

## We're All Feeling the Pinch, by Sonya Tyler, Director of Operations & Development

The National Letter Carrier's Food Drive in May provided 47,429 pounds of food that came in from the community, and we are extremely grateful. Because that's a county wide drive, those donations are shared with the community - so that other pantries throughout Marion County will have the blessing too. For perspective, the food from that drive will last at Interfaith's pantries for about 3 months. And we are beyond grateful to our postal carriers and the volunteers that work so hard on that day to make sure all that food is picked up - they are truly amazing.

With the economy the way it is, we're all feeling the pinch. Gas prices, groceries, utilities, they are all increasing. Even here at Interfaith, we see the signs. We know as we struggle, our donors struggle, so our donations may not be where they sometimes are, but we know God has a plan, and so we trust. It also makes us tighten our belts here too. You'll find me double checking thermostats, turning lights off in rooms we're not using, and spending extra time with the fuel bills - every little bit helps.

We also know that our clients are feeling the pinch too. We see it in the long lines of people that start at 7am lining up outside our doors. We see the stress on their faces as they worry there wont be enough. We know, because of our faith, that God has never let us down. He has a habit of stretching our donations so that there's always enough for every person. Sometimes that math doesn't add up when we see what comes in the door, versus what goes out - there's some loaves and fishes stuff happening, I can tell ya. He always provides the blessing.

We even noticed the pinch this year with the recent Letter Carrier's Drive. Unfortunately, with the supply chain issues, and groceries being higher this year, we believe it was harder for folks to donate food. In comparison, prior to COVID in 2019, our last Letter Carriers Drive provided 127,817 pounds. All that to say, we need your help this summer. Reach out to your neighbors, churches, local businesses, and see if they can do a food drive. Let us continue the blessing of helping families that are struggling. By the time school starts, we will surely be needing it.

The below items are the non-perishables that we need the most. Donations can be dropped off Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm. If you don't have time to shop, or drop off, you can always make a donation and put "food" in the notes: Interfaith, PO Box 992, Ocala FL 34478.

Thank you for being a blessing to our clients!

<b>Canned Vegetables &amp; Fruit</b>	<b>Macaroni &amp; Cheese</b>	<b>Pasta &amp; Rice</b>	<b>Canned Beans</b>
<b>Cereal &amp; Oatmeal</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Tea</b>	<b>Canned Soup</b>	<b>Canned Meats (tuna, chicken)</b>
<b>Plastic containers please for these items: Jelly or Jam, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce</b>			

## Feeling Patriotic at the Thrift Store, by Shannon Pickering, Manager

In August of 2021, Ocala Police Department installed an American flag retirement box within the main entrance police headquarters. When an American flag becomes worn or torn, there's a respectful way to retire that flag. Interfaith Thrift Store will be pleased to take any worn or torn American flags at our store and drop it off at OPD headquarters for you. When you come through with donations for the Thrift Store, let us know that your flag needs to be retired and we can take care of that for you! Truly a one stop shop! Stop in and shop at 718 North Pine Avenue, Ocala.

Pictured right is Volunteer Champ Edelman, proudly dropping off retired flags at OPD.



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



It's hard to believe half of 2022 is already in the past. And what a blur this year has been so far! Since the beginning of the year we have ended homelessness for 89 individuals from 72 different households through our homeless services programs. We've prevented homelessness for another 21 households and assisted another 58 homeless individuals in other ways. Currently our staff are working with 26 households in need of housing but the challenge grows every day with the cost of rental units going up and the inventory of available units going down. We've also successfully housed 6 handicapped individuals in our Permanent Supportive Housing program at the 14th Street Apartments which we acquired earlier this year. Speaking of the apartments, what a blessing! However with that blessing comes the cost of necessary upgrades and repairs which will total in excess of \$200,000 by the time we complete everything. While that price-tag is daunting, it is quickly overshadowed by the joy it brought me to sign one of our residents first paycheck he's received in over a decade! This particular individual started helping during the pandemic when all of our volunteers had to stay home. He's been working consistently since that time and has made such an impression on the warehouse staff that they requested a position to make him an official staff member. This is the difference housing makes. Two years ago this gentleman was homeless without hope and had pretty much given up on ever having a normal life again. Now he's living in a beautifully furnished apartment, is employed, has many new friends and no one would ever suspect that he's ever been homeless. We are grateful for the help we've received from the county through grant funding that has made most of this possible.

