

**The Path to Interfaith, by Sonya Tyler, Director of Operations**

Statistics say that 63% of Americans are one paycheck away from losing everything. Most people live without any emergency savings, which means that a \$4,000 emergency room visit or a \$500 car repair can send a family into a financial tailspin.



Let me introduce you to the Williams Family. Joe and his family are living the American dream here in Ocala, until he gets hurt on the job and is out of work for 6 months. As the medical bills pile up, Joe's wife Karen continues to take care of their son and work her full time job, but it isn't enough to keep up with their previous lifestyle. The average mortgage is now over \$1,067 a month. One or two car payments will tack on another \$600 - \$1,100

a month. Let's not even get into the fun of insurance on the family, home and cars. One paycheck isn't enough. Suddenly, the mortgage isn't paid, they miss a couple car payments and life is crumbling around them. If Joe's family can tread water long enough, they may be able to turn things around. If not, the downward spiral will continue as they find themselves without transportation, another lost job and a foreclosure. Joe's family is now homeless.

This is where Interfaith enters the scene. With nothing but a few meager possessions left, Joe and his family find themselves at Interfaith. Our Shelter staff will begin helping them put the pieces of their lives back together. Their son Kevin will be able to stay in school - keeping his same school, regardless of where they were living before. He'll even be provided school supplies, thanks to community donation drives. Karen is able to find work and can start saving money for the future. Joe gets help with his medical prescriptions and starts working part time at his previous job as he continues to heal.

Together, the family has a safe place to stay where meals and other essentials are provided at no cost. The family attends programs and classes such as budgeting, family counseling and Bible studies. And within four months, they are looking for an apartment. Together, they've rebuilt their lives and are better equipped to face the challenges ahead so that homelessness won't be a problem again. And it is our hope that somewhere along the way, in all the struggles and emotional healing, the family will find a Savior, in Jesus.

That's why we do what we do. That's what Interfaith is called to do. As a donor of Interfaith, your financial support will provide for a family like Joe's. A donation of \$25, \$50 or \$75 a month can help support a shelter family. Would you prayerfully consider giving your support to help others find hope again? Together, we can make a difference in the lives of others.

**Clients Served  
Apr - Jul 2016**

Food (Ocala)	2,902
Outreach (food):	
Reddick	418
Fellowship	164
Ft McCoy	367
Marion Oaks	303
TOTAL FOOD:	4,154
Hygiene items	1,936
<i>(Totals above are per household)</i>	
Clothing	4,187
ID Cards	99
Diaper	306
"Reader" Glasses	225
Workboots	6
Gas Vouchers (medical)	78
RX Clients	485
RX Cost	\$67,392.47
Food 4 Kids	
Children served	1,700
Meals provided	220,016
Shelter	
Women	42
Children	44
Men	5

**How to Donate**

Want to help support Interfaith in the work that we do? Please send a check payable to "Interfaith Emergency Services" at PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478, or give securely online at [www.IESmarion.org](http://www.IESmarion.org). Thank your for your support!

## From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley

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I want to start by saying a big thank you for the outpouring of prayer and support for our purchase of the Women's Center and our Open House to celebrate the Interfaith Emergency Services Center for Life. If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to drive by the site at 108 N. Pine Avenue (across from the Courthouse parking garage) and check out our new sign! What an incredible journey this has been. So many times during this process we experienced the true presence and intervention of God. One in particular was when we were making decisions about the color we wanted to paint the exterior of the building. As I was walking the property and inspecting the building, I noticed that there was a 5 inch strip of wood around the entire perimeter of the building, right below the roof-line, which was unfinished. It had never been painted, so it stood out. Since our logo has a red dot in it, I thought maybe we could paint that red to add some pizzazz to the building. I made a note to mention it to Becky

and Sonya and get their thoughts; although I feared that they might think a red stripe around the building a bit much. In a brief meeting with Becky later that day, she actually brought up the section of unfinished wood surrounding the building and before I could say a word she suggested that maybe we should paint it red! Well when you get 2 women to agree to something, without even knowing it, that borders the miraculous. That was affirmation. So we had the volunteer painters paint it red. When I drove up to the building after the painting was completed and saw the red line that surrounded the perimeter of the building, I immediately thought of the blood of our savior, Jesus. I knew then, why Becky and I separately had that same idea. This red line was to symbolize the blood of Christ which now covers this building and this property. It all belongs to God and everything that goes on inside will be for His glory. It truly is a Center for Life!



*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10*

## Another Success Story from the Prayer Room, by Bill Bender, Board Member

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One could measure the effectiveness of having a Prayer Room not only by the visitors each day, but the stories of success in helping to improve their lives through prayer.

I have noticed a number of visitors coming back to us without the need for food and hygiene supplies. They come in to refresh their spiritual needs. One such person was Miss Mary. She had visited twice before and prayed with me while her food was readied by our pantry volunteers. She expressed the need for spiritual improvement to fill the void in her life and to change the lifestyle she was living - no home, no job, no self-respect and no hope for a better future. We prayed for her life to improve and that she would turn her life over to Jesus and let Him carry her burdens. On her second visit Miss Mary fully accepted Christ as her Savior and it was soon after, her life began to change for the better. She found an apartment that she could afford, and a group of folks helped her find furniture and outfitted her new household with assorted appliances, dishes, pots and pans etc. Through the kindness of others, Miss Mary has changed her life for the better and continues to do so.

Miss Mary now attends a local church, has made new friends that don't care about her tarnished past, but cherish her bright future. Her needs will still be met by Interfaith for some time to come through grocery donations, but she sees a day in the future where she will pay it forward by donating her time as a volunteer in the pantry.

