

New Ministry Provides Hope for Young Mom and Her Son by Jessica Rodriguez, Director of Ministries

Frequently we are led by God to expand our ministries here at Interfaith. However, before embarking on any change, our team comes together to pray, asking God for his guidance. We look at how best we can serve the clients that God has brought to our doors. Sometimes the answer is no, especially if there is another agency in town that is doing it better than us. However, this time, when God came with a plan, we truly listened with open minds and hearts, and we knew there was something that had to be done to fix the problem. Many of the people we serve come to us, they arrive on our campus for the help they need. However, what about the ones that can't? What about the people who have no means to get to us? What about those that don't know about Interfaith? How do we help them? When God burdens your heart for what burdens Him, a perfect plan always comes together. That is how you know that you are following God's will.

Our newest ministry at Interfaith is Outreach. Diane Coleman has joined our team, to run our Outreach Program. She has such a heart for those that are in need. Diane goes to the homeless camps, people living in their cars, out on the edges of town where no one would know to look. She shows them love, builds a relationship with them, and helps get their needs met. Diane brings food, tents, clothes, and other supplies to help ease the strain that our friends are experiencing due to homelessness. She works with the other help agencies in town and the police department to coordinate their efforts. Sometimes she is able to coordinate with our shelter staff, and to bring those in need into our shelter program.



A thankful Taylor poses with Diane

Diane received a call from Ocala Police Department recently concerning Taylor and her 3-year-old autistic son Riley, who were sleeping in a park on a bench. She had nowhere to go, and no one to turn to for help. Luckily, we just had a mom and child transition out into their own home, which made space for Taylor and her son. Taylor said they had been sleeping on the streets for 3 days. She said at night when it would get dark, Riley would tell her, “Momma, I scared” and she was heartbroken.

**Riley would tell her...
“Momma, I scared”**

We were able to bring them into the shelter to love on them and get them a safe, secure place to rest. Taylor is from New York, and she needed a bus ticket for her and Riley to get back to somewhere familiar and stable. Thanks to a special donor who heard of their plight, we were able to purchase their bus tickets. Before leaving the shelter, the staff prayed over Taylor and Riley, and she expressed how grateful she was for all the help we had rendered to her and her son. Taylor said that she will never forget how we helped her at her darkest time. She said she wasn't sure about

the whole “Jesus thing,” but we helped her to see that maybe there is a God and He is looking out for her and her son.

This experience warms my heart so much! God calls us to plant seeds, and He will ensure they will grow. In the month of September, Diane helped reach over 17 people in Marion County that were experiencing hardships due to homelessness. I am so glad she is on our team, and I pray that God will continue to bless this ministry. Please join me in welcoming Diane, and please pray for her as she is out in Marion County helping our brothers and sisters in need.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



When you work in an imperfect world sometimes things happen beyond your control. Unfortunately Interfaith has experienced an issue with our mail and recently learned that mail sent to our '435 NW 2nd Street' address was being rerouted to a different address. Of course, we are looking into this matter in depth. Some of our donors have brought in their donations when they were returned undeliverable and we are so grateful for that. However, we are concerned that there are some donors who sent in donations that weren't received by us or returned to the donor. If you sent in a donation to our '435 SW 2nd Ave. Street' address between February and August of this year and it was processed but you did not receive an acknowledgement please call me as soon as possible so we can investigate further. Going forward we encourage donors to send all mailed donations to our P.O. Box which is secure: 'P.O. Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478'. I apologize for any inconvenience this has caused any of you, as you have been so kind to this organization and faithful in your support. We never want it to be a burden to give, but rather a blessing!

Thank you for your understanding and any help you can offer in assisting our ongoing investigation into this matter.

Karla Grimsley
352-209-7045

Food 4 Kids Blessed Beyond Measure, by Karen Fant, Manager

The Joy FM and Chick Fil A food drive for Food 4 Kids backpack program was a tremendous success. We battled the heat and rain but still managed to collect 4,103 pounds of food as well as monetary donations. We even had a large pickup truck, from a very special angel, with it's bed full to the top with donations! Thankfully several volunteers took their time to come out and help load our trucks, and thanks to George and Carlie from JOYFM for all their help and dedication! The donated food will go a long way to help ensure no student in Marion County goes to bed hungry. Our Food 4 Kids Program serves over 1,800 children in 38 schools with the help of 60 dedicated volunteers. Thanks again for your support of this ministry that helps so many students.



Above: Donors unload a truck-full of food at Chick Fil A. Pictured left: Fort King Presbyterian group poses with staff and goodies for backpacks!



We are so grateful to the Fort King Presbyterian Church Mission Team, that collected over 100 cases of pudding for the Food 4 Kids backpack program. With community partners like you, we can make a difference in the lives of so many Marion County students. We are blessed to have you on our team.

Ring Ring!

