

Thanks to Donors - Julia got a Brand New Start

We have amazing news about one of our Shelter Program residents. Julia came to us after living on the streets for a few months since being released from the county jail. Despite not having a roof over her head and barely having her basic needs met, Julia stayed determined to make a better life for herself. Even during her homelessness before she came to us, Julia found employment at a local car wash. During her first week at the shelter, Julia was able to find full-time employment at a local snack company with better pay, benefits, and opportunities. Julia worked hard day and night shifts. She would wake up at 4 am to ride the bus, ensuring that she would get to work on time.



Julia shows off her new house keys

At first, Julia was a bit rough around the edges, but glory be to God, and her willing heart to change, she quickly transformed before our eyes. She always participated in our program - including budgeting and life-skills classes, and stood as a positive role model for the other residents. She was named "resident of the month" for July. Julia slowly started to become willing to try things different in her life and soon she was soaring. Within 4 months Julia was able to start recovery, participate in mental health counseling, pay her outstanding fines, get her driver's license, buy herself a car, and transition into her own place! We are so grateful to God for allowing us to bear witness to this amazing transformation. We are so thankful to our donors who support our ministry. Your support makes this life change happen every day at Interfaith.

by Angela and Yanique, Shelter Staff

If you're not already supporting a ministry at Interfaith, making a donation is easy online at www.IESmarion.org or you can mail it to Interfaith, PO Box 992, Ocala FL 34478. You can also take a tour with CEO, Karla, by calling her at 352-644-9209 to learn more about how you can make a difference.

Community Partner South Ocala Animal Clinic Visits, by Wendy Davis, Case Manager

July 21st was a very exciting day for the fur babies of the homeless and low-income folks around Interfaith. Dr Kevin Stoothoff and his caring crew from South Ocala Animal Clinic returned to administer vaccines, flea meds and some general pet care for the furry critters in need. They are able to offer this FREE service through the Serving Pets In Need, Inc (SPIN) grant. Eligible critters must belong to Marion County residents and be spayed/neutered. It was a great success with 3 cats and 4 dogs served. Even Tux, the Food Warehouse feline, took advantage of this free service for flea meds.

Dr Stoothoff (pictured right) and his awesome crew are so dedicated to help our clients care for their treasured furry-family members. They have been coming to Interfaith for many, many years and we appreciate their partnership to help our clients!



From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley-Greenway



This month I'd like to shine some light on our Thrift Store ministry. Yes, it's a retail store that makes money for us, but it's way more than that. It truly is a ministry on so many levels. Primarily the proceeds from the sales of your donated items are used to purchase prescription medications for people who are sick and lack income or insurance. Beyond that the revenue from the store keeps the lights on at our Center for Life building which provides a facility for people to get free medical and dental services. As if that isn't enough, on an average year the Thrift Store gives away approximately \$10,000 worth of merchandise to families in need. Sometimes it's a family moving out of our homeless shelter into their first stable home. Other times it's a family that just lost everything they owned in a house fire. We've even given beds and dressers to grandparents that just took in their grandchildren so that they wouldn't be put into foster care.

The store's ministry even goes beyond these examples. Recently when another well-known local charity that we often work with went months without a driver to do pick-ups for their thrift store, our manager sent over a truck-full of merchandise so that their sales floor wouldn't be empty. For us that was just a way to tithe into another ministry. More recently, we had a customer shopping with us and it became apparent that this person suffered from a mental illness and was having a manic episode. Instead of treating this man like an unwanted guest, our Thrift Store staff called on our mental health counselor and our campus pastor to come intervene so that the customer could get the help he needed. I couldn't be more proud of the way our staff handled the situation with compassion and professionalism.

So think of us when you have household items to donate. You can drop them off in our donation alley right at the store, Monday-Friday from 9am until 3pm and on Saturdays 9am to noon. For appliances and furniture, you can arrange a pick-up by calling 352-351-3541. If you've never been to our store, it's a wonderful treasure chest of items and you never know what you're going to find that you didn't even know you needed! Stop by and say hello to our Store Manager, Shannon, or get a hug from Angie our Cashier, at 718 N. Pine Ave and tell them that Karla sent you!

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24

Meeting the Needs of Others, by Koya Harris-Beard, Social Services Manager

When volunteers come on board, they get assigned a specific job duty. And although those duties detail what is expected of them, we know that there are times when those lines get crossed. This is the case for Patricia and Richard. Patricia has been a volunteer with us for several years and for about 2 years, she has been drawn to help Richard.

Richard is a regular on our campus. You'll find Richard usually sitting with a perfectly organized shopping cart. He often uses our bench out front to carefully empty the cart and neatly refill to his satisfaction. He'll also be found sitting on the bench waiting for his clothes to dry that he's washed and hung on the fence. Despite his situation, I have never seen Richard without a smile and something kind to say. He never asks for anything outside of the typical services that we offer. So when he came to our Free Clothing Boutique and repeatedly walked away empty handed because we didn't have men's clothes for smaller sized men, Patricia knew she needed to do something. Richard showed that he was diligent in maintaining the items that we could give, by washing them and keeping them neatly folded in his shopping cart. Patricia faithfully checks on Richard to see what he needs. Pictured is Richard thanking Patricia for new t-shirts, underwear, socks and a book bag.

Our volunteers make a difference every single day and so do you with your generosity. When you prepare to give, I ask that you remember the Richards in our community who are so appreciative of all that you do.



