Interfaith News

Housing 1000 in Action

Marla’s Success Story

Ryan’s Success Story

INTERFAITH’S HOUSING PROGRAMS WORK!

The percentage of men, women and children who have maintained long-term housing stability since working with Interfaith

90%

Chair of the Board, Reverend Meg Decker and CEO Greg Anglea lead Housing 1000.

Interfaith Pledges to Move 1,000 Off the Streets

Interfaith Community Services is committed to ending the struggle of homelessness for 1,000 men, women, and children by June 30, 2018! In collaboration with our community, our Housing 1000 campaign will address the growing crisis of homelessness by moving our homeless neighbors off of the streets, while providing the practical housing assistance they need.

Individuals facing homelessness typically do not have the resources to finance apartment living, nor the essentials to make a comfortable home. Therefore, our two flexible and individualized programs that drive Housing 1000, “Make it a Home” and “Hope in Housing,” provide each individual and family with just the right necessities for long-term housing stability. These programs offer case management, short-term bridge housing, food assistance, rental assistance, move-in expense coverage, and a supply of household items, furniture, moving trucks, and personnel.

Please join this wonderful collaboration of generous donors, volunteers, service clubs, faith centers, corporations, and foundations that are helping to end homelessness.
INTERFAITH PLEDGES TO MOVE
1,000
off the streets!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We kindly ask that you consider a gift to help our neighbors who turn to Interfaith in times of crisis. A gift towards Make It a Home provides each man, woman, and child with the necessities to escape the streets and guide them out of homelessness and into their own homes, where they can be self-sufficient and thrive.

We ask that you, your family, faith center, organization or business join this cause by volunteering, contributing funds, donating furniture and household items, organizing a donation drive, or participating in your own unique way!

To Contribute, Donate or Volunteer
• Visit our website at www.interfaithservices.org; click the yellow DONATE button, and select “Housing 1000” from the pull-down menu.
• Contact Robert Adams, Chief Development Officer at 760-489-6380 ext. 206, or via email at radams@interfaithservices.org
• Send a contribution to Interfaith Community Services, 550 W. Washington Ave, Escondido, CA 92025 – please note “Housing 1000” in the memo section.

Donate
TO ASSIST WITH RENTAL COSTS
& MOVE-IN EXPENSES

Typical range is from $250 to $5,000 (depending on household need)

Donate Cash
to purchase NEW beds!

Purchase or Donate NEW twin and full-size mattresses, box springs and bed frames (for the sake of hygiene and cleanliness, we do not accept used materials).
Make It A Home Move-In Kits

Purchase a “Move-in Kit!” Each kit is comprised of cleaning supplies, tools and paper products, bathroom supplies, kitchen hardware, personal care items, and bedroom supplies and linens. “Move in Kits” provide essential items to our clients who have successfully acquired their own housing, but still need basic household items.

DONATE NEW HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Including tools, paper products, bathroom supplies, kitchen hardware, personal care items, and bedroom linens

Additional Ways to House 1,000: Hope in Housing Program

Hope in Housing is another program that will help us house 1,000. Hope in Housing provides vital monetary assistance towards move-in costs for our formerly homeless North County neighbors. This program is an easy way that your community group, business, faith center, or school can help our neighbors remain off the streets, in their own homes, and ensure long-term housing success.

How Can You Help?

DONATE CASH
Moving into any rental requires a security deposit, first and last month's rent, and miscellaneous fees for applications, utilities and more. Hope in Housing provides assistance to cover these up-front costs, as well as short-term rental assistance.

To make a cash donation, please visit our website at www.interfaithservices.org; click the yellow DONATE button; and select “Hope in Housing” from the drop-down menu.

REFER PROPERTY MANAGERS
We are looking to collaborate with property managers who want to rent, at market-rate, to individuals and families. Our clients have an all-encompassing support structure through Interfaith, and together we are looking to join efforts with property managers as we end homelessness for 1,000 people.

Contact our Rapid Rehousing Program to learn more about the benefits and financial incentives we offer to landlords, by calling (760) 489-6380, ext. 246.

DONATE FURNITURE
Donate towards the purchase of new furniture, or donate lightly used furniture. Small sofas, bedroom dressers, chairs, tables, nightstands and lamps are our greatest needs.

Provides A New Dresser!

