

Giving a Gift to Make a Difference, by Sonya Tyler, Director of Operations

As we close out 2016 we invite you one more time to help us minister to the less fortunate through a donation.

You see, during most of the year, we struggle to provide for all the needs we have. But in November and December the holidays come, and with them, come good will and charity! We are so grateful that for many of you, Interfaith is who you think of when you want to support a cause. With that said, it's always a leap of faith to see if we're going to make our budget for the year until the last donation comes in on December 31st.

We are a true not-for-profit in every sense of the word, and we utilize every donation we get to operate and help those in need. So if you haven't had a chance to give during 2016, it's not too late! We appreciate your gift even if it comes on the last day of the year! And for the record, you will get a letter for your 2016 tax deduction even if we receive your gift on December 31st.

And for those of you that want to know how your donation can make a difference – there are countless ways at Interfaith. Here's some of the examples of what we provide...

- food to individuals and families at six pantries throughout Marion County
- free clothing to the homeless and others in need
- priceless items of hygiene like soap, shampoo and deodorant
- an ID card or workboots for someone seeking a job
- a gas voucher for those with medical appointments at Shands, Moffitt and Mayo Clinic
- reading glasses for many that could not see without them

*A generous person
will be blessed for he
shares his food with the
poor. Proverbs 22:9*

And of course – our specialty programs are so needed in the community. We provide life-saving medications through our *prescription program* – including insulin, heart medications and diabetic supplies. Our *Food 4 Kids backpack program* supplies food for 1,700 school-aged children on the weekend in 34 schools in Marion County. And the most life-changing program is our *Homeless Shelter*, which is now up to 34 beds for women, children and families – with our case management team that helps transform them from homelessness into permanent housing.

None of this could be done without the help of our awesome supporters!

*For those of you who have helped us throughout the year, thank you
and it is our prayer that you have a blessed and prosperous 2017!*

Lottery for High Tea Event, by Karla Grimsley, Chief Executive Officer

Before we know it the flowers will start blooming and Spring will return, which means it will be time for our 2nd Annual High Tea! Because tables are limited, we are holding a lottery for the privilege of being a table hostess. If you would like to put your name in the hat, please email Karla at Karla@iesmarion.org, text or call her at 352-209-7045. The hostess names will be drawn January 2nd and the event will be in late March.

This is a 'hats and gloves' kind of event, where hostesses set a table for 8 or 10 of their friends and we provide the food and tea! Proceeds from the event support our homeless shelter. We are also looking for a \$5,000 and a \$2,500 sponsor for this extra special event!



One of the beautiful tables from 2016

From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



Merry Christmas to all of our friends. As we enjoy the final days of 2016 I can't help but recall our blessings. While there are too many to count, there are some that stand out in my mind. Like the incredible food drive that Church @ the Springs held for us in February that literally restocked our pantry and kept us from running out of food the following months which had been tough in previous years. And then the monetary and in-kind donations that made the Center for Life purchase possible! We also were blessed with in-kind donations to help us rebuild our Thrift Store after the fire at the end of 2015 by engineering companies, surveyors and architects. And of course there were many small blessings along the way that made big differences for us and the people we serve, like a pair of shoes just the right size, or a bag of hotel soaps collected on someone's travels just when we were getting low.

But the greatest blessing of all is the gift of serving God and serving this community. Some days at the end of a tour, after sharing the many different ways we impact lives, I still get a little choked up. It is truly overwhelming and humbling every time I realize the honor it is to be in my position. Someday I'll get to leave this earth knowing that someone's life was better because I was here and called to serve at Interfaith. I can't imagine any greater blessing in this life. So I invite all of our donors, volunteers, and prayer partners to stop for a moment and reflect on your contribution and bask in the blessing that you have been to those served by this ministry. Thank you again for your love and support and I pray that 2017 is filled with more blessings for all!

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

Serving in Jesus' Name, by Food 4 Kids Volunteer Sandy Murphy

Our Lord Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. The benefits of serving in Jesus' name go beyond our wildest dreams when we do it out of a sincere, grateful heart. In my Christian walk, once I chose to serve no matter the cost, no matter the inconvenience, following Christ, it is the most fulfilling and rewarding experience and makes my heart glad.

It is a joy to serve at my home church, Central Christian, in our coffee shop each Sunday. And I also enjoy volunteering with other agencies such as Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief, and Wear Gloves Dignity Center. Because I believe serving is part of my walk as a Christian, I serve gladly and cheerfully where ever I can.

Another one of my joys is helping with Food 4 Kids. I have the pleasure of serving the children at our neighboring school, Wyomina Park Elementary, who also happens to be the school my church, Central Christian, has kind of adopted as our school. It is a simple way to help many children have food for the weekends, and to know our small part of this is huge to these children. They appreciate what is done through Interfaith and it is my pleasure to serve here.

My main message is that it is an honor and privilege to serve others and ultimately serve Christ. There is no greater joy on earth. I challenge you to begin today, and remember, *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10.* Service is an act of obedience and a reflection of our faith. What if we viewed service and helping others as our life's purpose, not just something you do because you have to, but rather what you were created for?



