

Vulnerable Senior Finds Help at Interfaith, by Yanique Duff-Ballard, Case Manager

She was waiting on a bench with some other clients when I first saw Ms. Jones. An unfamiliar face, she was an elderly, African American woman - she looked tired and distressed. I approached her and asked if she was okay, to which she replied, "Yes, I'm waiting for my husband to pick me up." But the next day, I saw her again, wearing the same clothes.

Lately, we've seen an increase in homeless elderly people. It is hard enough being homeless, but being homeless, elderly and trying to survive in this heat, is a nightmare. So in this case, my alarm bells went off.

I approached her once again, and tried having a conversation with her, but Ms. Jones got very upset and defensive, so I left her alone praying, tomorrow is another day and another opportunity to build a rapport with her. Sometimes that's what we have to do. After 3 days of her being around, my boss, Director of Ministries, Jessica Vega, was able to have a conversation with Ms. Jones and realizing she had nowhere to go, so we were able to take her into the shelter. We could tell Ms. Jones had some memory problems and was in dire need of help. At 69 years old, she was run down, tired and confused. We were happy we could take her into the shelter.

It is hard enough being homeless, but being homeless, elderly and trying to survive in this heat, is a nightmare.

The first few days, Ms. Jones slept most of the day. We were grateful she was able to get some much-needed rest. After that, she started coming around, hanging out with the other residents getting acclimated to her new environment. In the meantime, Shelter Manager Michelle Collier started conducting an in depth background check to try and locate any family. For 2 weeks, the Shelter Team was able to care for Ms. Jones - such a sweet, yet vulnerable soul, you can't help but love her. We learned she was a retired bus driver from Detroit and we were able to locate her family and she was reunited with them. We learned that Ms. Jones lives in an assisted living facility for individuals with memory issues. She was sent to the hospital and upon her release, she didn't know where to go. She ended up being trespassed from a local business and later arrested for trespassing on said property. When Ms. Jones got released from jail, by the grace of God she found her way to Interfaith. I believe God led her to us! Thank you Jesus for this wonderful shelter as we were able to keep her safe until she could get back home. When we took Ms. Jones in, we didn't know how it would work out. But we believed in God and we knew if He brought her here, He would equip us to carry out the task.

As a donor - you helped create this happy ending. Every dollar that's donated keeps our lights on, our staff paid, and resources available to make a difference in each life we impact. Thank you for supporting our shelter and other vital ministries. God bless you all.

ID Program is Building Block for Better Opportunities, by Andrea Jordan, Social Serv Mgr

Interfaith has so many resources to help our community, and one I wanted to share about this month is our ID program. With the assistance of the Marion County Tax Collector's Office, Interfaith provides vouchers for our homeless community to obtain Florida Identification Cards. The importance of this program is enormous and helps in so many ways; applying for jobs and housing, opening a bank account, securing government assistance, seeking medical attention, and getting necessary medication. A big population that benefits the most from these ID cards, are those from our jail system. For those that are incarcerated, once released, having an ID is critical.

So far this year, we have provided 531 Marion County homeless residents with these ID's. There have been numerous occasions when someone that's received a voucher comes back to my office smiling ear to ear showing me their ID. They are so happy and grateful and it's by the grace of God we can provide such a necessary service.

These vouchers also highlight another great community partnership from George Albright and his amazing team at the Tax Collector's office. It's just one more way that working together with our community helps our community.

From the Chief Executive Officer: Karla Grimsley-Greenway



Summer is in full swing and while we don't have as many fund-raisers or other events during these months, it's a good time to consider other ways to support your favorite non-profit. Years ago, Interfaith Emergency Services had a sister foundation. When Monroe Regional Hospital sold to another company, Hospital Corporation of America made a \$1,000,000 donation to our Foundation! (Thank you again, to Mike Mangan and John Kurtz for making this possible). In 2017, the Foundation merged into Interfaith, and this endowment fund is now overseen by the Interfaith Board of Directors. These funds are invested in a managed account with Morgan Stanley and year after year contribute to our annual operating budget. This also allows us to accept donations of stock or other investments! Here are some other ways that you can support Interfaith for consideration.

