

Rest for the Weary, by Michelle Collier, Resident Assistant

Witnessing homeless women who are struggling with nowhere to go after enduring a surgery or medical treatment, where rest is a critical component of the post-op, led us to create a Respite Program at Interfaith's homeless shelter. These ladies just need a week or so to do their outpatient routine and rest while recuperating. Some may need therapy or daily medication and are visited by a hospital assigned nurse. Here, we are able to provide the women with a safe place to heal.

I would like to share with you Dee's story. On February 25, 2019, Dee suffered a heart attack. She was treated at the hospital and released in early March with nowhere to go. Thankfully, God opened up the door and brought her to us here at Interfaith. She was our first respite patient. Dee had a few stents placed and during the procedure her artery was severed, so her healing took a little longer than normal.

Here at Interfaith, Dee was given a room to relax and rest. She was also able to exercise as needed and go to and from doctors' appointments. Dee does not have insurance or transportation. Thanks to our donors, we were able to provide funding for transportation so she could attend all her necessary doctor appointments. Our Center for Life clinic was able to provide her the much needed life-saving medication critical to her recovery at no cost to her.

Before Dee was released from the doctor's outpatient care, she began attending some of our classes. She began to heal, not only physically, but mentally and spiritually as well. She was very interested in entering the actual Shelter Program as a resident. Once she was medically released, she officially entered into our program to end her homelessness.

Dee is currently working full-time. She remains dedicated and committed to her recovery and her newfound hope. Dee actively participates in all the classes we offer and is currently saving to get into her own place.

This is a true example of how these ladies, given a little bit of guidance and a warm safe place to lay their heads at night, can rise above their trials and tribulations and become the successful ladies they deserve and are meant to be. We here at Interfaith are very blessed we can be a part of guiding them through this journey.



Dee relaxes after work

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

Donations Provide Life Saving and Soul Healing, by Sonya Tyler, Director of Operations

Did you know that your donation can save a life? Throughout the various ministries of Interfaith, you'll find countless ways that your donation dollars help those in need. A prescription provided to someone that cannot live without it, is priceless. We have heard shelter residents say that living on the streets was a dangerous risk every day, and they had nowhere else to turn. Even in our food pantry and Food 4 Kids backpack program, a meal provides sustenance for a hungry belly, and we know that our prayer ministries provide sustenance for their souls.

Won't you consider making a donation today? Even a \$25 monthly donation can support so many that are in great need. And knowing that .93 cents of every dollar donated goes back into the community, gives you peace of mind that your donation matters. And if you already donate, thank you – on behalf of every person that steps upon our campus! Donations can be mailed to PO Box 992, Ocala FL 34478 or online at www.IESmarion.org

From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



It's summertime! For most of us that means trips to the lake or beach, cook-outs, boating and fun in the sun. But just imagine what it would be like if you couldn't get out of the sun? Or if you couldn't afford to run your air-conditioner because you couldn't afford the utility bill? I grew up in Florida and remember those days without air-conditioning. It was brutal! But I couldn't imagine not ever getting a break from the heat. This, and the fact that there are other simple things in life that our homeless go without, is what prompted me to start the 'Walk a Mile in My Shoes' event. We're planning our walk again this year in late September. Even though it will be cooling down in other parts of the country that month, it's still very much Summer here in Central Florida. If you haven't heard of this walk, it's the one that I call "a walk with purpose." The purpose is to give us a little more understanding of what

it's like to be homeless in Ocala. Those who walk are asked to raise sponsorship money (\$250 per walker is the goal) and show up on a hot Saturday morning, surrender their comfortable shoes and select shoes from the ones we've had donated. Then they walk one mile down Silver Springs Blvd.; some carrying cardboard signs. This is an event to raise funds for Interfaith and awareness for the plight of the homeless. Please contact me if you'd like to get involved!

If you just want to do something kind for someone this summer, donate an umbrella! It provides shade from the sun and from the rain. You can also get some water bottles nice and cold, and pass them out to people around our campus or around the Salvation Army campus. It's a small gesture but will mean so much to the person you bless with a bit of refreshment. And to those who bless us with monthly financial support, I want to say a special thank you. We serve people in need all year long and these Summer donations are such a blessing! I pray you all have a safe and cool Summer.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

Can we Pray for You? by Koya Harris

As I'm sure you know by now, Interfaith thrives on your prayers of blessings and donations made to us each day. How I wish that we could call each of you by name and show our appreciation. Though I believe we can do something even better, and that's pray! My mom used to say, "prayer can go where no one else can." As I've gotten older and have experienced life's troubles, that saying couldn't be more true. If you ever get the chance to peek your head inside our lobby at the Admin building, Intake (like our other departments), has a prayer board. Daily, our prayer board is tacked with requests from our clients. Some requests include prayer for a job, house, bicycle, sleeping bag, car, good health, or love one delivered from drugs. No matter the request, I and several volunteers, are diligent in praying over every request for 7 days straight. Afterwards, these requests are put in a basket to be included in our overall prayer.

As contributors who do so much to further Interfaith's mission, I want to extend that same opportunity to you for prayer. Feel free to stop by, say hi and post your prayer request (or mail them in) so that we can agree with you in prayer. God bless you for your support!



