

SPRING 2016



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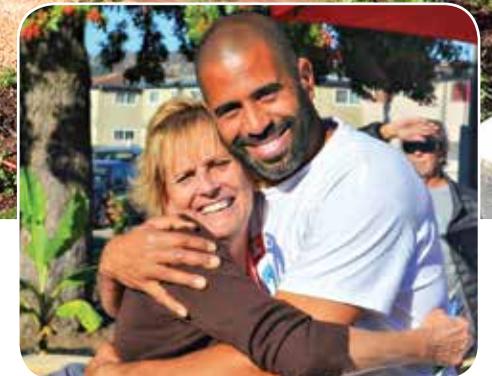
Interfaith News

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Celebrity Landscaper Transforms Family Housing Apartments

During the weekend before Thanksgiving, over 220 volunteers gathered at Interfaith's Family Housing apartments on Aster Street in Escondido to complete a total makeover of the program's outdoor space. The group spearheading the project, Sustainable Heroes, transformed the area used for community gatherings, program meetings and more into a bright, warm, and welcoming space that will surely be enjoyed by program participants for years to come.

"Interfaith creates a community among our Family Housing participants to improve their lives and we've done a lot of that here on Aster Street," said Greg Anglea, Executive Director of Interfaith. "But, what the Sustainable Heroes volunteers created with the outdoor space has taken that to a whole other level."

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*Helping People
Help Themselves*





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- A) Sustainable Heroes volunteer Tracy helps plant bushes, trees and flowers around the apartments
- B) The completed landscaping project features shared spaces where families can congregate and socialize
- C) Sustainable Heroes volunteer Isabell joins in on the overhaul of Interfaith's Family Housing outdoor space
- D) Sustainable Heroes leader Ahmed Hassan and Interfaith's Executive Director Greg Anglea celebrate the completion of the project
- E) Volunteers Tiffanie, Jean, Antonio, and Susan celebrate the completion of the project at the unveiling ceremony
- F) Sustainable Heroes volunteers help build and fill planter boxes that will allow residents to grow their own vegetables

Landscaping Makeover...Continued from front page

Volunteers with Sustainable Heroes made the trek to Escondido from as far away as New Jersey, Georgia and Northern California to make the project happen. Prior to their arrival, the group solicited businesses for both monetary and in-kind donations, receiving \$18,000 of synthetic turf, \$20,000 in plants, and thousands more in brick, wood, gravel, and other supplies.

"If you had to pay a contractor to do this project – to design it, to plan it and to execute it – I'd say it would have cost about \$250,000," said Amed Hassan, leader of the Sustainable Heroes volunteer group. "We literally planted a jungle."

Best described as a "landscaping blitz," volunteers refurbished playground equipment, laid down new grass, gravel and mulch, planted hundreds of bushes and flowers, built new garden boxes in which residents can grow vegetables, and installed a fire pit. Efforts were put forth to make the outdoor space as drought-tolerant as possible.

"Let's give the people a better space," Hassan said he thought to himself before beginning the project. "Let's give them a nicer space and something they can be proud of. And let's do something for Interfaith – a place that does so much for other people."

Interfaith Gives the Gift of Shelter with Year-Round Haven House



Interfaith Community Services gave an unprecedented gift to homeless individuals in North County last holiday season – the region’s first year-round emergency shelter. The new *Haven House* Year-Round Emergency Shelter opened its doors on December 23, 2015 to provide up to 49 homeless men and women each night with a safe, secure, and warm place to sleep.

“That we were able to open *Haven House* during this last holiday season was truly a gift,” said Greg Anglea, Executive Director. “We hope this made the holiday season a little brighter for nearly 50 of our neighbors in need

and we will continue to serve them as best we can until the shelter is no longer needed.”

Haven House focuses on providing shelter to those who are employed or are on-track to gain employment for whom housing will allow them to achieve self-sufficiency. Residents are welcome to eat breakfast at our *Margaret R. Freund* Family Nutrition Center in the mornings, where they also have access to laundry, showers and sack lunches they can take with them for later in the day, and then the shelter closes. While the shelter is closed, residents travel to work, attend meetings with their case managers, or resume their job search until the shelter re-opens its doors around 5:00 p.m.