LIFE INSURANCE

When the original purpose for a life insurance policy no longer applies - such as educating children now grown or providing financial security for a spouse now deceased - your policy can become a powerful and simple way to support our work. There are three ways to give life insurance to Interfaith Emergency Services:

Name us as beneficiary of the policy. This gift is as simple as updating your beneficiary designation form with the insurance company. You can designate us as the primary beneficiary for a percentage or a specific amount of the death benefit. You can also make us the contingent beneficiary so that we will receive the balance of your policy if your primary beneficiary doesn't survive you.

Make an outright gift of an existing policy. You can name us as the owner and beneficiary of an existing policy. You may receive a federal income tax charitable deduction and reduce your future estate tax liability. If you continue to pay premiums on the policy, each payment is tax deductible as a charitable gift.

Make an outright gift of a new policy. You can take out a new policy and irrevocably name Interfaith Emergency Services as the owner and beneficiary of the insurance contract. This may involve ongoing premium payments by you or a one-time lump sum payment - each payment is tax deductible as a charitable gift.

Next Steps:

1. Contact Karla Greenway, Interfaith CEO at 352-629-8868 ext. 219
2. Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor.
3. If you include Interfaith Emergency Services in your policy, please call Karla Grimsley and she will provide our Federal Tax Identification Number.

Note: Interfaith Emergency Services is not affiliated with and does not provide endorsements for professional advisors. The information in this article is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. References to estate and income taxes include federal taxes only. State income/estate taxes or state law may impact your results.

Over 1,021 Services Save the Day by Amber Poland, Engagement Center Coordinator

Happy Summer! One of my favorite things about this time of year is being able to reflect on the first half of the year and see how much we have accomplished and then be able to set goals for the second half of the year based on those accomplishments. In the first six months of the year, the Engagement Center has been able to provide 1,021 services to 641 households in Marion County. We were able to help 44 individuals with positive housing movement and helped another 16 individuals secure full-time employment. Those services were provided by only 1 staff member and 3 faithful volunteers: Brian, Dani, and Robert. Imagine the increase in the number of lives being changed when we increase our volunteer capacity. I would love to see those numbers double, or even triple by the end of the year, and that is possible with your help.

If you are looking for a way to give back and have some extra time, please consider the Engagement Center. We are looking for 30 volunteers to join us when we open in August, but we plan to start training our new volunteers in July. Nothing compares to the joy of helping the hopeless find hope.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like to be added to our list to receive information for upcoming training, please reach out to our Executive Assistant, Emily Pozo at Emily.Pozo@iesmarion.org.

Want to Make a Difference?

There are lots of ways you can contribute to help our mission here at Interfaith. Financial donations can be made on our website (www.IESmarion.org) or PO Box 992, Ocala FL 34478. Every dollar helps! Other ways you can help? Drop off donations of food or hygiene items - you can find a complete list on our website. Donate to the Interfaith Thrift Store - we pick up donations of gently used furniture and household goods. Those are then sold and fund other ministries! We appreciate you!

Special Gifts

In MEMORY of:

Charlotte Jean Justice
By: Terry Ann Spray

John Hagood
Howard VanDenburgh
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Cathy Meyer
By: Jerry & Linda Mack

Gene Cowan
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By: Andy, Sr & Louann DeSantis

In HONOR of:

Juliana Griffiths & David Johnson
marriage

By: Barbara & Marty Schwartz

Andy DeSantis, Jr's 50th Birthday
David DeSantis

By: Andy, Sr & Louann DeSantis

Robert & Ann Flynn's 50th
Anniversary

By: Kevin & Paula Hammonds

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.

IS INTERFAITH
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**THRIFT
STORE**

Special Thanks to...

Special thanks for these large donations (in pounds): St John's Lutheran Church & School: 718; OTOW & Rec Club Softball: 621; Trinity Baptist: 72; Silver Springs Shores Moose Club: 227; First Assembly of God Church: 121; First Christian Church: 70; First Baptist Church, Ocala: 282; Hospice: 166 and Rose Grove Farm: 473

We are grateful for the money raised at the Brick City Beer and Wine Festival - this year totaling \$150,000 for 3 charities. Interfaith received \$47,000!

We were blessed over the last month for some big groups joining us to volunteer - including Trinity Baptist Church Ameriprise Financial, and Bank of America!

