

Emeline and Henry, by Sonya Tyler, Director of Operations

One day Jessica and I took one of our vans to pick up a food drive from a local school. On our way back, just down the road from our office, we noticed an elderly couple walking hand-in-hand together on the sidewalk. We both said, nearly at the same time, "isn't that sweet?"

What we didn't know, is that Emeline and Henry were on their way to Interfaith. Emeline was dressed in her Sunday best. She had a little hat pinned to the top of her head, and a pocketbook to match. Henry, slightly bent with a cane in hand was also dressed nicely, as if the two were expecting to walk up the steps of the church any moment.

As Jessica and I headed over to the warehouse to unload the food drive, the couple were making their way to the office for help. Once back at our office, Jessica came to me with a grin on her face and said, "The little couple we saw holding hands just now? They're up front getting service, and he's 106 years old." Well, I just had to get up and learn their story.

Emeline and Henry have been married for 62 years and live about a mile from Interfaith. Henry receives a small check from retirement that they make stretch to pay their bills most of the time. They walk (or take the bus) everywhere they go because they can no longer drive a car and "want to get where we're going on our own steam," Henry says. This month, they had additional expenses that took a bite out of their little budget, so they came to Interfaith for food to get through the rest of the month.

Emeline and Henry are typical of some of our elderly clients that come for assistance. And whether it's food, clothing or prescription assistance, by the grace of God, and your donations, we always have enough for each and every client.

I watched the couple sitting across from our volunteer, smiling and thanking everyone they came in contact with. Every once in a while, Henry would look at Emeline and smile at her, as if she was the prettiest thing in the world – and she was. The two of them made all of us feel a little happier just getting to know them.

I watched the two leave from my window, and noticed they stop to say hello to a young mom in our shelter. Her newborn baby was bundled up in her arms. I smiled, because it seemed as if God created a snapshot of Interfaith before my eyes at that very moment. He provides for everyone that comes through our doors – from babies to a 106 year old man. And he uses people from all walks of life to make that happen. Whether a retiree that wants to volunteer their time or a local business that wants to give back by making a monthly donation – every single person counts. And from me, and Henry and Emeline, we say... thank you!

Treasure Seekers by Brenda Callahan, Thrift Store Manager

It's simply amazing, the talent God has given to His people. Talent comes in many ways - whether it's bringing the Word to the lost or caring for the sick. Others might have inspirational talent – singing, dancing or creating masterpieces. I often meet talented artists that find their passion in a wooden bookcase, rocking chair or antique lamp. They come to the Thrift Store seeking treasures. What they find may not seem like a diamond to the average eye – sometimes it can be downright ugly. But when they lay their talented hands to it, the beauty that is created often amazes me.

One of my loyal treasure seekers recently came in and purchased a china hutch that had been passed-by many times, but she saw the beauty beneath. The plain, brown hutch was transformed into a beautiful 'like-new' masterpiece with just some paint and TLC. I love that she came in and shared the 'before and after' pictures with me. So remember, the Thrift Store always has treasures waiting - come check us out soon!

Florida Feast

Get your tickets today!

October 20th

6pm - 9pm

\$25 per person

Contact Sonya at

352-629-8868x203

Sonya@IESmarion.org

www.IESmarion.org

From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



What a year this has been for Interfaith and before we know it the year will be over. We appreciate the faithful support that we receive through the year and truly couldn't exist without it. With that said, we understand that many of our faithful donors wait and give a one-time gift at the year's end. We also couldn't exist without that!

With the big changes at Interfaith this year, we've also increased our budgetary demands. The biggest change being the Center for Life building which we were blessed to purchase in late June. It is the heart of Interfaith to provide a space where those with the license and expertise can provide medical treatment at no cost to them or the patient. In order to do that we need your help. We also expanded our homeless shelter this year to add 3 more beds. That's one more family or 3 individuals that we don't have to turn away with no suitable place to sleep.

So I'm asking you, as we head into the time of year that we celebrate our blessings, that you consider what you can do to help Interfaith help others. An end of the year gift would help us to continue the good work that is being done to address the well-being of those in distress. I would even go as far to challenge you to give a gift as an act of thanksgiving; being thankful that you haven't needed help from an organization like Interfaith. Regardless of the size of the gift, I assure you that you will be blessed for giving, for that is my prayer every day.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. 1 Corinthians 15:58

News from the Foundation

If you're planning for your retirement or for your departure from this earth, I invite you to consider leaving a legacy gift to the Interfaith Foundation. This foundation exists to ensure that the ministry of Interfaith will go on as long as there is need in our community. Wouldn't you like to know that even after you've gone, you have made a difference in someone's life? If you want to learn more about how leave a special gift to sustain the mission of Interfaith please call me at 352-209-7045 or send an email to karla@iesmarion.org.

Karla



Volunteering Feels Like Family, by Teesha O'Neal, Volunteer Coordinator



We have volunteer openings in nearly every department - such as our Clothing Boutique, Thrift Store, Homeless Shelter, Intake Office, and Food Pantry. We have special projects and events where you can get involved just about anywhere.

