

Over 195,000 meals provided to Hungry Children

What an outstanding year it has been for the Food 4 Kids backpack program! We are proud to announce that 1,752 students were enrolled in the program with around 195,000 meals being provided for the 2017 -2018 school year. 50 to 60 very special volunteers have graciously given over 2,300 hours of their time to make this program a success. They are truly awesome and appreciated. God has blessed this ministry in more ways than we can count.

Since school will soon be out, we have had several volunteers ask how the students are fed over the summer break. There are organizations, schools, and churches that provide breakfast and lunch to the students during the break. How thankful we are for these organizations!

We wanted to personally thank all the donors this year for their generosity in both financial donations and food drives. We were amazed by the support this year! Here are some recent examples:

- Dr NH Jones Elementary inspired young minds with their community service projects this Spring, and we benefitted from food drives from many of their 4th graders including Chloe, Kayla and Luca!
- Marion County Farm Bureau dropped off a generous monetary donation from the proceeds of a cake auction held during their annual meeting.
- Bradley Blessing State Farm Insurance in Belleview donated lots of peanut butter and jelly and plan to continue collecting all year long!



Luca pictured above



Ladies from Marion County Farm Bureau above

From our monthly supporters, to those that give one time with a food drive - we cannot say thank you enough!

School will start back in August and we look forward to another prosperous year. We will need more volunteers to adopt a few schools, so if you have about 2 hours one day a week we would love to have you join us for this very rewarding opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering please email Karen.Fant@iesmarion.org. Have a wonderful summer!

Karen & Daphne

Clinic Provides New Smile and Hope, by Joan Truby, Center for Life Manager

Lives are being changed at Center for Life. Just ask Alan Chaney, when you see his beautiful smile. Alan has been a regular at Interfaith for many years. When FreeD.O.M Dental Clinic became a partner with us, Alan was able to receive the dental care he so badly needed.

Over a period of time, he had all of his teeth extracted and was able to eat only soft food and supplements. Finally the day arrived when he received his new dentures! Everyone at Center for Life joined in the celebration! Getting accustomed to his dentures was not easy, but he was determined. Alan had to learn how to eat, chew and even retrain his tongue so he could eat properly.

And for Alan, the news got even better. Thanks to the help of our advocacy program, he recently was notified that he would begin receiving his disability benefits. We are assisting Alan in his search for new housing for him and Goldy (his best friend/cat), so then his new life will truly begin. Alan's self-confidence and big smile is evidence of the wonderful results we are seeing through Center for Life and their partner agencies. For more information about all the great services we provide, call Joan at (352) 629-8868.



From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



What do you do when God closes a door? You thank Him for his wisdom and protection. So many times we dive into ideas or projects that sound good to us without consulting Him first. As hard as we try to get that right at Interfaith, sometimes we plow forward based on our well-meaning hearts and limited wisdom. Of course we do so with the best of intentions. For example, we were working on a project with the city to build a pavilion and engagement center to better serve the chronically homeless. This is the population that hasn't been housed in over a year and/or has experienced homelessness multiple times over the past few years, if not their entire lives. This is the population that pulls at my heart the most because many of them suffer with mental illness or are mentally challenged and are utterly alone. Our plan seemed good. Our plan was to engage them in case management and try to get them services and ultimately housed. But for whatever reason, the door was closed on the project. So in trying to overcome my human (and emotional) response, I reminded myself that if it were God's will, it would be happening. God's will isn't restrained by or limited by man. His will happens in spite of us. After all...He is God. So when a door that seemed so right closes, I have to accept that God has a better plan. He's never let me down. I will strive to not let Him down and just wait for his perfect will to unfold. I'm confident that He will provide a way for us to fulfill the mission He has placed in our hearts to serve the least of these. We will be ready and willing! Thank you to this wonderful community for your love and support for Interfaith and the people we serve.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." -Jeremiah 29:11

Rotary Clubs Linking Arms for the Less Fortunate

In Ocala, Florida Rotary Clubs have realized their collective power. Two particular clubs, the Ocala Silver Springs Club and the Ocala Sunset Rotary Club joined efforts and started an event to benefit local charities. The vision for this event was bigger than one club could accomplish, so they joined efforts and in just a matter of a few years grew an event from raising a few thousand dollars to over \$50,000! This year Interfaith was their selected Charity and on April 30th, we were presented with a check for \$51,604! In addition to this event these clubs along with the Ocala Rotary Club help us throughout the year with donations of food and hygiene, meals for our shelter and proceeds from a golf tournament.

We are so blessed in this county to have 6 active Rotary Clubs that work to support local causes like ours. Thank you to all of you out there putting service above self! What you've done and continue to do for us helps us more than you know!



Stock up on Hurricane Needs for the Season at the Thrift Store by Shannon Pickering, Thrift Store Manager



Andrew. Irma. Katrina. These names have a different meaning when you live in a hurricane zone. June 1st marks the beginning of the 2018 hurricane season and preparation is the key. Stocking up on essentials like flashlights, tarps, a generator, and candles can become quite expensive for those of us on a budget. Have you thought about visiting the Interfaith Thrift Store to check for these items and more? Every day, our delivery drivers go into the community to pick up generous donations from people just like you. New stock is being priced and put on our showroom floor for sale. You truly never know what you will find wandering through the aisles at 718 North Pine in Ocala.