We are glad to be a place that people call when they are in a time of need. The needs out there are great, so the calls are many. We truly want to be there for anyone looking for our help, but we need volunteers! We have several shifts available. It only takes a few hours a week to help our community. If you can help, contact Tina Reid at tina.reid@iesmarion.org or (352) 629-8868 ext 210.

Tina



Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

David Laffey
Charlie Wade
Murial Webb
Robert Turner

Joan Adams
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Jerry Cullison
By: Shirley and Carlyle Ausley
Woody and Rita Clymer
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Sally Claybrook
Buddy Hogan
By: Shirley and Carlyle Ausley

Karl and Kitty Heller
By: Terry Crawford

Bill Cronin and Family
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By: Sparr UMC Women

Steve McArthur
By: Julie Moody
Brad and Cindy Fleetwood

Claire Gauthier
By: Kyle Grimes
Brett Carroll
Tracy Clark

In HONOR of:

Charline Drake's Birthday
By: Laura D McDonald
Lisa and David Lancaster
Lee Ann Drake

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.Hess@IESmarion.org.

Mail donations to PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478.

Many Thanks to...

A big thanks to Duke Energy for reverting their storm supplies to Interfaith when crews were diverted to the Carolinas! We can pass this blessing on to so many people here in Marion County! A special thanks to Joe Hewlitt and Mike Mangan.

We wanted to correct a donation from last month: The Presbyterian Church of Marion Oaks donated 280 pounds of food; 35 pounds of personal hygiene; 9 black garbage bags of clothing to our Satellite Pantry at Our Savior Lutheran. We thank them for supporting their community and blessings they pass on to their neighbors in need.



Interfaith is so grateful to these two beautiful ladies, Lydia Kuttas and Norma Chicklo, for recently hosting an elegant tea at Golden Ocala Country Club and collecting over 1400 pairs of socks and underwear for the people that we serve. This was such a thoughtful gesture to address a need that is often overlooked. May God bless these ladies and all those who attended and gave.

We are sad to say good-bye to two of our most faithful pantry volunteers, Bob & Joan Lightey. They've been working in the pantry every week for almost 17 years (except for when they travel). Bob & Joan are moving north to be closer to family, specifically grandchildren. They are so loved and appreciated and will be missed so very much. We wish them all of God's blessings.

The Gift of Love that Keeps Giving, by Bill Bender, Volunteer

The Bible teaches us in the Book of Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than receive!" We're told this adage from the time we are children into adulthood and it's true.

How many times at Christmas do we take more pleasure in choosing a special gift for a loved one with little or no thoughts to what we will receive in return? The pleasure comes from seeing the happy reaction on the recipient's face. We needn't expect a gift in return, and if one is received, that's a nice surprise.

Since volunteering at Interfaith, I've seen many people coming to us for food and other necessities, that offered us their thanks for the blessings they received. Many of them understand that the food and other essentials we provide, are only given because someone else gave to us, so we could help our neighbors. Many of the clients I speak with are so grateful, and often talk about wanting to 'pay it forward' when their circumstances improve.

This "Pay it Forward" attitude is expressed a lot, and many have kept their word and either donated goods to us like food, clothing or their time and talents. We recognize the important part our volunteers play in the daily operations of Interfaith, and no matter what motivates someone to donate (whether it's their time or something tangible like food), it is seriously appreciated.

Christ did remind us that when you help the neediest person you are helping Him. I believe that people donate as an expression of their love of others. What a wonderful way to show your love for the Lord!





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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.

A Heart for Advocacy, by Holly Bravo, Center for Life Manager

One day, a lady named Gayle, met an Interfaith client that ran out of gas in front of her house. In her desire to help this young lady, Gayle learned she was on her way to Interfaith, where she was getting prescription assistance after just being released from the hospital. Being curious, and also with the recent desire to find a place to volunteer, she decided to go explore what Interfaith Emergency Services offered. Out of her amazement of the great programs she found at the Center for Life, combined with her love for people, she signed up as an Advocate Volunteer. For the last two years, the Center for Life has been so blessed by Gayle. Through her hard work and dedication, she assists clients that need Social Security and Disability benefits, and helps them throughout the entire process.

We have also added an additional advocate, Stephen Christopherson, that has worked for Social Security as a Disability Claims Adjuster. He has extensive knowledge of how the process works, as well as knowledge of the internal working mechanisms that promote claims successfully. Together, these two work closely with clients to ensure we are meeting their needs for sustainability.

The Center for Life is looking for more advocates. If you are interested, please feel free to contact us. We will be more than happy to have you join our team!

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. Proverbs 3:17 KJV

Fall is here!
by Shannon Pickering

What makes you think of fall? Scented candles, multi colored door wreaths, burlap mason jars? Did you know that you can find all of these things at Interfaith Thrift Store? Located close to downtown Ocala, our new to you donations are sorted and priced every day so there's something different every time you come in! We would love to see you so if you're in the area, stop in and say hello!

And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him. Col. 3:17