*Merry
Christmas*

*On behalf of the Interfaith Board of Directors
and Staff, have a wonderfully blessed Christmas
and New Years!*

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

In Memory of:

David Lee Skipper

By: Nancy Bridenstine

Katie Fore

By: Terry Crawford

Nancy Fore

William Sarver

John Bledsoe

By: Ben and Helen Hayes

Marie Pares

By: Marilyn Adler

Dr Buddy Hogan

By: Dr and Mrs John Farrell

Barney Barwald

Charles Shark

By: Robert Kuperberg

Marjorie Trimble Chazal

By: Julie Moody

Nelwyn Yeary

Buddy and Anne MacKay

E L Foster

By: Frank and Pamela Stafford

Fred and Carolyn Roberts

Wade and Vivian Davis

Ana Dunwoody

Harold and Nancy Jones

Becky Nation

Buddy and Anne MacKay

Adrienne Marsh

By: Ben and Helen Hayes

Mitchell Shashy

George Albright, Jr

Scott Lewis

Rupert Caviness

Howard Trumm

Kelly Shier

Catherine Parks

By: E L and Jo Foster

Roswell Noegel

By: Becky Nation

Thornton Atkinson

By: Buddy and Anne MacKay

Elaine Lane

By: Celine Mack



In HONOR of:

Karla Grimsley

By: Rosemary Greene

Dr Pares and Staff of Life Care Center

By: E L and Jo Foster



Would you like to honor a loved one? The individual honored or their family will receive a letter of acknowledgement. Contact Kayla at 629-8868x202 or kayla.grimsley@iesmarion.org for more information.

Meadowbrook Church



A huge shout out to Meadowbrook Church for their recent food drive for Interfaith which brought in over 5,650 pounds of food. Pastor Herran Ybarra is pictured above with Karla and some of the Meadowbrook gang .

M e a d o w b r o o k also came out in November to do projects in our ministry areas – what an incredible blessing!



A special thanks to Pastor Herran for his amazing efforts to coordinate all these projects – he's awesome!

Getting the 'Good News' by EMAIL

We love sending out our newsletter and we appreciate the good feedback we get from our readers! If you would like to receive the newsletter in color – send us your email address and it will be waiting in your inbox on the first day of the month! And, sending the newsletter by email saves us money! If you would rather receive it that way – please let us know. You can send your email address to Sonya@IESmarion.org or call her at 352-629-8868x203. And if you still want to receive our donation envelopes (which we LOVE to receive) we'll be happy to mail a stack to you. Your donations matter! It's easy to see from the articles we include each month how every dollar we receive matters in the lives of our clients! Thank you for your faithfulness!

Our Thanks Goes To...

Special thanks to our local Elks Lodge #286 for their support of Interfaith's shelter program. The Elks have committed to donating hygiene and cleaning supplies for our shelter program every month! What a blessing!

Thanks to Ocala Palms Craft show for their fundraiser for Food 4 Kids. Marva Meredith, Kay Negron and Sharron Albert, pictured with Ken Nelson.



Special thanks to Trilogy at Ocala Preserve for their special project days for Interfaith's Food Pantry, which received a much-needed fresh coat of paint, from a great group of people.

A very special thank you goes to our Florida Feast donors. Our silent auction in kind donors: Aquatica, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Central Florida Zoo, Sea World, Chiropractic USA, Springshill Suites Sanford, Daytona Speedway, Walt Disney World and Ideal Image.

And a special thanks to our table sponsors: Allstate Insurance - Kevin McDonald, Max-AC Heating & Air Conditioning, Brick City Pest Control, Munroe Regional Medical Center, Carmart of Ocala, Regions Bank, Center State Bank, Sandy McBride, Charlene Lowe, Southern Blade, Community Bank and Trust, Sunset Rotary, David and Lisa Midgett, Thnk Technology - Matt Villella, Doug Day, CPA, Tobacco Free Partnership of Marion Co., Foxfire Realty - Gene Boone, Van Akin, Gateway Bank, Vernon & Gail Shukoski, Hiers-Baxley Funeral Home, Wells Fargo Bank, Knettles Family and WINCO MFG, LLC.





P.O. Box 992 • Ocala, FL 34478

Christmas
BEGINS WITH
Christ

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #243
Ocala, FL 34478

IES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Oscar Agudelo
- Bill Bender
- Shep Dozier
- Scott Hackmyer
- Robert Little
- Cindy MacKay
- Kevin McDonald, President
- Paulette Milhorn
- Nick Nikkinen
- Sandy Sanders
- Lisa Sheilley, Secretary
- Carlos Tobon
- Andrew Vanover
- Matt Villela
- Wesley Wheeler
- Karla Grimsley, Chief Executive Officer



Check out our website at
www.IESmarion.org



MISSION STATEMENT

Interfaith Emergency Services is a community of faith called by God to offer emergency assistance without judgment to all persons in Marion County.

Oh Happy Day! by Brenda Callahan

Finally! The day we at the Thrift Store have been waiting for.... the construction has begun! Bull dozers, trucks and men working in the back yard - oh what a nice sight to see! From the ruins of the horrible fire of our storage barn, a new building will rise. Our new warehouse will assist us in so many ways - a nice clean area to store items, areas for cleaning and repairs and pallet racks to keep us organized! God is so good to provide for all our needs. In fact, I was just thinking he has already seen this dream as accomplished, so



we just need to follow through on our parts and He will see it done. We serve a mighty God who has it all in His control!

Volunteer Needs, by Teesha O'Neal-Garcia, Volunteer Coor.

As the end of the year approaches we are looking for wonderful volunteers just like you. We have needs in nearly every department such as our Clothing Boutique, Thrift Store, Shelter, Intake Office as well as our Food Pantry. We even have special projects and events that need people just like you. Our current greatest need is volunteering to be a 'once-a-month' dinner provider for our shelter residents. We have 3 days to fill!

Being a Dinner Provider is a once a month commitment to make a meal of your choice for our Shelter Residents (usually about 30 people counting children and adults). On your designated day, you can either drop off the meal, or serve the meal, then sit and fellowship with the residents and children. Many of our volunteers tell us this is the highlight of their month and a time that they can truly see God's Hand at work in our community. For more information please call me at 352-629-8868 x210 or email teesha.oneal@iesmarion.org

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. Matthew 25:35

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!