

Sweet Farewell to Food 4 Kids Staff, Ken Nelson and Sandi Curtis

This was the last school year ordering food, coordinating volunteers and filling backpacks for Ken and Sandi. Both deciding to retire, these dedicated staff members have worked for years, making sure countless backpacks made it to the children they serve.

Over the past decade this duo has impacted thousands of children at risk of food deprivation. They have truly been a reflection of the heart of God in the way they have dedicated themselves to this ministry and we know that He has been well pleased. As they move on to enjoy the next season of their lives we wish them well and pray blessings over their lives. They are two very special individuals and will be missed more than words can say. Interfaith has been blessed to have them and will be forever grateful for their service.

Ken and Sandi will definitely be missed by both the staff and volunteers. For all the years they've worked together, they've kept us all laughing with their good-natured ribbing of each other, as evidenced by Sandi's rabbit ears above Ken's head, in the picture to the right.

On a side note... Ken and Sandi wanted to be sure that the Food 4 Kids program was left in good hands, so much so, that they found their perfect replacements. Karen Fant and Daphne Gideon, who are volunteers of the program, are in training now with Ken and Sandi and we're excited to have them come aboard. When the new school season kicks off in the fall, Karen and Daphne will be ready!



**Sandi and Ken pictured above.
The mischievous pair will be greatly missed.**

Creative Collecting, by Sonya Tyler



This is one of my favorite things to find around Interfaith. I recently noticed this picture taped to a box of food that was donated at the Warehouse. We're not sure who created this masterpiece, or their age, or school; we're not even sure if it was a boy or a girl! But one thing is for certain... the special someone that created this sign has a heart to help others. And somewhere close by, you'll find an adult that's teaching their children about giving to others in need. Together, that makes an awesome combination.

Refreshed, by Jessica Rodriguez

During the summer months, we give out ice pops to our homeless friends as they wait for the soup kitchen to open, or to get services from Interfaith. They get so happy and excited. It brings a smile to their faces and helps them cool down for just a minute. Many of our regular homeless clients are in the sun all day long, and this can be so draining. In the mornings we wake up to temperatures in the 80s. It is such a small, simple gesture and brings so much happiness.

The staff ensures we always have some ice pops in the freezer. And for the staff, taking ice pops outside is a tool we use to connect to our clients. It opens up the opportunity to talk with them and see how things are going. Sometimes there's a need we can help with, or perhaps we can pray for them. In the end, they are grateful just knowing someone cares.

From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



Two years ago when it became evident that Interfaith had grown beyond what I couldn't manage alone, the Board of Directors sought God's direction. After many meetings and much prayer, the board hired Becky O'Connor to take over the daily oversight of all of our various ministries. Becky started as a volunteer and eventually joined the staff to help run our Intake Department.

The board and staff were elated when she agreed to develop the new position as Director of Ministries. During her tenure she implemented many improvements in policies and procedures as well as overhauling our entire accounting system to accommodate our growth. She was instrumental in working to receive the grant from the Hospital District to expand the medication program. To sum it up, Becky has been a blessing to Interfaith and has served with a heart of passion and obedience to the Lord during her time with Interfaith. She will be greatly missed but her "heartprint" and the impact she's had on the ministry will stay with us for many years to come. Thank you Becky, for allowing God to use you for the good of Interfaith and this community.

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Hebrews 13:7



Becky (center) goofing off with her co-workers during Volunteer Week

Charitable Giving News

Interfaith relies solely on the support of our donors to minister to those in need. We appreciate our donors more than words can express. If you'd like to do more or are interested in some different opportunities for giving to our ministry consider this option below.

Karla

Charitable giving through your IRA

With increased tax rates and diminished deductions, you could face a higher tax bill than in prior years. The Tax Act includes a provision which allows you to redirect your IRA contributions to a charitable organization as a tax savings tool. If you are 70½ or older and must withdraw monies from your IRA every year it can be beneficial to use the "Qualified Charitable Distribution" feature. By directing the funds to a charitable organization the funds are not included in your Adjusted Gross Income and may keep you below the thresholds for higher regular income taxes and the Medicare Contribution Tax. It can also lessen or even eliminate the impact of a phase-out of your itemized deductions and personal and dependency exemptions. It's a win-win for you and for your charity of choice! For more information, consult your accountant or we can refer you to a financial advisor that assists Interfaith. Please contact Karla at 629-8868 ext. 219.

HYGIENE ITEMS NEEDED

Hygiene Items (full and travel sizes) such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and wet wipes are an amazing blessing to our clients. Donate today!

Girl Scouts Provide Hope

We want to recognize the Girl Scouts, who came to visit and find out more about the many services offered at Interfaith. The girls all worked together to create personalized hygiene bags for our clients. Their donation not only included hygiene products, but each bag contained bracelets they made, with encouraging words printed on the bracelets, to remind our clients they are valued and beautiful.



Girl Scouts Rock!

The Girl Scouts were given a tour of our facility. They were also given the opportunity to talk with a couple of our shelter residents. The girls had so many wonderful, empathetic questions. One of my favorites was, "How can I help more?" These Girl Scouts demonstrated a sincere love for others in need. My heart was encouraged seeing the youth taking such an interest in all that we do here and whom we serve. We would like to thank these young ladies for not only the tangible items they brought to us, but for sharing a part of their heart with our clients as well.