Donate towards the purchase of a NEW standard four-drawer dresser, or donate a LIGHTLY USED dresser. This simple piece of furniture is essential for our families and children to store their most basic belongings.
To say that Marla, a native to Southern California, has experienced ups and downs over the last few years would be an understatement. A single mother of five, Marla resided in Georgia before moving to San Diego to live with her sister. Having a support system was helpful for Marla and her kids, until her sister began using drugs. “I couldn’t have her around my children,” said Marla, and she was forced to kick her sister out of their home. While it was tough, it was important for Marla to have stability for her children, so she juggled multiple jobs to pay rent. However, in December 2016 her life was turned upside down. Right before Christmas, Marla was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer; this was the fourth time cancer had been detected in her body and her doctors recommended that she start chemo treatments immediately, forcing her to leave her jobs. No longer employed, Marla was struggling to pay her rent. Eventually in March 2017, remaining in their home was no longer an option. It was then that her landlord gave her Interfaith’s phone number and recommended that she meet with a case manager.

“Interfaith was a life saver,” said Marla. “They told me they would find a home for my family and sure enough, they did.”

Marla worked the next few days with her housing case manager and was able to secure an apartment in Ramona – in the same complex as many of her children’s friends. Finding a new home wasn’t the only good news she received that month though: Marla was told her cancer was minimal enough that she could return to work while continuing treatments. One week before moving into their new home, Marla secured a full-time administrative position with a local trucking company and could start saving again.

Moving in their new home was a relief. However, Marla and her family had been forced to sell many of their belongings in their transition.

Thanks to the generous donors who gave to our Make-It-a-Home program, one week later Marla and her children received new beds, a kitchen table, couches, plates, utensils and more.

“It was so exciting,” said Marla. “I had already started a list of everything we were going to need and it was overwhelming. So to come home one day and have it become completely furnished was an absolute blessing.”

Today, Marla and her children are adjusting to a healthy, happy life at home and are looking forward to their futures. “To have your kids sit there and depend on you while you’re struggling is rough,” said Marla. “We’re all just so grateful that Interfaith was able to help us when we needed it most.”
Ryan had been living on and off the streets since he was 22-years-old. He had been homeless in downtown San Diego for several months when his estranged father reached out to him with a connection to Interfaith Community Services. When Ryan finally reached Interfaith, he was 35-years-old, 130 pounds, and his feet were covered in dirt. His father connected Ryan with Interfaith’s Shelters Program Manager, Lauren Pollick, who was able to place him on the waitlist for the Haven House Year-Round Shelter. That first night Ryan spent in Escondido, he slept on the street outside Interfaith, proving to himself how dedicated he was to this change.

“That’s when I knew I was going to stay clean,” said Ryan. “I was ready.”

Ryan’s journey with Interfaith began in early July 2017, and Ryan has been clean and sober ever since.

Ryan lived in Haven House for 2 months where he was able to receive the support and care needed for his recovery. Battling mental illness and addiction, Ryan grew close with case manager Maria Mercado during his time with Interfaith. “I feel like both Maria and Lauren have been family to me,” said Ryan. “I don’t know what I would have done without them.”

Part of Ryan’s success was due to how engaged he was with his case management and how active he was in his AA meetings. “He was a leader in the shelter and inspired people to get clean and take action to better themselves and better their lives. His success was so inspirational to other people that they also worked to get clean,” said Lauren Pollick.

“There’s a lot of pain here,” said Ryan. “But when the Haven House doors opened every night at 5:30 p.m., I felt relieved and relaxed.”

While staying in Haven House, Ryan focused on his faith and personal growth. His advice to anyone in a similar situation who is considering working with Interfaith is to “Trust the process and be honest with your case manager. That’s the only way you’re going to get help. It’s a lot of work, but it feels incredible on the other side.”

Ryan now has a full-time job at a lumber yard where he happily works eight hour days. “Physical labor like that helps me keep my mind clear and focused,” Ryan said. He now lives in Interfaith’s transitional housing program and continues to work with a case manager to secure permanent housing.
Verisk 3E Hosts 2nd Annual “Volunteer Week” with Interfaith

From October 10th to October 16th, Verisk 3E, a local Verisk Analytics business, joined Interfaith for the second year in a row for their annual “Volunteer Week.” Helping multiple Interfaith programs, Verisk 3E employees participated at a variety of locations, all in the spirit of helping their North County neighbors in need.

“I lived at the Aster Street apartments as a child, so giving back and volunteering where I lived so long ago meant the world to me,” said Silvia Kusel, a Verisk 3E “Volunteer Week” participant. “It was the second place I lived coming to the United States. My mother passed away shortly after, so going back and serving the community where she lived made it special to me. Interfaith has done a great job at making these apartments look wonderful – especially the garden! I am looking forward to going back next year and the year after that.”

