

## Join Me in Prayer, by Campus Pastor Jody Schaible

At Interfaith, we know how important it is to have support from our community and the power of prayer. To help strengthen our connections, we are including a new section in our monthly newsletter called "Prayer Requests"

Prayer has always been a key part of what we do. It gives hope and comfort during tough times. Each month, we will share prayer requests from both our shelter residents and clients. This way, we can all come together to support each other and lift up those who are facing difficulties.

Many people come to us seeking help because of problems like domestic violence, financial struggles, or mental health issues. We understand that these situations can be hard to deal with, and we don't always have a solution, but we know the power of prayer can always help.

This month, we invite everyone to pray for:

- William M: lost income, mortgage help, facing foreclosure
- Jarod S: for my children to return home; stability, health, and to be blessed by the Lord.
- Joseph M, I pray that Melissa, the mother of my child to be safe and happy. Also for myself, I need to find direction.
- V: that my life gets better in 2025
- Quantiana W: please pray for my strength and my body
- Sue: that my kids know Jesus and my upcoming disability hearing
- Lisa Y: to find a safe place to live.

By sharing these prayer requests, we hope to build a sense of connection and togetherness. Your prayers make a real difference, and together we can create a more supportive atmosphere for everyone we serve.

**HOW CAN I  
PRAY  
FOR YOU  
TODAY?**

## Special Blessings from Community Partners

Even though we're in February, I had to give a shout out for our December successes at the Engagement Center! On December 3rd we were privileged to have 3 members of the Ocala Symphony play holiday music for all of us, to help put us all into the spirit of Christmas. As you can imagine the music was beautiful and you could see in the faces of our clients how much they truly appreciated the performance. On December 20, members of the Singles Club from On Top of The World (pictured right) came and put on a fantastic breakfast for all our homeless friends. Not only was it a great breakfast served but various individuals brought more clothes and toys than we could have ever imagined. Amazon sent Santa Claus to the event as well and provided more toys for the children at our Shelter as well as anyone who came to enjoy the breakfast that was provided.

We appreciate our community partners that help make our program a success! We cant wait to see what happens in 2025!

**By Ned Giroux, Engagement Center Manager**



## From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley-Greenway



Does anyone else feel like 2025 has shot them out of a cannon?! This new year is already moving quickly. There are so many exciting things happening this year! I want to share a few with you.

We just started the first ever "Interfaith Homeless Advisory Council." This is a group of individuals who are either experiencing homelessness or have resolved their homelessness. They are charged with helping us do the best job possible of engaging, in order to help people change their situations. Stay tuned for more info to come on that!

Partner Agencies are growing! Saving Mercy just broke ground on a building project to provide additional housing opportunities for those of low income. Wear Gloves is beginning renovations to create more emergency shelter with a focus on employability. A new shelter is being developed for victims of domestic violence by CASA Marion. And later this year Interfaith will be expanding our shelter to add additional beds for women and children. All of these programs work not to promote dependency but to help people gain self sufficiency. We live in such a wonderful community, and we all appreciate the support necessary to run these programs.

On a more "fun" note, we are getting ready for our 2025 Interfaith High Tea! We need sponsors and table hosts. This is the best tea party you will ever attend with an emphasis on "party." As a host you get to attend with 7 or 9 guests. Sponsors get 2 seats at a table set especially for you. If you are interested or want more information please call or text me at 352-209-7045 or email Sonya@iesmarion.org.



Please remember to pray for our area charities and support where you can. It's truly the community that makes all of this possible.

## Beautiful Quilts Bring Happiness, by Michelle Collier, Shelter Manager

In the beginning of December, I was contacted by a sweet lady named Susie Clauson. She said that she would like to drop off some quilts for the women and children in our shelter. A few days later she showed up at the shelter with so many bags - they were filled with nearly 100 homemade quilts!

Susie spent some time with me explaining she is with a group at On Top of the World. The group is a non-profit called Serving Bee's Club Inc, which has served Marion County for over 2 years. Susie, Vice-President, is pictured right. This group spends all year making beautiful homemade quilts for the disadvantaged children of Marion County. The quilts were one of a kind. Such vibrant colors and no design was the same. The Christmas themed quilts even had homemade gifts wrapped inside. Each of our shelter children and the mothers got to enjoy this one of kind gift. We were also able to give to our past resident families.



I called the Serving Bees to let them know I would be writing an article about their kind donation to our shelter. I was fortunate to speak to the President Ann Gallow. She let me know that because of the donation that we were able to take, that they had a record setting year in 2024 of 1,003 donated quilts in Marion County.

Thank you to all involved with Service Bees! The effort and hard work made many smiles and such a special gift! We look forward to partnering up with you all year round. *The Kingdom of God is like sewing a quilt. Isaiah 55:10-13*

## What is this Desk Missing? By Tina Reid, Volunteer Coordinator



What is this desk missing? You! We are currently in great need of a reception volunteer at our new Engagement Center. As the receptionist, you will be the first face that individuals in distress encounter when seeking help. Your main responsibility will be to identify their needs, with the help of our staff guide our clients in the right direction. We have fantastic management in place to support you every step of the way. I encourage everyone reading this to pray about this opportunity. Reflect on whether you feel called to get involved. Pray for guidance on what you need to follow through with what God is asking of you. If you're not able to volunteer, please pray that we find the support we need. For more information, please email (Tina.Reid@iesmarion.org) or call (352) 644-9196. Thank you!

