

## **Client Receives Live-Saving Meds Thanks to Donors, by Diane Coleman, CFL Manager**

Kayla LaCroix called me from her ICU bed in a local hospital. She had been admitted in critical condition for diabetes and was on an IV drip of insulin. She told me she did not have medical insurance and her insulin was very expensive (\$743 per month). She needed two types of insulin and could not afford her insulin. Because this medication was so important to saving Kayla's life, the hospital would not discharge her until she had a means to obtain her insulin. I told Kayla we could definitely help her with her insulin and her supplies. She asked me how to obtain a glucometer and I told her we could assist with that also from our donations. Kayla cried with gratitude. She kept asking me was I sure? I kept reassuring her we could most definitely assist her.

I learned that the Case Manager at the hospital referred Kayla to us. Her nurse explained the situation further and let me know the doctor would be notified that we could help, so that he could discharge her.

In less than 2 hours both Kayla and her husband Wendell were standing in the Center for Life lobby. She hugged me so tight with tears running down her face! She was so happy to be out of the hospital and more importantly, able to get her medications. With discharge orders in hand, and a need for insulin that night, we began to work on her case. We worked with Bittings Pharmacy to get the prescriptions ready for them to pick up. While we waited for the prescription to be ready, we talked with them about their health story. Neither of them had a medical provider and Kayla was a newly diagnosed diabetic. Wendell also had diabetes but was in control other than needing a provider. I talked to them about our community partner, Heart of Florida, as a provider and that we could assist them with their copay for their appointments as well as their medications. They both cried. Before they left we provided them with a glucometer, an educational booklet, as well as supplies for testing. They were both so grateful that day. We prayed with them both before they left.

We now see Kayla and Wendell regularly and help them both manage their health care in regards to copays, prescription assistance, pharmacy assisted programs for insulins and their insulin supplies. We have navigated them to our food bank and back to school supplies. We are also advocating for Kayla to get Medicaid for her health diagnosis.

Kayla and Wendell are a young married couple who now do not have to worry about how to stay alive in regards to medications. The difference between them now and the first day I met them in our lobby is amazing. God always puts his people in our path for serving. This story will be one that will stay with me for a long time. That night I praised God. The paths that crossed. The blessings that came. The difference the hospital staff made. The difference one phone call made. The difference Interfaith made.



**A sense of relief floods the happy couple.**

*The help provided to Kayla and Wendell, and so many others like them, is thanks to both the Hospital District grant we receive, and from donors like you, that want to help save lives right here in Marion County. Thank you for supporting our Center for Life. We serve so others may live.*

## From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley-Greenway



I'm writing this article while attending a CEP quest event in Asheville, North Carolina. It was here that I visited a ministry a few years ago that changed the way I wanted to serve people at Interfaith. After an experience at Haywood Street Church we shifted our culture to trying to serve each client as if we were serving Jesus, himself. It definitely makes you try a little harder and makes you lean further towards compassion. On this trip, however, I'm learning how to implement permanent supportive housing in efforts to end homelessness for as many as possible. The timing is perfect as we are also currently awaiting a response on an offer we made last week to purchase a small apartment complex for that very purpose. If we acquire the 14 unit building we will need lots of help ministering to the people we get to house. We are going to need some churches to come along side of us and wrap their love and support around individuals who will be learning how to live with the security of walls, a ceiling and doors for the first time in years! We will need help with making these units comfortably furnished and decorated to make for a nice home environment. But we will also need some people to become extended family to the people that live in them; checking in to see how they are, inviting them to a church service or other events they might enjoy. It would be nice to have someone help decorate their home for the holidays and even more so to make sure they have a nice meal for the holiday. If you've felt God pulling on your heart to do something "more" please prayerfully consider this opportunity and feel free to call me to discuss further. (352) 209-7045.

*If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. Isaiah 58:10*

## I Finished the Big Thrifted Cabinet, by Charma Kern, Thrift Store Shopper

### Before



I love a great 'Before n After story.' Kind of like a Cinderella story - except for furniture. My family lives in a multi-generational home that includes an age gap of 4 months to 86 years old - in that gap are boys ages 4 and 2. They have a lot of stuff, and that stuff needs a place. A place to hide a plethora of toys, books, puzzles, monster trucks.... and all the things little boys like to play with.

The Interfaith Thrift Store is filled with many fun things and it even has its own line item in my budget. When I came across this piece (left), I knew it checked all the boxes on my wish list. It came home with me and immediately to the garage for a facelift.

It started smooth sailing with demo. I changed my mind 20 times on a



### After

final paint color. I ended up sanding and repainting the whole cabinet two times with each time being 3 coats. I loved it, and I hated it. I walked away for a couple of days and when I returned to it, I didn't hate it so much. Things started to come together for good and one day, I asked my husband if we could bring it inside. It was ready (pictured right).

It's huge and it's heavy, but I had a perfect place for it. Our place has so many stairs, and it's an obstacle course to get it to its place. Move the table...the chairs... don't hit the 118 year old freestanding fireplace...

It now sits in a place of honor and holds all the stuff. And I love it! Thanks Interfaith Thrift Store!

## Saving Seniors In Need, by Koya Harris-Beard, Social Services Manager

In December of 2020 we were fortunate enough to begin helping low-income seniors to make repairs to their homes in order that they may be able to safely remain in their homes. The Colen Foundation Grant covers fixes such as hot water heater replacement, flooring repair, plumbing issues, AC repair and more. I have been so fortunate to oversee this project because I have met some of the most sweetest members of our community that were suffering in silence due to having limited income. So far this year we have helped 8 individuals with much needed home repairs.

