of Hwy. 434. Phone 407-260-9155 ext. 13. *Easing the stress of families in financial crisis and helping to prevent homelessness*