Founded in 1988, Verisk 3E provides data and information services which enable companies to improve compliance with Environmental, Health & Safety (EH&S) regulations and supply chain obligations through the entire lifecycle of chemicals and products. Verisk 3E also prides itself on their BetterWorld program, which connects colleagues and families to meaningful community opportunities that reflect the company’s shared values, team culture and mission. Through focused, measurable initiatives, Verisk 3E seeks to support the sustainable social and environmental welfare of their three key areas of focus: “Land, Ocean and People” on a local, national and global scale.

Building upon those goals, Verisk 3E employees spent their “Volunteer Week” serving as:

**Food Distribution Friends:** Verisk 3E team members helped pass out food at food distributions, which are opportunities for clients and community members to receive food so that their families don’t go a day without a meal.

**Gardeners on Aster Street:** The gardens on Aster Street are always in need of some trimming, weeding, and maintenance, especially in the fall when we prepare the foliage for winter.

**Garage Organizers:** For the team members who think of themselves as “professional organizers” or see the benefit of helping turn a garage of donations into a retail store, Verisk 3E helped Interfaith create easy access to donated items to make a family’s new apartment a home!

**Hygiene and Winter Weather Kit Makers:** Hygiene products are always one of Interfaith’s top needs and provide people with dignity and well-being. Verisk 3E members made kits to help our clients prepare for colder weather, which included collecting socks, gloves, scarves, hats, lip balm, and lotion.

Interfaith thanks the whole Verisk 3E team for dedicating so much of their time this fall to helping Interfaith and the clients we serve! We hope to continue to welcome them back for their “Volunteer Week” for many years to come, and appreciate their generosity and hard work.

A) Verisk 3E employees Helene Borja, Jane Carlson, Jim Bunnell hand out food to those in need. B) Verisk 3E employees Stephanie Fleischer and Taylor Burrows pose with fresh fruit and dry goods. C) Verisk 3E employees Deon Travers, Silvia Kusel and Derek Wong garden on Aster St.

For information on how your corporate team can give back to the community, contact Micki Hickox, Volunteer Coordinator, at mhickox@interfaithservices.org.
Interfaith Celebrates Storytelling at 2017 Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, September 27th, Interfaith celebrated another year of growth and success at our 2017 Annual Meeting. Over 300 guests gathered at San Rafael Catholic Church in Rancho Bernardo for a two-part meeting. During the first hour, guests were welcomed by Greg Anglea, Executive Director, and heard a review of Interfaith’s year, stories of success from former clients of several programs and services, and congratulated businessman and former Board Member Mike Meziere, this year’s recipient of the Saemi Award.

During the second portion of the meeting, guests were welcomed to join us for lunch and share their own Interfaith stories.

Interfaith thanks all of the community members, volunteers, donors, city officials, former clients, and funders who attended our 2017 Annual Meeting. As always, we so appreciate your support of our organization and our community members in need of a helping hand. With your help, we will be able to empower more of our neighbors than ever to return to a path of self-sufficiency.

A) CEO Greg Anglea speaks with Fernando prior to meeting. B) Staff members Lauren Abram, Julie Bjorklund and Valerie Morgan. C) Greg Anglea welcomes Interfaith volunteer, Jesse Gonzalez. D) Interfaith volunteers Anni-Michele Evans and Becky Flanagan with Volunteer Coordinator Micki Hickox. E) Saemi Award winner Mike Meziere is honored. F) Board Member Chris Carrick with former Board Member George Liggins. G) Staff members Jayli Barkley, Jon Lewis, Tharia Corbett-Young with Board Member Carol Brooks. H) Vista Community Clinic staff member Angel Flores and Director of Housing Casey Nguyen enjoy lunch.
**housing 1000**

You can ensure our success by supporting the following needs:

### Make It A Home
- NEW twin and full-size beds
- Four-drawer bedroom dressers
- Small apartment-appropriate furniture
- 72-item Household Move-in Kits

### Hope in Housing Rental Assistance
- Need per household ranges from $250 up to $5,000

### Haven House Year-Round Shelter
- 49-bed bridge housing shelter

### To Contribute, Donate or Volunteer
- Visit our website at www.interfaithservices.org; click the yellow DONATE button and select “Housing 1000” from the pull-down menu.
- Contact Robert Adams, Chief Development Officer at 760-489-6380 ext. 206, or via email at radams@interfaithservices.org
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