Last month I had the privilege to go with our shelter staff and children to an awesome Hawaiian Luau with the kids and families of Gems and Gents. They graciously invited us to the Science Center for free food and fun. They had pizza and sweet treats for the kids as well as activities like "the limbo" and a photo stand. They even held a food and hygiene drive for the public to donate to Interfaith as their cost of admission. The kids of Gems and Gents had the time of their life and are looking forward to next month when they will be

making hygiene bags and learning about homelessness as well as ways to lend a hand to the homeless population here in Ocala. Interfaith would like to say a special thank you to Tarnesha Allen and Gems and Gents for the love they have shown to our shelter. You are all doing God's work.

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'. Matthew 25:40

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

Peggy Follins Grandson, Douglas
By: Dr. James & Virginia Gamble

Tony Azevedo

By: Susan Azevedo

Kelly Shirer

By: Sally and Bo Williams

Rupert Caviness

By: Sally and Bo Williams

Roger Link

By: Whit and Diane Palmer

R.M. "Mack" Dunwoody

By: Whit and Diane Palmer

Rupert Caviness, Jr

By: Betty Jernigan

Betty Boyers

By: Ben and Helen Hayes

Judy Branson

By: Ann and Bobby Richardson

Mary Lou Ellis

By: Ann and Bobby Richardson

Chip Elkes

By: Ann and Bobby Richardson

Katie Mae Fore

By: Frank and Pamela Stafford

Elmer Wagner

By: Ben and Helen Hayes

Harry and Evelyn Dannels

By: Jean Justice

In HONOR of:

Debbie Trammell

By: S and TJ Fuller

Would you like to honor a loved one? 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.Grimley@IESmarion.org. You can mail donations to PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478.

Our Thanks Goes To...

Rondo and his crew (pictured below) stopped by Food 4 Kids to pack some backpacks and drop off an \$8,000 check from the Feed the Need Night of Praise Concert! Thanks to Mojo's and all the other businesses that made the concert an awesome event.



We met two fantastic young ladies that did a peanut butter drive for Food 4 Kids. Belleview Middle students, Riley and Macy, took their dog-sitting money from the summer and used it to buy 120 jars of peanut butter! They've already decided to do it again with jelly the next time!

Thank you to JOYFM and Chick-Fil-A!

Pictured:

The "BE JOY" drive for Food 4 Kids. They collected 5,119 pounds of food to kick off our new school year!



Steven with Next Step Fitness donated two large carts full of food from his business



and clients. Pictured: Sonya Tyler, Director of Operations, Steven and Volunteers Georgie and Tina.

A huge thank you to Elizabeth and her team at Hampton Inn and Suites at Hwy 220. She asked the hotel to donate boxes of travel size soaps, lotions, shampoo, toothpaste and other items that are perfect for our homeless friends that need hygiene!

Pictured right are some of the amazing folks at Center State Bank. Every year their employees and customers, spend weeks collecting food and hygiene for Interfaith! This time they collected over 2,400 pounds! They have contests, awards and celebrate their giving spirits! Thanks to all the employees and customers of Center State - you're amazing!



Artist Bob Kuperberg creates beautiful sculptures that are currently displayed at Brick City Center for the Arts. All proceeds from Mr Kuperberg's work supports the Food 4 Kids backpack program.

GED Blessings, by Volunteer Carli Phillips, Tutor

Live Oak Christian Fellowship has developed an educational ministry for the current and former residents of Interfaith's homeless shelter. We come on site, one night per week and offer tutoring to those who wish to work towards the goal of obtaining a General Education Diploma. Our tutors couldn't have guessed the joy that would come from this one hour of tutoring one night a week. The dedication and determination of the residents has been amazing. To date, four have taken and passed the reading portion of the GED! Each week, we are inspired by these future graduates and have developed some very special friendships; the blessings certainly flow both ways! We are honored to partner with a ministry that has the potential to change the future for those who have had a difficult past.



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

- William Bender
- Shep Dozier
- Scott Hackmyer
- Robert Little
- Cindy McKay
- Kevin McDonald, President
- Paulette Milhorn
- Nick Nickkinen
- 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.

Showers, Ice Cream and More! by Rebekah Miller, Resident Manager

It was an exciting month here at Interfaith for our shelter crew. We started our month with a baby shower for one of our residents. Being able to come together to bring food and gifts for a new child coming into the world was a touching moment for me. The shower turned out so amazing, especially since all the residents worked together to make decorations. We were able to get everything that the new baby needed. I watched the young mother open up presents with tears rolling down her face, feeling the love from a roomful of people that supported her.

My friend, Dee Holbert, brought her family to do crafts with the children one evening. They painted figurines, glittered everything, and had a fabulous time singing and laughing throughout the evening. Thanks to Dee and her family for bringing such joy!

The ice cream party was sponsored by the Young Lawyers Association. They arrived with tons of ice cream, sprinkles, candy bars, cherries, whipped cream, chocolate fudge and

caramel. The children eyes' were as big as golf balls. A life-sized ice cream piñata was made by the Young Lawyers group (in picture, right). The children screamed with excitement and everyone lined up to take a whack at it. It took about 5 children before the piñata broke open and candy was everywhere. Mass chaos ensued and children were running everywhere to get the candy that had fallen on the floor.



I am just so blessed that I have been chosen to experience all these events and be with these residents as their lives are changing. My life has changed in so many ways by being the one that gets to walk along side of our residents. To be someone that they trust and look to for support, is a gift from God.