Pictured is Martha who received help from the Colen Grant. Martha had a faulty hot water heater that caused a terrible leak in her home. The leak resulted in the bathroom floor, bedroom floor, part of living room and kitchen floor to fall in. Through the help of the grant the hot water heater and flooring was replaced, so that she could remain in her home with dignity.



**Martha**

To qualify for the Colen Foundation Grant, persons must be 55 years or older, own their home, be low income and unable to cover the costs of a repair needed in order to remain safely in their home. For more information, I can be reached at 352-629-8868 ext 206.

## Special Gifts

### In MEMORY of:

Amos A Lewis, Sr

Amos A Lewis, Jr

By: Noisettia Lewis

Grietje Lewis

By: Thomas & Evelyn Weaver

Ann VanDenburgh

Bill & Lois Dolin

Carlyle Ausley

By: Trusty & Charlene Drake

Ann VanDenburgh

Kenneth Colen

Terry & Cindy Crawford

Susan Greiner

Augie Greiner, Jr

Mike and Diane Finn

Ann Richardson

Terrance Johnson

Dorothy Siemons

By: Ann VanDenburgh

Bill & Lois Dolin

Eleanor Gamble

By: Dr James & Virginia Gamble

Dan Burnside

By: Ruth & Larry Dexheimer

John McLeod

By: Beverly Byrne

Willa French

By: Betty Rodebaugh

David Young

By: Frank & Pamela Stafford

Susan Greiner

Jim Shelton

By: Benjamin & Helen Hayes

Dick Chazel

By: Terry & Cindy Crawford

Susan Greiner

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John, Linda & Joshua LaSelva

Dian Supernault

E Eugene & Karen Lehman

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Joe Mazzurco

Gordon Clark

By: Kirby & Sandra Manning

## Special Gifts

### In MEMORY of:

Bob Ellinor

By: Susan Greiner

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By: Bill & Lois Dolin

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Rev Walter Edwards

By: Marilee Dam

Jan Jernigan

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Steve Reeves

Bryce Ackerman

By: Mike & Diane Finn

Helen Fant

By: Jan Jernigan

Al Chapman

Keith Duncan

Lynn Foster

Butch Owen

Sandra Neel

By: Ann Richardson

Stephen Head

By: Mr & Mrs Bob Smith

Benjamin & Helen Hayes

### In HONOR of:

Venita Daugherty

By: James & Catherine Maples

Nancy Ott's birthday

By: Richard Kreiling

Teri Wallace's Birthday

By: Kaitlin Wallace

### 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.

## Special Thanks to...

Thank you for these food donations (in pounds): Ocala West United Methodist: 202; First Presbyterian: 184; First Baptist, Ocala: 356; American Panel: 128; First Assembly of God: 211; Trinity Baptist: 177. Also Paradise Ministries: 75 cases of food; Grace Episcopal: 180 pounds food, clothes & hygiene; Countryside Presbyterian: 97 pounds of food, 247 school supplies; and Crafty Christians: 14 bedmats w/ fleece blankets, 6 crocheted scarves, 4 crocheted child's Afghans.

We are so grateful to Chrissy and the Girl Scout Troop 43913 for coming to the shelter and sprucing up our backyard! The items were donated with their cookie sales. Thank you all! What a beautiful surprise for our residents. Pictured above.



## Blessed at Food 4 Kids

Kicking off the school year with good vibes and outstanding support. The Food 4 Kids program has truly been blessed - the On Top of the World Lions Club



stop by with a large food donation (pictured left), as well as The Open-Door Sunday School class at First United Methodist Church, who presented a \$1,700 donation to offset the cost of our yearly backpacks purchased.

We are happy to have the ladies from the Lowell Boot Camp back onboard after being out due to the pandemic. Sgt Colbert and Ms. Ayona Davis supervise the program and are pictured helping the ladies unpack groceries.



We are sad to see Daphne Gideon, our Food 4 Kids Assistant leaving after 4 years (and many years of volunteering before that). Daphne is retiring to spend time with her family and beautiful, new granddaughter. She was such an amazing lady and valuable asset to our organization!



She will be missed!



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



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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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*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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## **Help! Volunteers are Needed Desperately, by Tina Reid, Volunteer Coordinator**

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Now that our volunteers that are vaccinated can enjoy traveling again, we are short handed in most of our ministries. Now more than ever we could use you! Below are the positions where we need help along with a little description of each one. Each shift is only once a week for 3 hours, with morning and afternoon shifts available for most positions.

**Social Services - Intake Office receptionist:** the receptionist answers the administrative office door as well as greet clients arriving for services located in our main office. You will be the first person someone looking for help will see!

**Intake/Data Entry:** this position is suitable for those who have office experience and are good with computers.

**Free Clothing Boutique Sorters and Boutique Worker-** the boutique assists with providing free clothing to those who need them for activities such as work, school, or church. The boutique position assists clients by helping the clients shop for what they need. The sorter position sorts clothes in our office and keeps the inventory in stock.

**Thrift Store -** volunteering in our Thrift Store is great for those that like retail. We need help in all areas in the Thrift Store, from sorting and hanging to organizing and cleaning. The schedule is flexible and the family atmosphere is more than welcoming.

**Food Distribution Center-** Pantry workers stock shelves and make up grocery packages for clients. Volunteers that are capable take the position of pushing grocery carts out to clients and help load their vehicle if they have one. Donation receivers are ready and willing to help donors unload their food donations and bring them in the sorting room to be sorted.

**For more information contact me at 352-644-9196 or [Tina.Reid@iesmarion.org](mailto:Tina.Reid@iesmarion.org).**



**Lucy, Intake Volunteer**