We are also grateful for those of you who support us so that we can exist to assist those in need. In addition to the number of people we've housed, we've assisted over 1,200 children with food through our backpack program, provided over 275 free professional mental health counseling sessions and food for over 2,000 households. With funding from our Thrift Store our Center for Life has helped over 400 people get their prescription medications. No wonder the last few months seem like a blur. I can't wait to see how God uses Interfaith in the next 6 months!

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13*

## Diabetes Grant Saves Kayla's life, and Thanks to Major Lifestyle Change, is Now off her Insulin, by Diane Coleman, Center for Life Manager

Last year we had the pleasure of serving Kayla, who was receiving medication assistance for her diabetes. We had met Kayla on the phone as she lay in ICU at one of our local hospitals. The hospital would not discharge her, since insulin was the only thing that would keep her alive and she couldn't afford it. They didn't know where to turn for assistance and neither did she. When we told her that we definitely could help her with insulin she couldn't believe it and neither could the nurse. We assured them both, yes, this is exactly what we do and would be honored to serve her.

She appeared in our office the same day crying tears of joy! We supplied the assistance she needed to obtain her insulin for her diabetes. Thanks to our Marion County Hospital District grant, we supplied her with 4-5 months of life-sustaining insulin. Then, Kayla was able to obtain Medicaid due to the severity of her disease and no longer required our services. We were sad to lose a client but happy to see her become self-sufficient in her medical needs. We also provided Kayla with our diabetes educational materials so she could better understand how to manage her diabetes and improve her health.

And here's the amazing update: Kayla visited our office a few weeks ago to tell us that she is completely OFF HER INSULIN! Kayla had made a major lifestyle change and no longer is insulin dependent. She started with diet and added some walking. Once she lost some weight, she added other cardio exercises.

She is now assisting other young ladies in her area to commit and obtain that healthy lifestyle. We are so happy for Kayla in her reversal of her diabetic diagnosis and even more happy to hear she is leading the charge for others.



**Kayla poses with Cherie at Center for Life**

## Special Gifts

### In MEMORY of:

Mary Alice Atkison  
 By: Ana Dunwoody  
 Frank & Pamela Stafford  
 Mike & Diane Finn  
 Victor & Barbara Musleh  
 Mack Dunwoody  
 By: Ana Dunwoody  
 Tom Holton  
 Elmo Graff  
 By: Woody & Rita Clymer  
 Loretta "Pat" Stephens  
 By: Alpha Delta Kappa  
 Fidelis Kappa Chapter  
 Harold S Duris  
 By: Shep Dozier  
 Jimmy Blocker  
 By: James G Foster  
 Lee Goodson  
 By: Alice Goodson  
 Branchard Tucker  
 By: Sandy & Robin McBride  
 Ann Thomas  
 Bill Spears  
 By: Carla Denson  
 Sara Clardy Gagnon  
 By: Ann Vandenburg  
 Lee Medema  
 By: Karen Medema  
 Jeffrey Lovell  
 By: Clover Lovell  
 Charlotte Ponder  
 By: Mike & Diane Finn  
 Helen Hayes  
 By: Victor & Barbara Musleh

### Honor Someone Special

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 Gifts

### In MEMORY of continued:

George MacKay Drake  
 By: Carla Denson  
 Carswell Ponder  
 Richard Dundon  
 Laura S Humbel  
 Anne & Kenneth MacKay  
 Dick Andrews  
 David & Martha MacKay  
 Jack Olden  
 Brents & Janice Bullock  
 Robert Nation  
 Richard & Sandra Andrews  
 Elizabeth H Kutz  
 Showcase Properties of Central FL  
 Mike & Diane Finn  
 Victor & Barbara Musleh

