

## 5,500 Volunteers Save the Day, by Steve Clem, Warehouse Manager

Fresh eggs are always a hot commodity at Interfaith. Thanks to the Second Harvest Food Program, we pick up items weekly from local grocery stores, including dairy and meat products, but they usually don't last the week with the great demand we have helping our neighbors in need.

Thanks to Troy at Wade's Custom Cuts Butchery & Farm in Belleview, we get farm fresh eggs every week! Troy delivers 120 or so dozen eggs to Interfaith nearly every week for our clients, all thanks to his 5,500 chickens on his farm. Wade's is locally owned and operated, and they believe in growing and producing the best natural, antibiotic and steroid free quality products from their farm. And best yet, they believe in supporting their local community by helping their neighbors in need. I cannot tell you how grateful our clients are to receive fresh eggs with their groceries – it brings a smile to a lot of faces - and taste buds!



## Walk Raises \$10,000 for Homeless Shelter



We did it! We walked a mile in their shoes. On a hot August morning about 75 individuals put on donated shoes and carried their well-fitted comfortable shoes in a plastic bag down Silver Springs Boulevard. Walkers carried

card-board signs to understand what it's like to be homeless. Many had blisters after only a short walk and had to remove their shoes. What an eye-opener for everyone as to some of the little things we take for granted; like shoes that fit. Some walked for awareness and 30 of the walkers raised over \$10,000 to help our homeless shelter program. If you missed it, don't worry. This will be an annual event. Thank you who participated and those who sponsored walkers. A special thank you goes to the Ivy House and Pastor Brad Nelson at Brick City Church for sharing their space with us as a starting point. And without the help from Danielle Marciano and the team from Zone Health and Fitness this event wouldn't have been possible.

## It's Backpack Time, by Karen Fant

It's that fun time of year again! The staff and volunteers of Food for Kids always looks forward to this time of year. The new school year begins, and we get ourselves organized to provide backpacks of food to children in 35 Marion County Schools. The best part is watching the generous individuals, organizations and businesses that begin collecting food for us!

I want to take a moment to thank the College of Central Florida for collecting food and gift cards over the summer. This generous collection will provide for numerous families in our program. Professors Tammi Viviano-Broderick and Darrell Riley encourage their students to participate in the backpack program. Barbara Warner collects the donations and organizes the program for the college. Students and staff at CF are the best!

The Marion County Tax Collector's Office hosted their annual fun evening of Bunco while raising money and collecting food for the backpack program. 671 pounds of food was collected as well as \$2,850. We love the Tax Collector's Office and their commitment to helping Food 4 Kids every year! The employees, under the guidance of Louann DeSantis, worked very hard to make this event such a great success. We are very thankful!

## From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



As we continue to recover from our September visitor, Irma, I'm still amazed at the grace that was shown to Interfaith. While working at the Emergency Operations Center the night of the storm, of course I was concerned about the shelter and duplex and the 30+ people housed with us. As the winds picked up I would log on to the utility outage websites and zoom in to see the addresses of our properties. Time after time I was relieved to not see a shaded color over our spot on the map. Then gradually, the shaded area started encroaching on our neighborhood. Finally there were 3 different shaded areas that all seem to cover our little space on NW 2nd Street. I was in contact via text messaging with our shelter staff person on duty, so I sent her a message and asked if they were okay. Surprisingly they still had power! While the apartments next door went dark, and the business on the other side went dark and eventually our Warehouse across the street went dark, the shelter never lost power. There was no damage to the shelter either.

Meanwhile at our permanent supportive housing duplex, they did lose power and a huge tree right in front of their front porch fell. As you can see in the photo, it fell away from the house onto the powerlines. Had it fallen on the duplex it would have been disastrous and possibly deadly for the women inside. I'm so grateful that God was looking out for our residents! I know many of you were out there praying for us and we appreciate it so much. The outpouring of help we received after the storm to help us with some downed trees and other clean-up around our property was just an added blessing and another reminder that God will always find a way or use others to help in time of need.



Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Matthew 6:25-26

## Donors from Tennessee Provide Amazing Blessing!

God never seems to do anything short of amazing around here at Interfaith. While we were watching the news and sitting in the community leadership meetings we realized that there were counties south of us that were hit much harder than Marion County. We also realized that most of the relief efforts and resources were going to those hardest hit and rightfully so. We knew we might just have to fend for ourselves. Then God laid it on the heart of a community in Cookeville, Tennessee to bless Marion County with some help. They put a big box truck outside of their local Walmart and the donations started filling it up! When all was done, they had filled 4 truckloads full of food, diapers, and hygiene supplies to transport to Interfaith where it would be disbursed throughout the county. We are so grateful to our fellow believers to the North for this love and support. Below is the Facebook post wrapping up their fundraising event:



*That's a wrap folks. Thank you to ALL of the Upper Cumberland for giving from your heart to help folks in Ocala, FL. God's blessings on you all for your generous giving. We were able to fill 4 pup trucks which will be consolidated and taken to Florida tomorrow to help in the Hurricane Irma relief effort. A special shout out to members of the Cookeville Life Church RAK Random Acts of Kindness group for manning the table Wednesday - Sunday. Jimmie Joe Hodge and Cindy Meadows Hodge for being with the truck all 5 days. None of this would have been possible without the sponsors for this drive: Freddy Duncan & Sons Moving and Storage, Senator Paul Bailey and CB Trucking, Wal-Mart, Country Giant 94.7, Magic 98.5, Dave Roland Roland of Roland Digital Media, and Lifechurch. We are blessed to live in such a loving community that helps those hurting. May God bless you all.*

## Special Gifts

### In MEMORY of:

Harry and Evelyn Dannels

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*For information on memorial or honorary donations contact Kayla at 629-8868x202 or [kayla.grimsley@iesmarion.org](mailto:kayla.grimsley@iesmarion.org). Mail: PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478.*

## Our Special Thanks...

### Special shout out for all the recent food drives:



CF Criminal Justice group provided 928 pounds of food and hygiene and the Social Security Admin office 1,192 pounds of food. CF group is pictured left.

We have to say a heart-felt thank you to Rondo Fernandez and his crew with the Ocala Outreach Foundation/Feed the Need for donating \$5,000 to our Food 4 Kids program.

Special thanks to Ryan Toomey and Kindred Hospice for their recent donation. Ryan dropped off a carload of 588 pounds of food and a financial donation from Kindred Hospice's food drive for Interfaith! Thank you so much! Ryan is pictured right.



Interfaith and Food 4 Kids want to give out a HUGE thank you to the Joy FM and Chick-fil-A for the incredible support they gave us through Be Joy Backpacks food drive with 4,591 pounds of food. God bless you!! You are amazing partners in ministry!



**Are you on Facebook or Twitter? Make sure you follow Interfaith (iesmarion) to stay connected to our most current needs, events and praises to the community.**

## Thanks to Community Partners, by Judi Lowther, Shelter Case Manager

As an outreach to the ministry done here at Interfaith's homeless shelter, we also have a ministry that helps furnish the new homes to those who are able to move out of the shelter. Many people have generously donated furniture, dishes, silverware, glasses, pots and pans, lamps and many other household items. Often these items are picked up and delivered directly to the resident, but there are times when items are available before they are needed. Without the generosity of Store Rite Storage, we would not be able to accept these gifts. It takes a village to fulfill any ministry. I want to take this opportunity to thank the good people at Store Rite for investing in our community as well as Tracy Harris, Jeremy Hall and the many other's that have helped move furniture all over Marion County for our residents. God bless you!

Because of the rapid growth of our shelter and the success in transitioning of our residents to permanent housing and the additional services we are currently providing, new office space was needed for our shelter staff. We have been able to convert one of the rooms in the shelter with a minimum of remodeling. I wanted to take a minute to thank Pete Villella and Admiral Furniture, for making that possible by donating financially for the floor replacement. It is so good to know that we have such wonderful supporters in the community!



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Check out our website at  
[www.IESmarion.org](http://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.*

**Dental Clinic Now Open!  
by Brandy Forman-Kraft, Center for Life Manager**

Every week day at the Center for Life, we open our doors and hearts to the uninsured residents of Marion County in need of assistance with health-related issues. One of the most frequently requested services is dental care. It is not uncommon to hear stories about the chronic pain and infection that can be associated with a lack of regular dental services and it is heart breaking. So often, we serve with clients who are unable to get the help that many of us take for granted. And that is why we are very excited to share that FreeDOM Dental Clinic is now operating out of the Center for Life on a monthly basis! Ann Burnett and her amazing team of volunteers will provide cleanings, fillings, extractions, and more to our neighbors in need. If you or someone you know is in need of free dental care, please call us at (352)629-8868 x204 to be added to our waiting list. And as always, stop by any time and meet us at the Center for Life - we would love to show you around! God bless you!!!

**Florida Feast Sponsors**

A special thank you to our Florida Feast table sponsors this year:

- Glenda Vietinghoff, Kevin McDonald/AllState Insurance, Doug Day, CPA, Brick City Pest Control, Marion County Tax Collector's Charities Committee, McBride Land Development, Van Akin, Max-Air Heating and Air Conditioning, Boutwell Contracting & Development, The Zone Health and Fitness, Sunset Rotary, Center State Bank, James Hilty, Sr/Edward Jones, Carmen's CarMart, Susan Lightbody/Morgan Stanley, Hiers-Baxley Funeral Services, Ocala Electric Utility, Regions Bank, Southern Blade & Supply, Marion Lake Sumter Title, BBVA Compass Bank, Tobacco Free Partnership of Marion County, Wells Fargo Bank, Ken Draper & Side by Side Ministries, Inc.