

## Program Insures 3,000,000 Nutritious Meals For Area Children

Cornerstone Family Ministries' unit of the Child Care Food Program (CCFP) will assist in serving over **3,000,000 meals** to children in Hillsborough, Polk, Pasco and Pinellas Counties this year! CCFP is a Federal program established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Florida Department of Health/Bureau of Child Nutrition to assist day care centers in providing nutritious meals to children from birth to 12 years of age. Cornerstone Family Ministries, (CFM) through their Children's Services Department in Tampa, is the only sponsor of unaffiliated day care centers in the four Central Florida Counties.

Currently through Cornerstone's CCFP, 100 centers provide nutritious meals to over 6,000 children each month. Of that number, approximately 70% of the children served are from low income families. Over 3 million meals will be served this year because of this program.

As a sponsor, Cornerstone's Children's Services provides technical assistance and training on nutrition, food service operations, program management and record keeping. Then they review and monitor each center's program to assure compliance and proper eligibility. Cornerstone's CCFP department then collects and reviews monthly records, files the claims, and distributes meal reimbursement funds from the Department of Health. While CFM is the only sponsor for unaffiliated day care centers, there are sponsors for day care homes in the area. Affiliated centers can report directly to the Department of Health.

Cornerstone Family Ministries was also instrumental in establishing the Florida Sponsors Association (TFSA), a statewide professional association of non-profit sponsors, in March. Angie Dyson, Cornerstone's CCFP Director, was elected as the first president; Cathy Huffman, Cornerstone's Director of Children's Services, secretary; and Maritz Grajales, of Tampa Lutheran Ministries, treasurer. Dyson explained that TFSA is designed to provide collective bargaining and training resource opportunities along with a support system.

Cornerstone Family Ministries, (formerly Tampa United Methodist Centers) is a non-profit, faith-based organization with a heritage of working with children and families dating back to 1892. Cornerstone is a National Community and Institutional Mission related to the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Programs of Cornerstone Family Ministries touch over 15,000 families across the state of Florida, through two Early Intervention Child Care Centers, SHARE Florida Food Network, Acorn Trace Senior Housing—HUD (202/8), CCFP, Cornerstone Family Enrichment Center, The New Place Arts Center, and Housing Management Services. For more information, go to [www.CornerstoneFamilyMinistries.org](http://www.CornerstoneFamilyMinistries.org) or call (813) 248-6259.

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