While an initial matching gift of \$250,000 was received from an anonymous donor to open the shelter, Interfaith is asking for help from the community to raise the rest of the funds needed for the project. Estimated first-year costs are \$500,000, including the renovation of the shelter and operating costs including food, staffing and access to programs. To date, \$60,000 is still needed in community support to fully fund the year-round shelter for its first 12 months.

Interfaith Community Services thanks the over 225 private charitable donors from our community, including the **David T. and Dorris E. Staples Foundation** for their grant of \$50,000, in support of the *Haven House* Year-Round Emergency Shelter.



To make a donation to the *Haven House* Year-Round Emergency Shelter, please visit our website, www.interfaithservices.org, click the “Donate” button, and select “Year Round Emergency Shelter” from the drop-down menu.

For more information, please call Chief Development Officer, Robert Adams at (760) 489-6380, ext. 206.



Haven House Grand “Unclosing” Event Wednesday, March 30, 2016

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

550 W. Washington Ave.
Escondido, CA 92025

Join us in celebrating North County’s first year-round shelter for men and women! Interfaith Community Services invites you to join us at our *Haven House* Year-Round Emergency Shelter Grand “Unclosing” Event. This momentous occasion marks the first spring that *Haven House* will not be closing, and will instead keep its doors open to homeless residents of North County until it is no longer needed. Tour the shelter, hear the story of a current resident of *Haven House* and learn how you can help end homelessness in North County.

For more information or to R.S.V.P., please contact Lauren Holt, Communications Coordinator at unclosing@interfaithservices.org or (760) 489-6380, ext. 258.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Client Intake Volunteer Team: Meet a Few of the Smiling Faces that Greet Our Clients Each Morning

From Buffalo, New York, Amanda Roth got her BA at Butler University and her MSW at IU. After graduating, she worked in Child Protective Services for 17 years, referring clients to Interfaith when necessary. Upon retiring, Amanda decided to start volunteering with Interfaith and because of her background in social work, client intake suited her skill set perfectly. Amanda also assists at Interfaith's General Membership Meetings, where she helps set up meeting materials and takes minutes.

A San Diego native, Kelly Palmer received her BA in Psychology. As a volunteer with Interfaith, Kelly loves working 1-on-1 with the clients and helping connect them to available resources. "I love that Interfaith really strives to get people back on their feet," said Kelly. When not at Interfaith, Kelly also volunteers with the "I Can Bike!" program, teaching disabled children how to ride bicycles.



Client intake Volunteers, from left to right, : Kelly Palmer, Marilyn Thompson, Sheila Williams, Amanda Roth, and Jessica Lopez.

a teacher and counselor for the Fallbrook Unified School District. When her daughters were in high school, they began volunteering at Interfaith, which eventually led Marilyn to sign up for her own volunteer position. Because of her career in nurturing and helping others, her favorite part of giving back at Interfaith is the people that she's met – both other volunteers and the clients.

A former teacher in the Poway Unified School District, Sheila Williams was referred to Interfaith by another teacher at her school. Dedicated to her position, Sheila has gone above and beyond her job description, and made a "cheat sheet" for the other client intake volunteers on the resources available to clients of Interfaith. She says her two favorite things about her position are the friends she's made and seeing how appreciative the clients are.

Marilyn Thompson was born in Venezuela and raised in Escondido, where she was

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are a vital part of our work at Interfaith. Whether you are interested in volunteering individually or as part of a group, we have a variety of projects to suit your interests and skill level! While new opportunities evolve daily, below are a few examples of ways you can support Interfaith as a volunteer:

Food Distribution Friends

Assist at food distribution sites by setting up and arranging food items, distributing non-perishable food, and stocking pantry. Volunteers are needed to assist with our bi-weekly food distributions throughout the North County Coastal Region. This is a great project for individuals or groups.

- **Time Commitment:** 2nd Monday of the month: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, or 4th Monday of the month: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- **Location:** Carlsbad

Client Intake Volunteer

Provide intake, assessment and referrals for homeless and low-income populations, with the goal of moving clients from crisis to self-sufficiency.

- **Time Commitment:** One day or multiple days a week, for 3 to 4-hour shifts
- **Location:** Escondido

Nurse (RN, ADN, LVN) Trainer and Supervisor

Provide health education to veterans housed at Interfaith facilities. Supervise nursing program interns as they provide training to veterans on topics such as PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries, and general health issues.

