

Client's Redemption, by Volunteer Dawn Lovell

Tucked inside Interfaith's Food Pantry waiting room, is the Prayer Room. A safe haven that invites those who are often at the brink of hopelessness into a place where the Holy Spirit transforms, renews, and whispers: "you are not alone."

Day by day, individuals, couples, and families enter the doors of Interfaith to receive not only life-giving bags of nutrition but encouragement, hope, and the redeeming love that is reflected back to them through the guidance and comfort of our prayer warriors.

The Prayer Room is void of judgment but is full of grace. I have been blessed to witness the healing that only comes from the mercy of our loving Father. Blessed to bear witness to individuals who have been restored after making the decision to turn their unmanageable lives over to Christ.

One recent story is that of a young 24-year old woman, who came in broken, ashamed, and full of despair. Her background was marred, she had fallen into a life of addiction and prostitution, and felt "beyond redemption, unable to be loved." But in that still, small Prayer Room, the Spirit began to speak to her innermost being. As she declared with her heart and her tongue a true desire to accept Christ as her personal Savior, a river of healing tears began to pour. She felt His Love, and for the first time, she *felt* loved. As she left that day, she gave me a hug full of strength, a smile that glowed, and an inner confidence of His Promises. She was equipped with a new bible, verses for who she is now in Christ, and the fellowship of other believers who can guide her walk. This is only one account of the miracles that we behold here in the Prayer Room at Interfaith.

The Spirit is ever present, and those who visit here immediately feel Him. Renewed hearts, renewed minds, renewed lives. Healing abounds, and hope is restored. After two years serving in this ministry, I am still continually overwhelmed and in awe at the work Christ is doing here.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matt.11:28.

Great Needs in Every Department, by Teesha O'Neal-Garcia, Volunteer Coordinator

We have needs in nearly every department such as our Clothing Boutique, Thrift Store, Emergency Shelter, Intake Office and our Food Pantry. There are also special projects and events that need help from someone just like you!

Right now in our Shelter, we have a pressing need for help with babysitting on Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm so that our shelter residents can attend classes (GED tutoring, budgeting, addictions, parenting and more). And we have several openings for Devotions Pastors (weekday mornings at 8am) that lead our residents for a half hour bible study to get their day started on a great foot!

Lately, we've been blessed with volunteers doing amazing projects such as activities for our shelter resident children, assembling hygiene bags to be given to the homeless population, and painting projects. If you can think of a creative idea to be of service we can see if it can work. When God blesses us there are no limits to what can be accomplished. Now's your time! Please give me a call at (352) 629-8868 x210. I would love to give you or your group a tour of our ministries today.

Thank you and be blessed.



From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



I continue to be blown away by God's faithfulness to hear our prayers. A few days before Hurricane Matthew blew in, I got a call from a woman late in the day. She started with the words I often hear, "I don't know if you can help me, but..." Her situation was dire and her need didn't fall into any of our areas of service. She needed a vehicle. Her story was that her husband who suffers from some severe mental health issues had declined to the point that he could no longer work. To make matters worse she recently had to change jobs and take a pay cut so their income had been seriously reduced. In addition to driving her husband to weekly therapy, she was caring for an aging parent, who lives on the coast, recently diagnosed with leukemia. So all of the weight of this family was falling on her shoulders and she had just been informed that her vehicle was going to be repossessed. Without her vehicle she wouldn't be able to get to work or get her two family members to their medical appointments. Basically, she needed a miracle. I explained that we didn't have a vehicle to give her but that once in a blue moon we might get a donor that feels compelled to give us a car to pass on to a needy family. I invited her to come to the pantry for grocery assistance and she was grateful. Feeling helpless, I asked if I could pray with her over the phone. She accepted, I prayed and she thanked me before we hung up.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24-25

Two days later a gentleman contacted our office about a van. He was going to trade it in but just felt like he needed to donate it to a family instead. We relayed the story of the woman who had called and later that day he showed up with the van and the title. It's easy to imagine the response when I called the woman to let her know that we had a vehicle for her; tears of joy and relief. Once again God proved that he hears our desperate prayers and is capable of providing for us even when we can't see how. So when you don't have a solution to your problem, accept that brutal reality and look to the one who does.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7

Free Boutique Meets Needs Every Day, by Jessica Rodriguez, Intake Manager

I have been with Interfaith since February 2016. Every day I come into work is an exceptional day. I learn something new, I meet someone in an unimaginable situation, and their stories touch my heart. Recently one of my staff members told me just such a story.

Lenore McCall has been with Interfaith for four years. She works in our free Clothing Boutique. She is here every day and meets many people that come through the Boutique. For Lenore, it's her mission to provide a kind word and help those that are in need. Many of our homeless clients know her by name, and look to her for clothing and shoes, and many times, for prayer. Some clients have come to her for a nice outfit for a job interview, and Lenore has helped put outfits together, tie ties and wish them good luck.



