

## Thanks to Donors - Blessings Overflow in 2018, by Sonya Tyler, Director of Ops

It's always such a blessing for us to stop and reflect on God's bounty throughout the year. Many of our staff meet monthly to discuss what's happening in our ministry areas, and to share good news between departments. There's not a time that goes by that one of us doesn't say "God is good!" and He really is. We wanted to briefly share some highlights of 2018 with you, and thank our donors especially for making these things possible.

In an effort to get closer to build relationships with our clients and friends in our community, we started the Interfaith Neighborhood Breakfast in February. Happening each month, the breakfast includes a hot meal and warm smiles, provided by community groups and businesses (there's openings for 2019!).

Thanks to Keller Williams and Lowes for helping to paint our Administration and Shelter buildings. The fresh paint made such a beautiful difference to our campus!



**On Top of the World's Active Singles Group**



**Oakcrest Baptist Group Work Day**

Speaking of groups – we were blessed with groups of local businesses and churches that came to help us sort clothes and food, make repairs, clean up our landscaping, mow yards and tons of other work. Thanks to Church of Hope's 3G Sunday, Meadowbrook, Central Christian Church, St John Lutheran, United Way and so many more! We also had several of our shelter rooms adopted and remodeled, which was a great blessing!

We had a some successful fundraisers this year include the Brick City Beer & Wine Festival's \$51,600 donation, Ocala Open provided \$42,500 and over \$25,000 at Florida Feast. Karla's High Tea and Walk A Mile in My Shoes events were big successes and

we look forward to continuing to grow those great events!

Our Center for Life building continued to grow in 2018, adding more services for the indigent and uninsured including dental care and mental health counseling, as well as more patient advocate programs for those needing support with severe illnesses. And countless lives were saved with prescription assistance programs.

The Thrift Store received a grant through the City of Ocala to help remodel the front exterior of the store. And speaking of the store – it's never looked so amazing! Our new manager, Shannon, has taken the store to a whole new level with new and improved ways to showcase better quality items, in a clean and friendly store.

Our public bathroom facilities received a total remodel at the end of the year, thanks to a grant with Marion County that should be finished by January. The bathrooms will have indestructible facilities and a shower that will be available for our homeless friends (which will be a new ministry to adopt – coming soon!).



**American Panel Food Drive**

We were blessed with a record number of new volunteers. Tina, our Volunteer Coordinator reports that we had 101 new volunteers in 2018!

Our donors and supporters have literally been God's hand and feet throughout all our ministries and have blessed countless souls throughout the year. And whether you are a prayer partner, a donor that drops by food, (or clothing, blankets or hygiene), or whether you make a financial donation, each and every person makes a difference in the lives of others. On behalf of our clients, residents, volunteers and the staff – you are truly a blessing!

*Serving Marion County Since 1983*

## From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



I've heard people ask, and sometimes wondered myself, why we don't see miracles like we read about in the Bible. Why don't we witness a blind person literally receiving their sight, or a leper having their body cleansed of their ugly sores, or angels in white robes coming to give us messages?

Recently it was my turn to do devotions with our shelter residents. It was a Monday morning (I'm not a fan of Mondays), rainy, I was tired from working all weekend, and still in a fog with the grief from losing my mother just a few weeks before. As I drove in to Interfaith I asked God, "how am I going to minister to these women when I'm feeling so down myself?" My scripture that morning was going to be John 3:16, my favorite Christmas verse. After all, it gives the perfect explanation as to why Jesus came into the world. As I began to talk about God's incredible love for us that he would make a way for us to have redemption and reconciliation back to Him, one of the residents became irritated and started challenging why this was "good news." Apparently, this woman had suffered abuse at the hands of horrible men and couldn't accept that it was good news that God would ever forgive them. What happened next was priceless. One of the other young women took on the challenge and shared how she was raped and abused for most of her childhood. She went on to share that when she was able to forgive her abusers, God filled her with a peace and a joy that she can't explain. And then another young woman sitting next to her shared how she used to be full of bitterness and anger, but how her life has completely turned around since she started trusting God. She has a good job, a boyfriend that loves and respects her, and is about to move into her own place. You could tell by the countenance of these two young women that they were women of incredible faith. As it turns out, they ended up ministering to me that morning! What an incredible testimony about miraculous healing of hurt and wounds that I can't imagine. They are living examples of changed lives and restored hope after living through the darkest places one could experience. Therefore, I'd have to say that I have seen the blind restored to sight through their ability to find a kind and loving God in spite of the darkness of their pasts. I've seen God cleanse ugly wounds that just happen to be on the inside rather than on the skin. And I've witnessed angels that came to me with a message; they just wore jeans instead of robes. This, my friends, is what a modern-day miracle looks like. I'm so humbled that God would give me a front row seat to witness it all. Thank you all for your support that makes this ministry possible.

*Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27*

*But if I were you, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before him. He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted. Job 5:8-9*

## Preservance Gives Family New Start, by Sam Maynard, Shelter Case Manager

Living in a shelter is not easy. There are times that the shelter is at capacity and space is limited. Individuals come from different backgrounds whether it be criminal or affluent. Some may suffer from mental illness or drug addiction. The situation can be stressful especially to those who have never resided in a shelter.

For the King family, they persevered. From the moment that Sarina, her husband Junius and their two children got to the shelter, they quickly got down to business. Junius obtained a job at McDonald's often leaving for work during the wee hours of the morning. Sarina found employment through a cleaning company. Both worked long hours and co-parented. When not at work, the two attended classes such as: morning devotions, budgeting, life skills, and participated in therapy yoga.

No one ever complained and they were always on time. Many times, they went above and beyond what was asked of them. Sure, there were ups and downs - the children having to adjust to a new environment, a new school, new relationships, and sometimes it was stressful. The family began to attend counseling through the Center for Life. Finally, everything was falling into place. The boys started to adjust and Sarina found part-time employment often working two jobs.

Within a month and a half, the family had enough funds to put deposits down on their new home. Shortly after acquiring the funds, they were able to find an affordable place to rent. Through the help of Interfaith's Thrift Store and several area agencies, they were provided with furniture and other household items for their home. The boys were even able to stay in the same school, which was a blessing. This will be the first Christmas that the family has spent in their own home in almost two years and finally there is stability.

Thanks to your support of our shelter, this family was able to make a new start. Our donors can be honored that their love and prayers helped bring a bright and cheerful Christmas to this family, and so many more. If you would like to support Interfaith, you can make a donation online at [www.IESmarion.org](http://www.IESmarion.org) or mail it to PO Box 992, Ocala FL 34478.

## Special Gifts

### In MEMORY of:

Cronin Family

By: Eileen Cronin

Stacy Pierce

By: Jack and Ginny Anderson

Alda Phillips

By: Louise and Timothy Petty

Grace Dunlevy

Vernon and Gail Shukoski

Kevin McDonald

Phyllis Ewers

By: Frank and Pamela Stafford

Fred, Sr and Carolyn Roberts

Barbara and Vic Musleh

Cathy Hancock

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Jim Haley

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R E Nettles, Jr

By: Marsha and Greg Bowen

Kay Kitchen

Gloria Arnold

Cecil "Cy" Dam

By: Marilee Dam

Cheryl Banker

By: Carri Scott

Bill (Billy) Dennis

By: Dr James & Virginia Gamble

Helen Stutz

By: Linda Robinson

Russell Elliott

By: Josephine Foster

Fred, Ted and Joe

By: Anne K Tucker

James J Neate

By: Robert Neate

Marilyn K Wintrow

Dr Tom Fuller

By: Sandy Fuller

Diane Andrews

Margie Renfroe

By: Ann and Bobby Richardson

Dr and Mrs Brooks Henderson

By: Dr Thomas & Rebecca Knippel

Charles and Juanita Murray

By: Robert and Miriam Murray

### In MEMORY of:

Teresa Mangan Stephenson

By: Brad and Cindy Fleetwood

Julie Moody

Nelwyn Yeary

### In HONOR of:

Becky Nation's Birthday

By: Nancy and Craig Nation

Jack Stokes

Hannah Stokes

Holly Richards

By: George Stokes

The Weeding of Phil Holleman

and Yvette Sindy

By: Jessica and Jim McCune

## A Special Gift

Give a gift - an honorary or memorial donation in their name to Interfaith! The person honored (or their family) will receive a letter of acknowledgement. Email: Kayla.Grimmsley@IESmarion.org. Mail donations to PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478 or visit our website: [www.IESmarion.org](http://www.IESmarion.org).

