

Single Mom Finds Hope at Interfaith's Shelter, by Sonya Tyler Director of Operations

Faced with being a single mom, with a baby on the way, Molly had nowhere to go. It seemed that life was crushing her under its thumb with one disappointment after another. After losing her husband, job and apartment, Molly found herself on Interfaith's doorstep in 2008, with nothing more than a few belongings and her 3 year old daughter, Megan.

Lucky for Molly, Interfaith was set up with her situation in mind. Our homeless shelter has always been a refuge in the storm for many people through the years, and thanks to the donors that support us, our first step is providing a safe, stable environment for those in need.

For Molly, being 6 months pregnant made her life even more challenging since she was unable to work, and had no one to help care for her little one. Molly said, "When you are at your lowest point in life, you realize how blessed you have been, and how far back it is to what you once had." Molly went on to add, "I tell people my time at Interfaith was the worst and best part of my life, which people have a hard time understanding. Being homeless with my daughter, and pregnant with my son, I was definitely at my lowest point, but I've also never seen such compassion and love as when I was in the (Interfaith) shelter. The people cared about me and wanted to help me. I'll never forget that."

I learned about Molly from a message she left on Interfaith's Facebook account, where she posted how grateful she was to Interfaith for helping her in her greatest time of need. When we talked on the phone, Molly said it was actually the staff at Interfaith that encouraged her to have her daughter tested, where she learned Megan was autistic, and she was able to get help for her. "I stayed with Interfaith long enough to have my son Kaleb, and work towards getting my own place. Interfaith helped me get an apartment after Kaleb was born, and even provided me with some furniture and food – I was so grateful to be given a fresh start," Molly said.

Today, Molly is back with family in Orange Park. She has a good job and loves spending time with her kids – Megan (now 12 years old) and Kaleb (9 years old). Molly loved the idea of sharing her story in our newsletter, and wanted to let everyone know what a blessing it was to her and her children, that Interfaith was here for her.

Thanks to the faithful donors that support Interfaith financially, we were here for Molly in 2008, and today – we're here for Jamie, Susan and countless others that are in need. Thank you for giving so that others can change the lowest point in their lives, to one of hope.

Donations for Interfaith's Shelter can be mailed to PO Box 992, Ocala FL 34478 or online at www.IESmarion.org.



**Megan (age 12) and
Kaleb (age 9)**

Opportunities for Blessings Just For You! by Tina Reid, Volunteer Coordinator

We are so grateful for the opportunity we have to play a role in our residents' lives. We want to give them the best chance to succeed when they leave us. We offer several opportunities for them to better themselves in many ways. We offer GED classes, as well as recovery classes and positive attributes classes on a regular basis. When our parents, especially single moms or dads, attend these classes they are coming with kid in tow. And as you can image, this makes it difficult for everyone in the class to concentrate. It has been one of my top priorities to find babysitters that can take the children in another room and keep them entertained for a short time. And, we also are looking for monthly dinner providers for our residents. Just one night a month can make such a difference. We have several other areas that have openings such as our intake office and the need for a handyman. We thank you that we can always come to you, our community, with our needs. If you have some time to help out in one of these blessing-filled opportunities, please call me for more information at 352-629-8868 x210 or Tina.Reid@iesmarion.org.

From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley

Since Karla's on vacation at the time of printing, we're happy to have Mary Lou James, our Foundation Board President, fill her slot this month.

LIFE INSURANCE

When the original purpose for a life insurance policy no longer applies—such as educating children now grown or providing financial security for a spouse now deceased—your policy can become a powerful and simple way to support our work. There are three ways to give life insurance to the Interfaith Foundation:

Name us as beneficiary of the policy. This gift is as simple as updating your beneficiary designation form with the insurance company. You can designate us as the primary beneficiary for a percentage or a specific amount of the death benefit. You can also make us the contingent beneficiary so that we will receive the balance of your policy if your primary beneficiary doesn't survive you.

Make an outright gift of an existing policy. You can name us as the owner and beneficiary of an existing policy. You may receive a federal income tax charitable deduction and reduce your future estate tax liability. If you continue to pay premiums on the policy, each payment is tax deductible as a charitable gift.

Make an outright gift of a new policy. You can take out a new policy and irrevocably name the Interfaith Foundation as the owner and beneficiary of the insurance contract. This may involve ongoing premium payments by you or a onetime lump sum payment—each payment is tax deductible as a charitable gift.

Next Steps

1. Contact Karla Grimsley, Interfaith CEO at 352-629-8868 x219
2. Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor
3. If you include the Interfaith Foundation in your plans, please call Karla Grimsley and she will walk you through the correct wording and provide our Federal Tax ID.

The Interfaith Foundation is not affiliated with and does not provide endorsements for professional advisors. The information in this article is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. References to estate and income taxes include federal taxes only. State income/estate taxes or state law may impact your results.

A Quiet Whisper, by Steve Clem, Warehouse Manager

Several months ago I walked into the Warehouse early one morning and it was nice and quiet. As I started flipping on lights and setting up for the day, I could have sworn I heard a whisper. I was certain I was hearing things, but then I heard it again. It said, "Feed me."

Now at the time, our Warehouse was pretty empty, and we were worried we wouldn't have enough food to reach all of our clients throughout Marion County – including our local pantry here in Ocala, and other satellite pantries in Ft McCoy, Fellowship, Reddick, Marion Oaks and Pedro. Our demand was greater than the empty shelves could provide.

Our staff went into action – reaching out to the community for help. And we knew that if we trusted in God, the community would come through for us – and they did, in a big way. Local churches, businesses, groups and individuals started doing food drives, and the pantry started to fill again. By the time the annual Letter Carrier's Food Drive came around in mid-May, we were blessed with over 113,250 pounds of food! Today, we picked up from the Marion County Tax Collector's office, where the food drives from all their offices collected 18,000 pounds of food, for both the Warehouse and our Food 4 Kids program.

