

Welcome to the Year 2020! by Koya Harris-Beard

Welcome to the year 2020! Who would have thought that we would make it to see this year? I am so amazed at all the wonderful things that you, our supporters, made possible for so many families in 2019. Thank you is an understatement! Before the year ended, I decided I would carve out some extra time every day to pray more and mediate on what moves the Lord would have me to make this year. I wanted to share with you what I received...the words: "BE INTENTIONAL". The word "intentional" means to do something on purpose; deliberate. Don't go throughout this year doing stuff just to be doing it - in my Mom's words! Be intentional! So, this year, I plan to deliberately pursue ways that I can change my community. I plan to deliberately meet my goal of donating more.

Recently, I had the opportunity to share with Noelle, who was visiting our office, about my plan to be deliberate in 2020 and I asked her, "So what do you plan to be intentional about next year?" she replied, "I am planning to smile on purpose no matter what!" And what a beautiful smile she gave! Like Noelle, I plan to laugh on purpose, smile on purpose, and enjoy life on purpose! What are your plans this year? I dare you to be intentional!



Noelle smiles for the camera!

Mariah Follows Steps to Success with Shelter Team, by Layla Nikoonejad



Mariah and Bella

We as a shelter team always pray and anticipate a great success story for each individual and the families that walk through our doors. We are beyond blessed that God continues to keep this amazing ministry's doors open through faithfulness of our donors, amazing staff and awesome volunteers who serve without expectation of anything in return. Because we feel we cannot do this without your help, this is another inspiring story you helped to transform.

Mariah and her beautiful 2-year-old daughter came seeking shelter at Interfaith in June. Mariah entered our program scared, nervous and unsure. Mariah grew in her faith through the word of God by attending our daily Bible devotions as well as our Bible classes every Thursday. She followed through on her case plan to get a good job and learn to budget her money. She also attended counseling in group sessions, as well as one on one counseling with a mental health counselor so she could work through her issues that led her to temporary life of homelessness.

Within 4 months, Mariah and her daughter transitioned out of our shelter. We watched her commitment to follow through with the structure that the shelter staff has in place for teaching and guiding every individual to a better and brighter future. Now, Mariah lives with her daughter in her own home and continues to work for her family. Her hard work paid off, we are so proud of her and thankful we were able to witness her journey.

From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley



It's a new year! Let's start this year with a heart of gratitude. Looking back over 2019, I'm still overwhelmed at the way God blessed our ministry and the people that we were able to help. This work is never without challenges but I think the staff and board here at Interfaith have learned that if we turn those challenges over to God and operate as if the owner of this business is limitless, we always seem to have enough. There were times in the past year that we even had more than enough and were able to share resources with some of our partner agencies that also serve our community. Right before school started we were blessed with extra school supplies and book bags so we shared them with some of our local ministries like The Rock, so the items could get to students who needed them. Then in October we had an incredible donation of candy (the good kind) and were so happy that we could share them

with local churches for their fall events and school teachers hosting holiday parties for their students. One of the most amazing miracles was the way we were able to give water to the hundreds of people experiencing homelessness that come to our property daily to eat at the soup kitchen. For years we've watched as these individuals endure the sweltering Florida heat with no relief. Many suffer dehydration and even heat stroke but we never felt that we had enough water to help them. This past summer the staff at our food distribution warehouse shared water daily, often twice a day, to keep people hydrated and never ran out. Talk about the miracle of the loaves and fishes; we've witnessed the miracle of the water bottles! While these examples may not seem like a big deal to most, every time we have to say "no" to someone in need at Interfaith it is a big deal to us. By adopting the spirit of "yes" we have opened the door to receive blessings that we can barely contain. And we owe it to a God who cares and donors who respond to His prompting to help us. We've attempted to out-give God and have realized that it's impossible. So I challenge you to do the same. What will you say "yes" to this year? Is it giving more of your time by volunteering? Is it spending more time with your family? Or is it giving more of your money to local charities and churches trying to make a difference? If you, too, discover that you can't out-give God I would love to hear from you! Thanks so much to everyone who played a role in making 2019 such a good year and let's do even more in 2020.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Note for Local Churches

36 years ago, Interfaith was started by local church leaders to address the needs of people who were frequenting the churches looking for food, shelter, clothing and other basic necessities. Rather than each church trying to be all things to all people they decided to share their resources and create one place where they can send people for help and Interfaith was born. For 36 years we have helped thousands of people through our homeless shelter, grocery assistance programs, and medication assistance programs. We also provide for other basic needs such as clothing, work boots, hygiene items and blankets when the weather turns cold. We've added additional housing support for women with special needs who require ongoing support to remain stably housed. Although we help over 25,000 individuals each year, one area that we do not assist with is utility assistance. We try very hard not to duplicate services that other agencies are offering. Truthfully we simply can't fund every need in the community, so we refer clients to our partner agencies such as Community Action and Salvation Army when there is a need for utility assistance. During the holiday season we can also refer people for help through Community with a Heart.