Richard hugs Patricia in thanks

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you - Luke 6:38

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

Lottie George

By: George & Ruth King

Elwyn Black

By: Donna Black

Sandra Neal

JoAnn Brewster

By: Susan Greiner

Nelwyn Yeary

By: Laura Smith

Nancy Rivers

Caroll DeLuca

By: Frank J DeLuca

Trudy Boone

By: Sandy & Robin McBride

Danny Burnside

By: Morris & Carol Cook

Paul & Barbara Henrich

Robert & Pauline Short

Janet Trexler

Myrna Dayton

Joe Len & Joan Battle

Diane Kuck

Mack Dunwoody

By: Ana Dunwoody

Patricia Mullett

By: Benjamin & Helen Hayes

Dick Chazal

By: Carswell & Charlotte Ponder

Keith Duncan

By: Paul & Pam Joranlien

Carlyle Ausley, Jr

By: Carswell & Charlotte Ponder

Thomas & Evelyn Weaver

Harold Donahue

By: Margie Burr

In HONOR of:

DeAnn Denney

By: Frank J DeLuca

Susan Moehling

By: Bradley & Caroline Blessing

David & Lisa Midgett's 30th

Anniversary

By: Paulette Millhorn & Jim Hilty

Craig & Trevor Baggs

By: Jessica McCune

Special Thanks to...

Thank you for these food donations (in pounds): Meadowbrook Church: 2,613; Ocala West United Methodist Church: 437; First Baptist Church, Ocala: 231; First Assembly of God Church: 205; Dorothy Saska: 543; First Presbyterian Church: 65; Countryside Presbyterian Church: 51; and College Park Church of God: 178. Also - Paradise Ministries: 30 cases of food and Sandy Flowers: 5 large bags of men's clothing

Meadowbrook's food drive pictured right.



Food 4 Kids Kicks off New School Year, by Delores Bulgin

Can you believe that summer is over and it's time to start a new school year for Food 4 Kids? Our backpacks have arrived as we look forward to serving 39 elementary and middle schools this year. We are blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers who will be giving of their time again. As we ramp up for the upcoming school year, we are purchasing food, reconnecting with our volunteers that took the summer off, and touching base with the 39 schools that participate in our program. If you would like to volunteer and contribute to this worthwhile ministry, we have an opportunity for you as well.

As many as 1,900 children will receive weekend meals to make sure they can have the nourishment they need to stay healthy and learn. If you want to sponsor a child in this program it's a simple \$25 gift each month and you can set it up to be recurring on our website. Just go to www.IESmarion.org/donate and select the option for Food4Kids. Of course, you can always send a check in the envelope provided with our newsletter. Thank you to all of the faithful donors that have kept Food 4 Kids going for the past 14 years!

As always, food donations are appreciated. Any organizations, churches, businesses or individuals that would like to have a food drive for us, it would be very helpful! If you are interested, please contact me (Delores) or Daphne in Food 4 Kids at 352-620-8239. We always need these specific items:

Apple Sauce (Single serving cups)

Jelly (Plastic containers only)

Peanut Butter (Plastic containers only)

Pudding Cups (Lunch box size)

Snack Bars (Cereal bars, Granola, etc.)

Canned Meat (Chicken, Tuna, Vienna Sausages, etc.)

Canned Pasta (Beefaroni, Ravioli, SpaghettiOs, etc.)

Crackers (Filled with peanut butter or cheese)

Snacks (fruit chews, pretzels, raisins - all single servings) *(no candy please)*

Fruit Cups (Single serving cups)

Macaroni and Cheese (Boxed)

Pop Tarts (Variety flavors)

Ramen Noodle (Dry Soup Packets)

Instant Oatmeal (single serving)

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17

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 at 629-8868 x202 or Kayla.Hess@IESmarion.org. Mail donations to PO Box 992, Ocala, FL 34478.

Honoring Those We Lost

We lost two long time volunteers in the last month or so. Our prayers are with the family and friends of

Carlyle Ausley, Jr

Harold Donahue

Their service to their community was so appreciated. They will be missed.

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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.

Becoming a Volunteer, Alison Bryan, Warehouse Volunteer

Last year, I received a tour of Interfaith from CEO, Karla Grimsley-Greenway. I was so thrilled to see all the amazing ministries! From their Food 4 Kids Backpack Program to seeing the Social Services Department in action, Interfaith is all about helping those in need. I was immediately drawn to the positive energy and loved the idea of giving back to the local Ocala community that I've called home for 17 years.

When I'm not working at Outback Steakhouse, or spending time with family and friends, you'll find me volunteering at the Interfaith Warehouse 1 - 2 days a week. Maxi has been great to show me the ropes and always has a bright smile to share with everyone! If you want to do something special to help others - reach out to them about volunteering. You won't regret it!

Behind the Scenes at the Thrift Store by Shannon Pickering, Thrift Store Manager

Interfaith Thrift Store, while on the surface is about reselling quality name brands at affordable prices, in the interior is so very much more. Interfaith is based on relationships - those with our donors, staff, board members, and shoppers. In the day to day events that occur in our lives, staff reliability from behind the scenes, is crucial for the operations of our store as a whole.

Today, I had a tough time opening a donated safe. If we couldn't open it, we couldn't sell it. It was a tricky situation.. turn to the left, hold up, just a little but not that much. If you have ever had something that has to be *just right* to open, you'll understand. I called our Facility Manager, Jody Schaible, and within minutes, he was here fixing the issue, which made my day a lot easier. It's hundreds of these little niceties that make our organization run smoothly on a day to day basis. Next time you're in the area, stop by and shop at 718 North Pine. You never know what may have been fixed while you weren't looking!



Jody working his magic on the safe