Now, I haven't heard anymore whispers, but if I do, I'm sure it will be... "thank you!"

We couldn't provide the help to the community we do, without our Interfaith supporters. Thanks to our donors, we reach hundreds of people every week, throughout the county, meeting needs where they are the greatest. And whether you provide a financial donation, or a can of vegetables, your help means the world to those in need.

God bless you for your support of Interfaith!



Tax Collector's Office fills an entire box truck with 18,000 pounds!

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

Russell Sands

By: Richard Barber
Norma Bertolotti
Becky Nation
Carolyn Grissom
Sally and Bo Williams
Buddy and Anne MacKay
Don and Sally Claybrook

Ralph Murphy

By: Becky Nation
Trusty and Charline Drake

Jane Baugh Cameron

Mr and Mrs Howard Trumm

Keith Trumm

By: Duke and Becky Hagood

Arthur Ormont

By: Kathy Murphy

Jane Shashy

Bruce Thompson

By: Dorothy Thompson

Tom Price

By: Thrift Store staff and volunteers
John, Sharon and Mike Fluno

Jim Kirk

By: Carol Carpenter

Helen Stutz

By: Linda Robinson

Dr Ira Ronald Fox

By: Dr Edward D Sabol

Mack Dunwoody

Jim Copeland

E L Foster

By: Ana Dunwoody

Juanita West

By: Carolyn Grissom

Joe Fleming

By: Sally and Bo Williams
Pat Bishop

Jane D Proctor

Julia Boreman

By: Ben and Helen Hayes

Robert Weech

By: Theresa Weech

Betty Penuel

By: Esther Foreman

In MEMORY of:

Cindy Stafford

By: David Stafford

Clinton Curry

By: Jack and Patsy Harward

Cpl Stanley J Lapinski

By: Gaynell Lapinski

Christina Duvall

Russell Lapinski

In HONOR of:

Ken Nelson

Sandi Curtis

By: Louise & John Moore

Andy DeSantis, Jr

David DeSantis

By: Louann and Andy DeSantis

For info on honorary donations contact Kayla at 629-8868x202 or kayla.grimsley@iesmarion.org. Mail: PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478.

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

YOU are Awesome!

Thanks to our donors, we provide help and hope to thousands of people throughout the year! Here are some of our recent superheroes:

Cathie Siemer and Fiddle Leaf Farms donated \$500 to Food 4 Kids. The donation from their u-pick blueberry farm will go towards feeding hungry kids for the upcoming school year!



Dr. Simon Amir and his assistants volunteered for our first dental care day at the Center for Life, and helped relieve the suffering of some of our clients.

Grace Christian School presented Food 4 Kids with a check from a fundraiser by the National Honor Society for \$500.00. Amazing kids helping kids



The Pan Hellenic Society and St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church have been supporters of the Food 4 Kids program for 7 years, partnering with Belleview Santos Elementary School. In addition to monetary donations, a dedicated group of volunteers have faithfully taken care of the backpacks at Belleview Santos every Thursday. For the past four years in early May, the Pan Hellenic Society has organized a fund raising luncheon called The Festival of Tables where individuals have decorated tables and invited guests to enjoy an entertaining lunch. All proceeds go to Food 4 Kids. To date they have raised \$15,000 from the luncheon.

It's in the Small Details, Brenda Callahan, Thrift Store Manager

God takes care of the smallest details if we allow Him. We are in full swing setting up our new warehouse. This involves setting up pallet racking and various other tasks. As we were setting up pallet racking we realized we were 1 upright rack short. At that time, a week had passed since we purchased the pallet racking from a local company that was closing their store. I thought it would be very hard to match the racking. With a hopeful spirit I drove to the store and asked the manager if they had any uprights left. He smiled the biggest smile and said, "I was wondering what I was going to do with that last one." Happily, I told him it was God taking very good care of Interfaith, because we didn't know at the time that we needed it...but God knew and He provided.

Whether it's a small detail or a large undertaking, things always go better and further if you allow God to provide for your needs.



Volunteers Work to Set up Pallet Racks



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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.

Center for Life Programs, by Brandy Forman-Kraft, Center for Life Manager

At the Center for Life, business is booming! Everyday we seek to fulfill our mission to be “a community of faith called by God to offer emergency assistance without judgment to all persons in Marion County”. In order to accomplish this, we have several programs up and running, with more coming soon! Here’s a brief overview...

We have three prescription programs: the Emergency Prescription program, the PAP program (Patient Assistance Program), and the HDG (Hospital District Grant) prescription program for those with diabetes and/or mental health issues. Also, we are now partnering with community health education providers. The goal is to include education about all aspects of healthcare, and to start, we are focusing on our diabetic clients. Our first Diabetes Management class began on Tuesday, June 6th run by Dynamic Therapy & Wellness Services. This course is held on Tuesdays at 3:00pm and is open to anyone wanting to prevent, manage, and reduce the effects of diabetes.

Finally, we are excited to share that we are now launching our newest program at the Center for Life - the Patient Sustainability Assistance Program or “PSAP”. This is a program designed for volunteers (Health Advocates) to work closely with clients and provide case management for medical needs. Clients receive one on one attention and are mentored through the application process for benefits such as Medicaid and SSDI. The volunteers serve as coaches to encourage clients as they become more educated and self-sufficient in terms of their own healthcare. We are praying that God will enable us to help others in a tangible way in order to show His love!

Please stop by and see us at the Center for Life or contact me with any questions! God bless!
Brandy Forman-Kraft, CFL Manager, (352)629-8868 Ext.204