- **Time Commitment:** Weekly (days/times negotiable)
- **Location:** Escondido

Volunteers help to administer many of our life-changing services. If you are interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact Micki Hickox, Volunteer Coordinator, at mhickox@interfaithservices.org or (760) 489-6380, ext. 204.



Haven House Provides Stability for Hard-Working Resident

Born in San Diego, Felix was living in Eastlake when he was in a traumatic car accident. Riding his bicycle to work one day, he was struck by a car, leaving Felix with a broken hip and unable to work. As soon as he was able to, Felix moved to Puerto Rico to be closer to his family as he recuperated from his injuries and got back on his feet.

When he returned to San Diego in July 2015, Felix moved in with his sister in North County. While adjusting to life back in California, he focused on his number one priority: finding a job. After searching and applying for jobs online, Felix went in for an interview at Denny's in Escondido; he was hired on the spot and was asked to come in for his first shift the next day. Working the night shift five days a week, Felix began washing dishes, bussing tables and taking out the trash.

Felix finally felt like things were on the right path, until his routine was turned upside down when his sister lost her apartment, forcing Felix to live on the streets. "I just needed a place to lay down during the day since I was working nights,"

said Felix. "I started sleeping in the park or at the creek for a few hours each day so I could regroup before going back to work." Eventually, he heard about Interfaith and the new *Haven House* Year-Round Emergency Shelter. Felix soon met with a case manager and moved in on the first day the shelter opened, December 23, 2015.

"I'm glad that I found Interfaith for shelter," said Felix. "I didn't want to jeopardize my job, so I just needed a place to shower and sleep so I could be presentable at work. Right now, I'm focusing, staying positive and staying clean."

Now that he has a safe place to sleep in addition to his job at Denny's, Felix's sights are set on saving up enough money to move into his own place.

"Even though you need to help yourself, Interfaith has helped me a lot too," said Felix. "I'm doing all that I can right now. Patience is the biggest thing for me right now. I'm really blessed."

Mendenhall Family Estate Donates \$13,000 to Interfaith

Interfaith recently received a \$13,623 gift from the estate of Callie and Fred Mendenhall. Longtime charitable donors and Heritage Club members, Callie and Fred moved to the San Marcos area in 1975 and ran an avocado grove on their property. "Our parents greatly valued the services Interfaith provides to those in need in the Escondido area," said their daughters in a recent letter. The couple was particularly passionate about veterans needs and frequently donated in-kind items such as food and hygiene supplies. We thank the Mendenhall Family for their longtime dedication to Interfaith and for including our organization in their estate plans.



TYA Student Prepares for Life Beyond High School



It is the beginning of his last semester and Dorian, a senior at El Camino High School, is looking ahead to graduation. While this is just his second year in the Transitional Youth Academy (TYA), Dorian says everything he has learned through the program has successfully prepared him for his future once he walks across the stage and receives his diploma.

“Now I have confidence, experience, and opportunities,” said Dorian. “I’m nervous to graduate, but I’m so excited too.”

Dorian has been a star example of what TYA can help its students achieve: he is a member of the pole vaulting team in the track & field program, he was a summer intern at the Boys & Girls Club in Oceanside, and he has maintained his grades and class attendance despite keeping a busy schedule.

“This has all helped me develop real skills I will really use in the future,” said Dorian. “The mentors are inspiring and have lots of wise words to share, and I’ve made a lot of really good friends here.”

While it is hard for him to imagine, Dorian will soon no longer be on campus at El Camino every day. As that time rapidly approaches, Dorian has made big plans for his collegiate academic career. With a passion for the arts – specifically animation – Dorian plans on attending Mira Costa Community College in the fall before transferring to The Art Institute or a similar university.

“I always thought I would be in high school forever,” said Dorian. “But now that it’s time to leave I just can’t stop thinking about how I never thought it would happen.”



Representative Charles Crew pictured left with Interfaith Chief Development Officer Robert Adams.

Rancho Bernardo Rotary Club Gives \$1,000 Donation

Interfaith thanks the Rotary Club of Rancho Bernardo for donating \$1,000 this month to our Senior programs and services. The club has supported Interfaith for many years by donating approximately \$20,000, in addition to hosting food drives and participating in volunteer projects. We thank them for their tremendous support and dedication to our North County community, and look forward to working with them for many more years to come.