Koya and volunteer Lois pray over the prayer requests

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

One-Time Volunteer Projects

We love birthing new ideas here at Interfaith. But with those new ideas comes the work of being able to walk it out. We all tend to put a little more on our plate than we really have time for and if you ask any staff member they will tell you we do it all the time. But we are so fortunate to have a community that sees our vision to help those in need and comes along side us to help. That being said, we have 2 projects in particular that need help!

The first is the Neighborhood Breakfast. We do have a couple months open and are already reserving space on next year's calendar. Providing a hot breakfast for our homeless friends in the community is such a rewarding experience and can include children (and go towards community service projects).

The second is the one that we really need help with, which is our Shower Ministry. This is a great opportunity to help with a truly important need. Your group would provide towels, soap, shampoo and help monitor the shower line for about 3 hours on a Saturday. If you're interested in either of these great projects, working with our Homeless Community, please reach out to me at Tina. Reid@IESmarion.org or (352) 629-8868 x210.

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

Henry Dennis
By: Tom and Evelyn Weaver
Frank Stoothoff
By: Frank and Pamela Stafford
Harold Plumley
Sally Claybrook
By: Shep and Nancy Dozier
Helen Stutz
By: Linda Robinson
Kay MacMichael
By: Brick City Cross Stitch
Jewitt Springer
By: Dot Glanzer
Wade and Latrell Chauncey
By: Ocala T & D Department

In HONOR of:

Wilma Andrews
By: Cindy Andrews
C K Casey
By: Annette George

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.Grimley@IESmarion.org. Mail donations to PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478.

At the end of April, we closed for training with the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This system is available for not-for-profit organizations within Marion County to record various assistance for our clients, and not only helps prevent duplication of services, but also provides demographics and other data used to help secure grants.

Recently we received training on the administering of Narcan, which is used for drug overdoses and can save lives while waiting for professional help to arrive.

One focused area that we are currently addressing, is typing skills and 10-key operation. We're striving to improve our skills to make data entry a smoother and more accurate process.

As always, we strive to always improve our client relations and customer service, so that we always respond to our clients with respect and dignity. Our study will provide a better understanding of how to address a myriad of issues that affect so many in our region.

Holly Bravo, CFL Manager

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Many Thanks to...

Special thanks to these awesome folks that provided food recently (in pounds): VFW 4209: 100; College Park Church of God: 300; Ocala Elks Club: 632; Missy Ridgway Angels: 761; 1st Baptist Church Ocala: 124; Ocala West United Methodist Church: 177; Palm Cay: 37; Fort King Presbyterian Church: 175; Twilight Cruisers: 375; Michelle-0-Gram (Todd Craig) whole hog (147 pounds); and Pepsi of Ocala: 510 (drinks).

Thank you so much to those who helped with or supported all of our recent events: The Brick City Beer & Wine Fest (more next month), the Ladies' High Tea, and the Letter Carriers' Food Drive. It truly takes the entire community to help us do what we do and we simply couldn't do it without you. YOU make the ministry of Interfaith possible. May God bless you for your ongoing and kind support.

The Ladies' High Tea raised over \$17,500 for the Interfaith Homeless Shelter. We're proud of our Shelter for winning the Golden Tea Pot award for most money raised, but also want to recognize Toby Fernandez and Kelly Acevedo for winning the "Peoples' Choice" for their beautiful table décor (pictured right).



Beautiful table presented by Toby and Kelly

Training for a Better Experience at the Center for Life

The Center for Life has engaged in several trainings to improve upon our already fulfilled skill set, to better serve our clients and one another.

We have partnered with the Ocala Family Resource Center to enhance our computer skills. The training provided has many different levels, which will allow everyone to renew and challenge themselves for continuous growth. Thanks to Melissa and her team, classes provide beginner, intermediate and advanced classes, and the partnership with Ocala Resource has proven successful results.

Our partnership with the Department of Health provided the '110 Training' which teaches the correct procedure in processing client information. The training meets HIPPA guidelines and creates a better understanding how to handle confidential information.

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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.

**Summer at the Thrift Store
by Shannon Pickering, Manager**

Summer is here already? How did that happen so quickly? If you have a checklist for the season, I'm certain beach apparel is at the top. At the Interfaith Thrift Store, we have plenty of ladies, mens, and kids swimwear in all sizes. Open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm, we would love for you to stop in and check us out, for summer fun in the hot Florida sun!



*Come see us today at
718 N Pine, Ocala!*

*Thou hast set all the
borders of the earth:
thou hast made summer
and winter. Psalm 74:14*

**Sweet Farewell at Food 4 Kids
by Karen Fant, Manager**



Volunteer Debby

A big thank you to our longtime volunteer Debby Baugher for her service to Food 4 Kids. Over her 8 years as a volunteer, Debby has packed an average of 4,320 backpacks, fed over 12,960 students and volunteered over 576 hours while working a full time job. What a difference one volunteer can make in the life of a child. Due to a job change, she will not be able to continue volunteering but we are grateful and thankful for her years at Food 4 Kids. She loves this program and it showed in her face every time she walked through the door. Thanks again Debby - you will be greatly missed!