Lenore in Boutique

Today Lenore met a lady she had never seen before, named Pamela. She was nervous and seemed shy. As Lenore asked her how she could help her, Pamela spilled her story. She was standing there in broken shoes, jeans and t-shirt, and on her way to the court house for a hearing. She didn't have anything nice to wear and she was in desperate need of something to help make her feel "changed."

Pamela has been working on her sobriety and when she went to the courthouse she wanted the judge to see her look her best. Lenore helped her find a nice blouse, dress pants and some nice shoes. Pamela changed right then, and just before she left, Lenore asked if she could pray for her. Pamela cried and said that was the first time she had prayed about her situation. Lenore gave her the encouragement and the spiritual uplift that she needed to feel confident as she headed out the door to court.

A week later Pamela came back and peeked in the window at Lenore. Smiling, she gave her 'thumbs up' sign. Lenore knew that all had gone well for her. God is always in control. We are so grateful for our free Clothing Boutique, where we are able to offer our clients the things they need, when they need it – whether a pair of shoes or prayer.

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

George Albright, Jr
By: Ruth Albright
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By: R William Futch

In HONOR of:

Yvonne and Rupert Daniels
By: Bill and Dori Sullivan

Wilma Andrews
By: Cindy Andrews

Would you like to honor a loved one? Give a honorary donation in their name to Interfaith! The person honored (or their family) will receive a letter of acknowledgement. Please contact Kayla for more info at 629-8868 x202 or by email Kayla.Grimmsley@IESmarion.org. Mail donations to PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478.

Special Thanks to...



The Knights of Columbus Council 14222 Summerfield donated \$1,000 to help purchase food for Food 4 Kids. They also regularly volunteer to deliver backpacks for Belleview and Marion Oaks schools. We love their support! (Tom Rueck is pictured with Food 4 Kids Manager, Ken Nelson, right).

Cornerstone School recently did two drives for Interfaith – one for hygiene and another for food! We love when students get involved! Thanks to Principal Ingrid Wasserfall, her staff and students for being such a wonderful example of giving to the community.

Thank you to St. John Lutheran Church for a wonderful donation of 300 pair of underwear along with some bras and t-shirts! Pictured right are champions of "Undie Sunday" Shelby Putansu and Beverly Serridge. Can you believe that in 7 years their efforts have provided 7,000 pair of undies to the homeless and needy?! God bless them for taking care of this extra special need!!



A big shout out to Duke Energy and the Ocala Hilton for donating delicious meals to our shelter and Recovery House, AND over 100 boxed lunches to Brother's Keepers Soup Kitchen! Thank you for thinking of us. This is greatly appreciated by those we serve.

New Officers for Interfaith Foundation

When the Interfaith Foundation was reestablished in 2011 Carol Alvey graciously stepped up to serve as President. Carol came to us with years of experience in finance and banking as well as non-profit board participation.

Under Carol's leadership the Foundation grew and benefitted Interfaith with a new box truck, new roofing for the Shelter and Food 4 Kids warehouse, a medical center and support for the rebuilding of the IES Thrift Store. After 5 years of dedicated service Carol now hands the torch to Mary Lou James as the incoming President. Mary Lou previously served on Interfaith's Board of Directors which oversees the operations as well as serving as a liaison to the Interfaith Foundation Board. Mary Lou returns after a time off of the board and we are so happy to have her passion for our ministry back in commission. Along with her board experience, Mary Lou is a seasoned Financial Advisor. Serving with Mary Lou, is our newest board member, Rich Mutarelli, Jr. who will be our new Treasurer. Rich is a native of Ocala who returned here to practice law after receiving his degree. We welcome Mary Lou and Rich to these important leadership roles on our Foundation and wish Carol all the best as she uses her time and talents in new areas of service. We pray God's blessings and guidance on all of our board members past and present!



Karla



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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.

Thrift Store Gets New Look



our store! All the changes were created to ease the flow through the store and allowed us to expand our clothing department. All departments have better visibility and organization to enhance your shopping experience. We have been getting some excellent feedback from our shoppers. If you haven't stopped in for a while, you need to check out the new layout and perhaps find a trinket or two. Check out the fancy purses we just got in - Kenneth Cole, XOXO and Cole Hann! Stop in and tell us what you think, we will be looking for you!

Brenda Callahan
Thrift Store Manager



What a flip flop we have done at the Thrift Store. What was here is now there and what was there is now over here – what does that mean exactly? We've totally rearranged

Where's Karla?

If you come to the Interfaith main campus looking for Karla you're not likely to find her there. Last month she moved into her new office at the Center for Life at 108 N. Pine Ave. Included in the move, were Charlene, Tricia, and Darla who serve in the Prescription Medication Program and Phyllis who now assists with donor management. Feel free to stop in and say hello! Maybe you'll get a tour of the free clinic while you're there.

A special message from the Interfaith Board of Directors and Interfaith Foundation...

Happy Thanksgiving to all our donors! We are thankful for you!