By Dawn Lovell, Shelter Case Manager

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

Elizabeth Callahan

By: Mary Callahan

Earl Sullivan

By: Bill and Dori Sullivan

Colin Holtman

By: Corvette Club of Marion County

Tony Azevedo

By: Susan Azevedo

Linda Cheatum

By: Sherry Lindeman

Russell Sands

By: Trusty and Charline Drake
Carlyle and Shirley Ausley
Wayne and Pat Birkenmeyer
Duggan, Joiner & Company
K and Scottie Drake
T J and Mary Lou Jordan

Shirley G Ausley

Buddy Hogan

By: Carlyle and Shirley S Ausley

Lucille Griggs

By: Trusty and Charline Drake

Tom Partin

Catherine Clark

By: Mr and Mrs Roger M Laible

Robert Goldberg

By: Vernon and Gail Shukoski
Ben and Helen Hayes

Crawford D "Mac" McGehee

By: Cindy and David Blackwelder
Lucky and Linda Villa

Joe Fleming

By: Ruth M Albright

Jim Lybass

By: T J and Mary Lou Jordan

In HONOR of:

Mr & Mrs Dave Mulkey's
60th Wedding Anniversary
By: Phyllis Cohen

Jodie and Rebecca DeSantis

By: Louann and Andy DeSantis

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

Partnering with Others, by Becky O'Connor, Director of Ministries

Interfaith loves to partner with people to further the mission of helping others. We have obvious partnerships with those we assist – clients, shelter residents, clinic patients. They are the reason we are here. And we have church partnerships – those long serving congregations that support our ministries financially through donations and spiritually through prayer. Our humble beginnings were born from these communities of faith who dreamt of a way to pool their resources to help others. And of course, the partnership with our wonderful volunteers who we work alongside on a daily basis - without them we could not exist! These partnerships form the essence of who we are and keep us focused on why we do what we do.

We also partner with other agencies in Marion County, who may serve different clientele or have a differing core mission, but whose driving force is still service to others. We had the opportunity recently to work with other agencies on the development of a coordinated intake process that will help Marion County focus dollars on the homeless in our community. This new development will give us a tool to direct available funding to those whose need is greatest. It will be a process, trial and error; and I imagine 'two steps forward and one back.' But through it all, we will work alongside agencies like the Housing Authority, the Homeless Council, Volunteers of America, Shepherds LightHouse, His Compassion, Marion County Community Services, and the United Way to name a few. We are thankful for these partnerships and for the servants who give their time and talent to make life better for others.



Members of the Coordinated Entry Team meet at Interfaith's Learning Center

Can God Use You Today? By Tina Reid, Volunteer Coordinator

God sees to every need. Can He use you to do it? Many times when we're called to serve, it is really for OUR benefit. Yes, the area we are serving in benefits, but when we serve others we receive spiritual growth. Interfaith is the most rewarding place to do that. You get to see with your own eyes the impact it has. You get to see His people's needs being filled. It gives you hope to know that God sees all our needs, and sees they are met.

Contact me today to learn about the openings we have at Interfaith! There are many ways you can help. Reach me at 352-629-8868 x210 or Tina.Reid@IESmarion.org

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. Isaiah 55:8"

Our Thanks!

Thank you Pastor Bruce LaPointe and First Baptist Church for their awesome food drive that provided over 2,650 pounds (pictured right).



The Tri-County R/C Club of Dunnellon's President Dave Rallens, Secretary John Kettgen, and Treasurer Tom Gorth presents a check for \$1,000 to Ken of Food 4 Kids (left).





P.O. Box 992 • Ocala, FL 34478

Return Postage Requested

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

IES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Bill Bender
- Shep Dozier
- Jerone Gamble
- Scott Hackmyer
- Robert Little
- Cindy McKay
- Kevin McDonald, President
- Paulette Millhorn
- Nick Nikkinen
- Sandy Sanders
- Lisa Sheilley, Secretary
- Vernon Shukoski
- Carlos Tobon
- Andrew Vanover
- Matt Villella
- 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.

Thrift Store Blessings and Warehouse Update, by Brenda Callahan, Manager

We have been experiencing some really busy days at the Thrift Store and we are happy about it too. The quality of the incoming donations has risen to a new level. This in turn increases sales and curb appeal of the store.

This week, I walked into the store after a meeting and saw a faithful shopper behind the counter helping our clerk Angie, process the long line of customers. I asked her when she started volunteering for us, and she just laughed and said, "Angie needed help, so I stepped in." She continued on and told me our Thrift Store was a blessing to her and her family. This lady is not down on her luck or under financial burdens; she just loves a great deal! Great deals are what we do every day at our store and we hope to see you here very soon finding your own deals.



Inside of our new warehouse building.

Also, I wanted to provide a brief update on the construction of our new warehouse building. We're so excited to have walls up and we're getting closer and closer to having a new building ready to move into! The warehouse will provide storage for our donations, sorting areas, and a section for our ebay processing. And, it includes a small building for displaying our appliances and a large outdoor covered area for our Man Cave. All this means more great ways to shop and save at Interfaith's Thrift Store! And even better, that translates to more proceeds from our sales going to our prescription program that helps provide life-saving prescriptions for our clients. We'll continue to keep you posted on our progress – but in the meantime – stop by the store and say hello, and of course – shop!