

**County of Monroe**  
**The Florida Keys**



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Sheryl Graham  
Sr. Director  
Monroe County Social Services  
Historic Gato Building  
1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-257  
Key West, FL 33040

Tom,

It has been good catching up with you over the last several weeks. Thank you for sharing your thoughts about the installation of a community kitchen behind the new City Hall. It does sound innovative and exciting! As you have described it to me, the proposal by Star of the Sea Foundation to locally source fresh meals under your myriad of nutrition programs would not involve a duplication of any services currently provided by Monroe County Social Services. With regard to our Bayshore Manor Assisted Living Facility, we have not utilized a meal vendor for over three years, as we made the choice to prepare and cook fresh meals for the residents in-house. This is done by our own Bayshore Manor/Social Services staff. However, Monroe County Social Services does contract with a vendor from which we purchase our meals for two of our other countywide Senior Nutrition Programs (home-delivered hot and frozen meals and congregate meals). We utilize the vendor we have in place now because they submitted the most competitive price as a result of an RFP. At such time as we bid out that contract again, Star of the Sea would be encouraged to bid, as would any other approved vendor capable of serving all of Monroe County.

As I have mentioned in the past, Monroe County Social Services is always thankful for the donations of food and supplies that SOS is able to share with us. These donations are immediately distributed to our elderly, disabled, and low-income clients who are truly blessed to receive them.

Sincerely Yours,

Sheryl Graham