Did you know? Through your donations and purchases, we are able to fund the Interfaith prescription drug program so that we can help provide medicine to those in need. We couldn't do it without you!

I would hasten to my place of refuge from the stormy wind and tempest. Psalm 55:8

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

Keith Bradshaw

By: Nancy Bridenstine
Walter and Mara Elliott
Keith and Jan Knorr

The Rev Dr Blair R Stewart

By: Rev Sally D Brown

Stanley Malever

Lujean Price

By: Walter and Mara Elliott

Michael Sands

By: William and Pamela Pittman

H L Diaz

By: Tim Shanahan

JoAnn Sandy

By: Walter and Mara Elliott
Keith and Jan Knorr

Bobbie Costello

By: Keith and Jan Knorr

Helen Stutz

By: Linda Robinson

In HONOR of:

Karla Grimsley

By: Dorothy Thompson

Dr Thomas Cartwright

By: The Estate of John M Brinsko

Chase Rowand's graduation

By: Ben and Helen Hayes

A Special Gift

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 for more info at 629-8868 x202 or by email

Kayla.Grimmsley@IESmarion.org.

Mail donations to PO Box 992,

Ocala, FL 34478.

Those that hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Our Special Thanks...

Special thanks to On Top of the World's Ocala Open Golf Tournament for our recent check for \$42,500! What a blessing! Karla pictured with check on right.

Special shout out to some of our large donations recently: Women's Council of Realtors: 903 pounds of food; City of Ocala: 6,572 pounds of soft drinks and College Park Church of God: 120 pounds of food.



God Turns Brokenness into Healing, by Michelle Collier, Shelter Resident Assistant

While working at the shelter one evening, I was met a young lady named Julie who approached me about staying in our shelter. I had her join us for dinner as our providers had just unloaded a great meal for us. Afterwards, I sat down with Julie and discussed her situation. Her story was heart-breaking; full of abuse, both physical and drug use. I believe she had reached rock bottom and had nowhere to turn.

This is where Interfaith's Shelter is at its best, for it was designed with these heart-breaking stories in mind. Julie and I sat together and I prayed for her... for God to provide me wisdom to help her and for healing for her drug use and brokenness. Afterwards, she decided she wanted to get treatment and make a clean start. Together, we made a call to get her help at The Vines Hospital's treatment center. A policeman arrived to escort her to The Vines shortly thereafter. I was afraid that Julie would breakdown or make a run for it, but instead Julie smiled.

She said, "Michelle, I felt guided here [to Interfaith] and I didn't even know what you did here. My life has become such a struggle. I didn't know what else to do. Thank you for being here for me."

I told Julie that I would continue to pray for her during her 90 day treatment program, and that if she needed shelter when she was released, to let us know.

I know that God is good, God is strong, and God does prevail in times of need. I thank God and Interfaith for the opportunity to help this young woman have a chance at a new life.

Thanks to Interfaith's partnerships with local agencies, we work together to help heal the broken-hearted and hurting. It's also thanks to donors, that provide support for our mission. If you would like to support our shelter or any of our ongoing assistance programs, please send a check today to Interfaith Emergency Services, PO Box 992, Ocala FL 34478 or online at www.IESmarion.org. God bless you!

Devotions Leaders Needed for Bible Study

We freely share the love of Jesus with our residents and clients. One of the ways we share Jesus with our residents is with morning devotions every weekday morning at 8am. This is a perfect position for pastors and those that lead bible studies. We have some open spots to fill for someone that is waiting to be a blessing to others! You will be sharing His word to help our residents start their day off at the best possible place, the feet of Jesus. If you are interested in this volunteer position please contact me at 352-629-8868x210 or Tina.Reid@IESmarion.org

Tina



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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.

The Family that Volunteers Together...
By Steve Clem, Warehouse Manager



Volunteers are the backbone of Interfaith, and without their dedication, our mission would be impossible. We have volunteers that range from early 20s to late 80s and from all walks of life. We also have many husband and wife teams that volunteer. This month I wanted to tell you about a family that volunteers together at the Warehouse. Scott has volunteered at the Warehouse for over 2 years and lives here in Ocala. His parents, Skip and Nancy are from Western New York and stay here in Ocala with their son during the winter months. They volunteer two days a week to help sort food and work in our pantry providing food to our clients. It's been a joy working alongside this amazing family, that believes in helping others by giving of their time and talents.

Are you Rich?
by Koya Harris, Intake Manager

Each day at work, I get the pleasure of getting to know so many individuals whose circumstance would appear to make them sad and hopeless. But as I interact with them and listen to their stories, I find that they are some of the richest people in the world. Why you ask? Because they are rich in Jesus! Many of our clients have received the gospel of Jesus Christ and with that, they find hope, joy, peace and something to satisfy their souls. There is a scripture in Matthew 6:31-33 that instructs us to not be anxious for anything, by asking what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or what we shall wear? It tells us that the Gentiles (those void of God) seeks after these things. So, instead of worrying and stressing over it, we should seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and ALL these things will be added to us!

By the way – we are in need of pocket bibles, which we give out to our clients as we pray with them or find someone in need. Would you like to help? Donations of pocket bibles can be dropped off at our main office at 435 NW 2nd Street, Ocala. If you would prefer – make a donation labeled “bibles” and we will purchase them in bulk. Thank you in advance for sharing the love of Christ with our clients.