Thank you to our community partner, The Rock, for responding to our plea for shower ministry hygiene (pictured right)! And Leading the Way 4H Club dropped off blessing bags and waters to our homeless friends during Get Fit in the Garden recently!



Volunteer Shares Impact Interfaith has on her Life

By Tina Reid, Volunteer Coordinator

I cannot love my job enough when I hear things like I am about to share with you. Please read a letter that was sent to our CEO, Karla, that I was so happy to read. I hope that if you have been on the fence about volunteering, this is the final push you need. You will truly be the one receiving the blessing!

Hello Karla,

I have worked in the Food Pantry as a volunteer since November. Not officially "retired" yet, but having a much freer schedule, I decided to apply to Interfaith as a volunteer. After Tina gave me the tour and asked what area most interested me, I chose the Food Pantry. Because you see, that is where I met Interfaith for the first time back in 1989-1990. I had just graduated college and had been searching for a teaching job to no avail. I did have a car and an apartment. Having a "poor me" attitude about not being able to get a teaching job, I became depressed and discouraged. My mom suggested I volunteer somewhere so I went to Interfaith and met Gary Linn. He immediately put me to work as a front desk intake person and Gary encouraged me to receive food services.



**Volunteer
Kathy**

As I worked at Interfaith, I saw many people in so much worse circumstances than mine. As I left to go home, and I got into my car, and drove to my nice apartment, I suddenly realized what I did have. Self-pity took a hike!

I eventually did get a good job and have never forgotten the kindness I was shown at Interfaith. And now 34 years later, reading an Interfaith newsletter article about not just writing a check, but being hands-on and helping, is what encouraged me to volunteer. So I'm back with a need; the need to work and be useful, working in the Food Pantry with a wonderful group of fellow volunteers. You don't always have to be homeless and in very bad situations to need a helping hand.

Thank you for all you do! Kathy

If you are interested in being "hands-on and helping", please contact me by filling out an online application through our website, or email tina.reid@iesmarion.org or (352)644-9196. Right now we have a big need in our Social Services office for our front desk position. Training is provided! Looking forward to getting to know you!

Thrift Store News, by Shannon Pickering

Our ministries work together behind the scenes to help people in our community. One example is our Shelter Team, which has a great track record of finding sustainable housing for residents. But what happens when a family moves from a homeless shelter to permanent housing? The Interfaith Thrift Store is proud to provide furniture, kitchenware, linens, and other essentials for residents starting over in their new home. In May, we provided over \$2,000 in gently used items for two residents who completed the Shelter Program at no cost to them. Thanks to donations like yours, we can fund our Center for Life and help residents with home furnishings. Thanks for your ongoing support of our community when you donate to Interfaith.



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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.

Former Backpack Recipient Visits Food 4 Kids

Today it was so hot, and of course the AC unit in the Food 4 Kids building went out. The staff and volunteers were such troopers as we waited for the AC vendor to come out and fix it. When they arrived, Pastor Jody our Facilities Manager, came to get me. He was so excited, he said, "You will not believe this." As I go out to greet the servicemen, one of the guys, Josh, tells me that he was a Food 4 Kids backpack recipient growing up and that food made such a difference in his life. He was so grateful because they needed the food and it ensured he would have something to eat on the weekends. He said that food made him feel loved and looked after.

He could not believe that our tiny little building feeds almost 2,000 Marion County Public School Kids every weekend. All the awesome blessings go on in a tiny little building but our hearts are full of love for our volunteers and our donors that help make it happen every week. In case you need reminding, what you do matters. You are making a difference in someone's life by donating to Food 4 Kids or any of our ministries. You're reminding them, just like for Josh all those years ago, someone cares about them and they are loved. Thank you donors and you God for the blessings He provides.

by Teesha Garcia, Food 4 Kids Manager

Center for Life Needs

The mother of a former client stops by once a month to bring us OTC medications that she gets from her Medicare benefits. She braves the traffic sometimes for the sole purpose of giving back. It's an important mission for her and it is always a pleasure for us to see her.

Speaking of helping – with Summer here and the Center for Life is in need of the following items....

- White cotton socks**
- Personal cleansing wipes**
- Non-Aspirin pain reliever**
- Sun Screen**
- Mosquito repellent**

We are so grateful for your generosity!

by Cherie Galloway,
Center for Life Manager