

## #8.1

### GOD'S TABLE

**PURPOSE:** To set forth basic guidelines for the program called "God's Table," an outreach program to the homeless and needy of Fort Myers Beach.

**APPLICATION:** These Policies and Procedures apply to all staff, volunteers and participants.

**OPERATIONS:**

1. Continually since 2001 Chapel by the Sea has hosted God's Table, an outreach program that is open to all that are homeless or in need in our community. In 2014 God's Table became a collaborative effort between Chapel by the Sea and Community Cooperative Inc., a Ft. Myers based nonprofit organization dedicated to getting people back on their feet in order to live self-sustaining lives. Over the years God's Table has received substantial financial assistance from both individuals and organizations. Individuals and area churches continue to assist Chapel with the financial costs of hosting the program.
2. Volunteers are welcome from other churches and the community. Volunteer Applications may be obtained from the Program Coordinator.
3. Chapel by the Sea provides the physical facilities for the God's Table program, to include office space and limited furnishings for the Program Coordinator.
4. Community Cooperative Inc. provides God's Table with the paid part-time Program Coordinator, volunteer recruiting and screening, and food procurement.
5. The Program Coordinator provides program supervision, one-on-one case management services involving both employment and housing, and coordination of other outreach services made available thru Community Cooperative Inc. The office is used weekdays by the Program Coordinator to both supervise the program and counsel participants.
6. For the purpose of preparing to open at 7:00 A.M., God's Table volunteers and participants are permitted to come on Chapel property no earlier than 6:30 A.M., Monday through Friday.
7. Monday through Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 8:30 A.M. participants are provided breakfast and a bag lunch.
8. Clothing, personal items and showers are available daily if volunteers are available.
9. Services provided include haircuts, nurse practitioner aid, assistance with Food Stamps and Medicaid Applications, Salvation Army Case Management Services, Life Coaching/Skills, Family Health Center and Homeless Services.
10. Additional assistance is available from JobLink, Money Matters Outreach, Salvation Army representatives, VA representatives and a social worker.
11. St. Vincent de Paul is available for crisis assistance in their office at Chapel by the Sea, typically on Mondays and Fridays from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. Types of assistance include: bus tickets, filling of prescriptions, rent and utility bills, and eye glasses.

12. The God's Table program has very specific rules of behavior with regard to participants. Among the most significant are:
  - a. No use or possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.
  - b. No smoking, foul language or fighting.
  - c. Participants must sign in each morning.
  - d. No bicycles or pets on the patio or verandas.
  - e. Sleeping on church or surrounding properties is not allowed.
  - f. Participants are required to leave the church property after the breakfast program unless they are being provided assistance or counseling.
13. Participants are not allowed on church property during the day except as provided for in paragraphs 5 thru 11.
14. The God's Table program also has specific written:
  - a. Shower rules and procedures.
  - b. Volunteer and kitchen safety procedures.
  - c. Daily Coordinator duties (job description).
  - d. Program Coordinator duties.

RESPONSIBILITY: Community Cooperative Inc. provides God's Table with a paid part-time Program Coordinator, volunteer recruiting and screening, and food procurement. Daily Coordinators are responsible for daily operation. Chapel by the Sea's Parish Nurse acts in an advisory capacity and provides reports to the Mission Committee.