## Food 4 Kids News

Thank you to the Belleview Eagles Ladies Auxiliary for their very generous donation to the Food 4 Kids backpack program. We are very thankful for their support. Pictured with Karen Fant below.



Thanks so much to Reddick Collier Elementary with the help of Janice Ray the guidance counselor did a food drive for the Food 4 Kids backpack program and collected 1,904 pounds of food. Great job students of Reddick-Collier. Students helping students is a wonderful thing.

## Many Thanks to...

Christmas is always an excited time for food drives at Interfaith! We are blessed with so many giving hearts! Thank you to all these awesome folks for their food drives:

ReMax: 415, Corner Stone School: 865, First Baptist Church Ocala: 474, Palm Cay: 3,148, Maudlin International: 642, Vanguard Key Club: 2,457, Montessori Academy: 403, IBEW 222: 20 smoked turkeys, Whispering Hills: 554, American Panel: 997, St Paul's United Methodist: 1,847, Ocala West United Methodist: 1,474, First American Title: 1,648, Real Truck: 1,437, Ward Highlands School: 1,214, Morgan Smith: 460, Lockheed Martin: 248 turkeys and Ocala Palms: 3049! That's a lot of food!

Twilight Cruisers hosted their annual classic car show which provided over 600 toys for children at Christmas and \$5,000 to support the ministry of Interfaith; pictured with Karla on right.

A special thank you to all of the people, agencies and businesses that donated turkeys and hams this holiday season. This small act of kindness makes a big impact on families in need and brings a special kind of joy to everyone.

Thank you to Back to Health Chiropractic for hosting their annual Random Acts of Kindness Scavenger Hunt which provided us with 2 box trucks full of clothes, blankets, 1,115 pounds of food, hygiene and other items to support our ministry. What a great Ocala tradition!



**St Paul United Methodist**



**Real Truck**



**Karla above with the Twilight Cruisers**

## WIN THIS 2011 Cadillac

Tickets can be purchased at Interfaith, 435 NW 2nd Street, Ocala.

For more information:  
Kayla at 352.629.8868

Drawing will be held  
February 14, 2019 at the  
Legacies of Love Luncheon.



**Tickets \$100**



P.O. Box 992 • Ocala, FL 34478

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Check out our website at  
[www.IESmarion.org](http://www.IESmarion.org)



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## **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.*

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### **Blessings at Center for Life, by Holly Bravo CFL Manager**

Our Patient Assistance Program, also known as PAPs, is one of the most effective methods in aiding with the costs of prescription medications. We have several clients that could possibly go without their prescriptions if this option wasn't available. What exactly is this program? Well, it is an agreement between the client and pharmaceutical companies to provide medicine at very little or no cost. We serve as the liaison to assist the client with the submission to the companies and establish coverage. For those that qualify, we help fund their prescription for a couple months until the client is accepted into the PAP program. Our clients are truly grateful for the guidance we provide.

*Holly Bravo is our newest staff member as Manager at Center for Life. Stop by and say hello!*

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### **Making a Difference, by Tina Reid, Volunteer Coordinator**

When I give tours, everyone is always stunned to hear that we have over 250 volunteers that give of their time on a weekly basis. I have the pleasure of seeing a glimpse of what God is doing in the lives of all these people because they have given their time over to Him. Do you want to make a difference for others this year? A few hours a week can change so much for those in need. Call me at Tina. Reid@IESmarion.org, 352629-8868x210 or online at [www.IESmarion.org](http://www.IESmarion.org).

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### **Find Something New Today!**

New year, new you? We would love to help you get out with the old and in with the (almost) new treasure from Interfaith Thrift Store! Our store has a revolving stock of inventory and a short shelf life on products so there is always something new and interesting to see! Need a pick up from your home? No problem! We have a pick up area that stretches to communities in Southwest Ocala all the way to the Villages! Find something in the store that you like but lack a delivery system? We offer delivery as well. Our staff and dedicated volunteers would love to help you find a new living room set, a bedroom suite, or a new designer suit!

Stop by and see us at 718 North Pine in Ocala and start the new year off right!

**By Shannon Pickering,  
Thrift Store Manager**