Often we have clients tell us that one of our supportive churches sent them to us, but if they are looking for utility or rent assistance we will not be able to help them. Please send people to us if you know someone who needs food, clothing, emergency shelter or assistance with prescription medications. If it's help with an electric or water bill they should call 211 to learn what agencies have that specific help. Together we can provide solutions for almost any problem, but I think my partner agencies would agree that the needs out there are just too vast and many for one agency to do it all.

Karla

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

Shirley Hankinson
 Russell Elliott
 By Traci Heinrich
 Dr Bobby Richardson
 By: Traci Heinrich
 Mary and Scott Brantley
 Trusten and Charline Drake
 Sandy and Lois Clardy
 Susan and Dominic Raffa
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 Jerry and Teddie Gause
 Dr and Mrs Keith Knorr

Edward Shake
 By: Robert Kuperberg
 Robert (Bobby) Edmond Lewis
 By: James and Sandra Boutwell
 Edmund and Ann Cambias
 Lottie Markel
 By: George and Ruth King
 Ann Proto
 By: Dr James and Virginia Gamble
 Lowell Hughes
 By: Jerry and Teddie Gause
 Joe Crace, Sr
 By: Jerry and Teddie Gause

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.

In MEMORY of (continued):

Charles and Juanita Murray
 By: Robert and Miriam Murray
 Hellen Stutz
 By: Linda Robinson
 Dr C Brooks and Ruth Henderson
 By: Keith and Carolyn Fender
 Bobby Lewis
 By: Richard Jarrell

My command is this:
 Love each other as I
 have loved you.
 John 15:12

Many Thanks to...

Special thanks for all these recent donations of food (in pounds): Forest ROTC: 5,659; First American Title: 1,499; Meadow Brook church: 4,977; Ocala Palms: 3,712; Trinity Baptist Church: 406; Ocala Lions club: 53; Palm Cay: 2,970; American Surgical Professionals: 250; Campus Credit Union: 1,122; Grace Episcopal Church: 918; Great American Insurance: 618; 1st United Methodist Church: 210; Montessori School students: 496; Cornerstone School: 47; St Paul's UMC: 1,319; Maudlin International: 697; College Park Church of God: 167; ARC: 767; Planet Fitness: 357; Custom Windows: 319; Trilogy at Ocala Preserve: 394; Church at the Springs: 460; Ft King Presbyterian: 61; 1st Presbyterian Church: 151; and Vanguard Key Club 4,568.



American Panel

& 896 pounds of food. And for a combined donation of food and hygiene we have: Ocala West UMC: 2,404; Countryside Presbyterian: 121; and Grace Academy: 285.

What an incredible blessing you all are to Interfaith's clients!

Thanks Clay Electric!

We were honored to receive a \$10,000 check to support our Food 4 Kids program from Clay Electric. These funds come from the "round-up" program where their patrons add a few cents to their monthly bills. It's amazing what a difference just a few cents can make. Thank you to Clay Electric and to your customers for helping us end hunger for children. Pictured below.



First American Title's Bounty!

But wait – there's more... Real Truck: 811 pounds of turkeys and hams; Marion County Tax Collector's Office: 170 turkeys; American Panel: 33 turkeys & 33 Hams, 263 pounds of food; Lockhead Martin: 352 turkeys; Gerald Ergle: 14 turkeys; Premier Re Max Realty: \$300 of Publix gift cards



Re Max Realty



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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.

Happy Days at the Thrift Store!

Happy New Year! 2019 proved to be a blessed year at the Interfaith Thrift Store with record breaking sales and increasing donations! We thank you, our consistent donors and shoppers, for continuing to support our ministry. And best yet - our proceeds support the prescription drug program for those experiencing homelessness and working uninsured in the Ocala area, providing over \$26,000 in funds in the 2019 year! With booming sales throughout the year, the store is expected to contribute more funding to this much needed program in Marion County. If you're ever in the neighborhood, stop by 718 North Pine for a tour of the store! Good news : There's no limit on how much you can spend!



Shannon

Food 4 Kids Celebrates

After the celebration of Christmas and all the joy it brings, it's now time to celebrate a New Year. At Food 4 Kids we are celebrating our new volunteers for 2020. We are thankful to those who have graciously stepped up to fill a need with the Food 4 Kids program. We had several openings and to our good fortune the Lord has provided those for us. Our new volunteers are:

Alison Chambers, Nancy Thompson, Angela Bolen Woods, Mitch Mitchelson, Sandra Jacome, Harriette Cochran, Charlotte Rozanski, Mike and Pam Griffith, Ingrid Serna, Ronald Steedley, Bob Cunningham, Alicia Costa, Roger and Nancy Duty, John and Tina Farabee. Thank you to ALL who volunteer to make this ministry great!

By the way - a big thank you to Reddick - Collier Elementary School and Janice Ray for the very successful food drive. They collected an astounding 1,295 pounds of food. These students are amazing and are always eager to help. Go Reddick - Collier!

Food 4 Kids was blessed by the donation of 200 jars of peanut butter and jelly from Monica and the Friends Foundation. Thank you for this very generous donation. It is greatly appreciated!