We are truly making a difference in the lives of many of the people that come to Interfaith. We believe in doing the work of Christ - feeding not only their physical needs but also their spiritual needs.

*May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. Psalm 20:4*

## Special Gifts

### In MEMORY of:

In Memory of:

Morris Barwald

By: Robert Kuperberg

Dr Mitchell Shashy

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Robert Burton Brombacker

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### In HONOR of:

The Rev Dr Darren Bess

By: Wilma Andrews

Cindy Andrews

Give a honorary donation in their name to Interfaith! The person honored will receive a letter or acknowledgement. Please contact Kayla for more info at 629-8868 x202 or by email [Kayla@IESmarion.org](mailto:Kayla@IESmarion.org). Mail donations to PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478.

## Many Thanks to...

Thanks to Auto Group of America for their \$3,000 donation to the Food 4 Kids backpack program. The check was presented by Louann Desantis and Tax Collector's Office staff, and was thanks to their amazing fundraising efforts by suggesting Food 4 Kids as the recipient.



Countryside Presbyterian Church did an amazing school supply drive for our residents and clients, which is an incredible blessing and school starts ups again.



A very special thank you to those that provided in kind donations for our Center for Life opening... JJ Fields, Logo Graphics and Walton's Rentals; **Painters:** Apex Painting, Meadowbrook Church, Frank Lowe, Roger Roberts, Darrell Johns, James Crutchfield, and Joe Tyler; **Furniture and Equipment:** Two Sisters Thrift Store, Dr Mirza and Ocala Infectious Disease & Wound Center, Joel Hallam DO, N&N Office Furniture, Context Media, Hallgren Electric; **Facilities help** from Bob Martel and Steve Clem; **Food from** Ivy House and Mojo's Grill; and the CEP (Chamber & Economic Partnership) for our Ribbon Cutting Celebration.

## Construction Zone, by Brenda Callahan, Thrift Store Manager

A new and exciting phase is beginning at the Interfaith Thrift Store. It's been a year since a vehicle, evading the police, drove through our fence, catching our Warehouse Storage Barn on fire. At the time, we lost thousands of dollars of donations and equipment. Thanks to local architects and designers, we now have a drawing and specs for our new Warehouse Building. Construction bids have been submitted and the Thrift Store Warehouse building will hopefully be rising soon.

Please pardon the necessary changes we will be making over the next few months. We'll be moving our donation acceptance area that's become a "tent city" due to our lack of space. And, we will be accepting only a limited amount of donations on Wednesdays & Thursdays 9am - 3pm and Saturdays 9-12, because we will not have storage space. Our monthly sidewalk sales have also been suspended. Our goal is to focus on transitioning to a bigger and better building, processing donations more efficiently and better serving our clients! Thanks for your patience - and say a little prayer for our staff as they work through this transition period.



## Welcome Aboard To New Volunteer Coordinator, Teesha O'Neal



**Teesha O'Neal**

Have you ever felt like you are truly blessed and that you are being led to be of service to your community? Or maybe you just have a few hours each week that you would like to be doing something to help others. This was my story too.... I am pregnant and high risk, so I was going to weekly doctor's appointments which made keeping the work schedule of 60+ hours a week I used to keep, impossible. My issue was that I am not the type to sit around and watch life go by. I LOVE to work especially when it involves helping others. I began to hear the call from God to go be a volunteer at Interfaith, so in obedience to God I listened.

I began volunteering in the Intake Office and fell head over heels in love with the mission, the clients we serve, as well as the other wonderful staff and volunteers. I have just started working as the Volunteer Coordinator part-time and I have never been happier. I am so thankful that God has loved me enough to place me right where He needed me to be. If you feel like you have heard the call to go be of service or give back to your community, please pick up the phone and give me a call and we will schedule some time to talk and figure out where God can use you best. My phone number is: (352) 629-8868 x:204.

I look forward to meeting you!



P.O. Box 992 • Ocala, FL 34478

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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.*

**Making a Difference for Others**

Did you know that almost 2/3 of our annual donations come to us the last 2 months of the year? You can imagine how much faith it takes to keep serving the thousands of people who look to us for help while holding on to the hope that when the books are closed in December, we will have enough

***Become a Partner***

to cover everything we've done for the previous year. This is why we so deeply appreciate those donors who give faithfully throughout the year as well as those who give an 'end of the year' gift. We need every dollar of support that comes in. Please be in prayer about how you can partner with us. Whether you become a monthly donor with even a small amount (it adds up!) or whether you dig deep and give a one-time gift during the holiday season....you're contribution makes a difference for someone going through difficult circumstances. Our donors are truly a vital part of everything that we do and we pray that God blesses you for your kindness to those we serve.

**Helping Clients and Being Blessed**

It's always the little things that have such a huge effect on my life. I've been volunteering at Interfaith for two months and the difference we make in people's lives has opened my mind and spirit in such a positive way. Each day, a different person tells a story of healing and hope.

I recently helped a client receive much needed prescriptions after recently losing her healthcare coverage. Another client that touched my heart was a homeless family with four children that had no food to eat, until they found Interfaith's Food Pantry. They returned this past week to tell me that they are now housed and had found jobs.

Personally, I've made a connection with another volunteer who brightens my day every time we work together. I am very thankful for finding Interfaith and the staff and volunteers that I come in contact with each day. I feel like I help make a difference in bettering the lives of the people in our community.

*By: Andrea Jordan,  
Intake Office Volunteer*