### In HONOR of:

Ann Stanley  
 By: Valerie Kiser  
 Rosie Proctor's birthday  
 By: Jon & Linda Tilton  
 Jarl Hagood  
 By: Faith Friends,  
 1st Presbyterian Church  
 Chris Pabst's birthday  
 By: Judy Chambers  
 Richard "Dick" Muller  
 By: Norma Muller

## Special Thanks to...

Special thanks for these large donations (in pounds):

St John's Lutheran Church: 563; Porsche Club of Ocala: 180; Marion Landing: 228; Ocala West United Methodist: 460; E W & Lucille Cates House: 120; American Panel: 154; First Presbyterian Church: 955; Countryside Presbyterian Church: 112; First Assembly of God: 134; First Baptist Church Ocala: 142; The Way Christian Church: 418; and Cobert Wealth Ameriprise: 607. Also, Jenny Bates: 50 sachets, 10 large blankets & 5 medium blankets



Interfaith is grateful to the Ocala Sunset and Silver Springs Rotary Clubs for a \$23,000 gift. The proceeds from their Annual Brick City Beer & Wine Festival were divided between Interfaith, Kimberly's Center for Child Protection and the Marion Literacy Council. We are honored to be included with these worthy charities. We also want to thank WindFM Radio for their support in making the event a success and the Roberts family with the World Equestrian Center for their generous sponsorship. Karla is pictured above with the acceptance check with the other two honored charities.

## Feeling the Love, by Kimberly, Former Shelter Resident

I was recently a resident of the Interfaith Shelter Program. While I was there, I enjoyed spending my time and growing with all the wonderful residents, children and staff.

On Mother's Day, we were all treated to a special and very elegant Mother's Day Brunch hosted by Mrs. Christie, her mother, and their dear friend. We dressed in our Sunday best as we gathered in the for a beautiful time of fellowship.

Our tables were decorated with fancy dinnerware, even flutes to serve sparkling grape juice and orange juice. The food consisted of a fabulous charcuterie board of different fruits, bagels with cream cheese, as well as jellies and sausage links. Of course, we cannot forget the desserts of chocolate covered strawberries, fruit salad, and cookies. We felt like royalty for sure.

This was such a wonderful experience. Us women who struggle with pulling ourselves out of these unfortunate circumstances, can feel normalization and so much comfort and love. Thank you to Interfaith and all of the people who partner with Interfaith to provide us these amazing opportunities.





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

**New Need for Adult Briefs and Diapers**



Did you know that Interfaith receives donations of adult briefs and underwear to bless those in the community who cannot afford them or whose insurance doesn't cover them? We recently conducted a survey and to our realization, we had a room full of people

in need of them. It dawned on me that maybe people are still only familiar with our food pantry and other "major" services. But having the necessary products to still have quality of life is a big deal. So I put out a post on Facebook and within 10 minutes my inbox was flooded with emails from people who had gone without, borrowed or used the same brief multiple times because they could not afford them. Like most things medically related, briefs can be pretty expensive. So having a place to come to when you're out of options is a huge relief. These items can be requested Monday-Friday between the hours of 9-11:30 and 1-4 at our Social Services department. Donations of new adult briefs and diapers can be dropped at 435 NW 2nd Street, Ocala.

**by Koya Harris-Beard, Social Services Manager**

**Teachers Provide Treasured Gift**

Recently one of our faithful volunteers, Dan Woerner, made a generous donation from the Jane Graham McKay & Katherine Hill McKay Endowment Fund. This \$11,693.34 donation will go towards funding the backpack program for the upcoming 2022 - 2023 school year. We are continually grateful for the benevolence shown to this ministry.

The sisters (pictured below) who passed away in 2016, were long time elementary school teachers in Scotland County, NC where they became friends with Dan while attending the same church. The sister's frugal lifestyle allowed them to accumulate a significant estate which is now used to fund scholarships as well as numerous Christian endeavors such as this grant to Interfaith. As donor advisor to the endowment, Dan feels the sisters would be proud to be associated with the Food 4 Kids program.



**by Delores Bulgin, Food 4 Kids Manager**