## Special Gifts

### In MEMORY of:

Linda Dailey  
By: Evelyn Lander

Charles & Juanita Murray  
By: Robert & Miriam Murray

Chris Richardson  
By: Ann Richardson  
Jane Sands

Charlotte Jean Justice  
By: Terry Spray

J Edward Simpkins  
By: Edward H Simpkins

M Lee Arnold  
By: Gloria Arnold

Barbara Perkins  
By: Susan Greiner  
Phyllis Cohen  
Elizabeth Wray

Dr James Wilkerson  
By: Susan Greiner  
Roy & Linda Underwood

Gail Shuford  
By: Mitzner Family

Pat McKeowen  
By: Winston & Karen Needham

Mary Louise Kerr  
Larry & Terri Kerr  
Carrie Polisi  
By: Janice Owen

Joyce Packer  
By: David & Joy Waltemath

Barbara Perkins  
By: Phyllis Chak Cohen

Herbert Gossett  
By: Anita Gossett

### Honor Someone Special

Give a gift to someone special - an honorary or memorial donation in their name to Interfaith! The person honored (or their family) will receive a letter of acknowledgement. Please contact Kayla at 629-8868 x202 or Kayla.Hess@IESmarion.org. Mail donations to PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478.

### In MEMORY of (continued):

Ken Nelson  
By: Gary & Rebecca Linn

Thomas Fuller, MD  
By: Henry & Val Ehlers

Helen Duda Workman Henderson  
Tim Byrd  
Bill Lovell  
By: Ruthanne & Tim Mizner

Cindy Stafford  
By: David Stafford

### In HONOR of:

Teesha Garcia  
Carissa Gibson  
By: Mr & Mrs Martin Schwartz

Craig Cannon  
Beth Cannon  
Alice Cannon  
Harris Cannon  
By: Ann Richardson

Randal & Harriet Phillips  
By: Susan Cherubino

William & Janet Brueckner  
By: Beth & Richard Arndt

Robert & Cindy Heath  
By: Donnie & Rhonda Slone

Richard & Susan Copeland  
By: Shelley Copeland

Shirley S Ausley  
Shan Bourgeois  
By: Margaret VanDenburgh

Russel & Mary Dingman  
By: Timothy Shanahan

Dr Walk Jones  
By: First Presbyterian Church

## Special Thanks to...

Special thanks for these large donations (in pounds):  
First Christian Church: 14; Countryside Presbyterian: 118; Peanut Butter & Jelly Man: 211; On Top Of The World: 3,987; Osceola Middle School: 738; Crescent Ridge Community @ OTOW: 102; Dept of Juvenile Justice: 57; Stone Creek Happy Feet Dance Club: 553; First Assembly of God: 91; Gloria Senak & Neal Ruesch: 119; Joy Lutheran Church: 123; Florida Credit Union: 420; Vanguard Key Club: 1,910; Cornerstone School: 294; Marion County Early Learning Center: 568; Ocala Police Skate Park: 139; Rose Grove Farms: 2,169; OTOW Softball & Raymond James Investments: 483; Marion County Sheriff: 195; Gainesville Ocala Women's Tennis: 239; Marion Landing: 278; Ocala Elks: 219; Doc's Restorations: 235; Dunnellon High School: 141; Essex Mortgage: 540. Also donated: St John Lutheran Church: 101 pr underwear, 323 pr socks, 184 gloves/hats/scarves; Michelle Arel: 73 blankets, 33 blessing bags; Cone Farms: 1 whole beef processed; and Joy Lutheran Church: 22 handmade quilts

## Heartfelt Thank You From a Client

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to Interfaith and the Center For Life. My son went to the hospital with heart problems. They were able to stabilize him and discharge him with no surgery, but they put him on a lot of medicines. These medicines are very, very expensive. He will need to be on them maybe for life and he is only 33 years old.

The staff at the Center for Life helped us pay for his medications and sent my son to Heart of Florida for follow up, where we like the doctors. They also helped us to apply to their Patient Assistance Program - where we can get coverage for my son's 2 most expensive medications. Because of that, he can get these medicines from the manufacturer at no charge. Praise God!

I don't know what we would have done without their help. What are a Godsend. The Center for Life helped to save my son's life!

## Maxi Finds Help for Spring Cleaning

We've done a lot of cleaning and organizing at the Food Distribution Center over the last several months and one of my favorite days was when I had help from some of our homeless friends. That particular day we were deconstructing some racks and moving things around, which was hard since most of the staff were out on our trucks picking up donations. But when some of the guys offered to help, we all worked together and had it done in no time. The guys sat down and had lunch with me afterwards and said they appreciated being able to give back because they said we do so much for them. It was a great day.



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SERVICES**

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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.*

**Food 4 Kids Says Thank You!**  
**by Teesha Garcia, Manager**



Community partnerships and many faithful Food 4 Kids volunteers are the lifeline of the Food 4 Kids backpack food program. We would not be able to provide this service to the community without these strong bonds. One such bond is Trinity Catholic High School staff and students. Food 4 Kids was blessed to spend the day with several staff members of Trinity Catholic High School while admiring

their willingness to jump right in and help pack bags for about 700 children in just a few short hours. We adore hosting groups and watching them be the hands and feet of Jesus to children facing hunger, by making food bags of love for kids right here in our own community. If you wish to join Food 4 Kids for a packing party, please reach out to Food 4 Kids at (352) 620-8239 for more information and availability.



**Thrift Store News,**  
**by Shannon Pickering**

Nothing says LOVE like new-to-you clothing items for him and her. Brands such as Lilly Pulitzer, Miss Me, Talbots, and Chico's for the love of your life. Interfaith Thrift Store is open from 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Saturday. Or if you want to surprise the love of your life with an early spring clean, we can pick up your gently used furniture items and major appliances from your home or business. Please call Shannon at 352-351-3541 to schedule a pickup today! We would LOVE to hear from you.