Grace Lutheran Church Builds Ladders for Haven House Bunks

Last December, Grace Lutheran Church, led by volunteers Kathy and Kris Peters, noticed a need for ladders on the bunk beds of the new Haven House Year-Round Emergency Shelter – so they built them! With materials donated by Home Depot, the group built ladders for all 49 beds in the shelter, making it easier for residents sleeping on the top bunks to get in and out of bed. Interfaith thanks Kathy, Kris, Grace Lutheran, and Home Depot for donating their time and materials for this project.

Over 500 Community Members Receive Holiday Gifts Thanks to Adopt-A-Family Program

Interfaith received extraordinary support from over 100 adopters, including individuals, families, organizations and faith centers, that spread cheer among the most vulnerable North County families during the holiday season. These dedicated volunteers and donors fulfilled customized holiday wish lists to ensure that children, parents, veterans, and seniors could each receive special gifts. Through robust donor support, Interfaith was able to provide gifts and more importantly, comfort and joy, to over 500 homeless and low-income individuals.

Beneficiaries of the Adopt-a-Family program include Angela, who is currently enrolled in Interfaith's Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Thanks to the Adopt-a-Family program, Angela was able to provide a memorable Christmas for her two sons.

"It's helping me so much," said Angela. "I just started working at a new job, so this year is rough. We are looking for a new home now, and these gifts are just so wonderful."

Volunteer and Donor Relations Manager, Chelsea Buck, was overwhelmed by the support received this year, commenting "The Adopt-a-Family program is truly a collaborative effort on behalf of Interfaith staff, community partners, donors, and volunteers. Their generosity and spirit amazes me each year. This is what the holidays are about – embodying the spirit of giving to those who are less fortunate. Thank you to all of those who make it possible!"



Adopt-A-Scholar Helps Deserving Students Enjoy Graduation

Interfaith has plenty of reasons to celebrate this spring: 51 students from Oceanside High School and 15 students from El Camino High School enrolled in our Transitional Youth Academy (TYA) will graduate in June. While this is an exciting time for the students and their families, it can also be an extremely stressful one. For many, the \$300 graduation fee (cap and gown rental, yearbook, Grad Night, etc.) is beyond their financial ability. The students have worked incredibly hard over the past four years to overcome significant obstacles to become successful both inside and out of the classroom. Interfaith wants to ensure that each and every student is able to enjoy this very special day.

You can help our TYA students enjoy their high school graduation by participating in our 2016 Adopt-A-Scholar Program. Every dollar of your donation will be used to cover the costs of caps and gowns, graduation breakfast, Grad Night, help pay for summer internships and other expenses that add up to celebrate high school graduation. Your donation allows our students to commemorate and celebrate their hard work; help make this a day they will never forget.

To make a donation to our Adopt-A-Scholar program, please visit our website, www.interfaithservices.org, click the "Donate" button, and select "TYA Adopt-a-Scholar" from the drop-down menu. For more information, please call Chief Development Officer, Robert Adams at (760) 489-6380 ext. 206.





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Important Topics for You and Your Tax Advisor

It is a great time to discuss with your tax advisor ways to reduce income, capital gains, and estate taxes while giving a significant gift to Interfaith Community Services and your other favorite charities!

- Give a charitable gift through your retirement plan (IRA). This offers you a full income tax exemption and reduces estate taxes. You must be at least 70 ½ years old and the gift cannot be more than \$100,000.
- Give a charitable gift of stocks and securities. This reduces income, capital gains and estate tax.
- Name Interfaith Community Services and/or other charities as the beneficiary of your will and/or trust. You can set a specific amount, percentage or what remains after family distributions.

Typically these gift alternatives do not have an adverse effect on your current lifestyle while providing a generous gift to charity. Your support of Interfaith Community Services will have an impact on our ability to serve the homeless and disadvantaged for years to come.

Please contact Robert Adams, Chief Development Officer at (760) 489-6380, ext. 206 or radams@interfaithservices.org if we can be of any assistance.

** In all cases when discussing the financial, estate and tax implications of a gift to any charity, you are encouraged to consult with your own financial advisors.*

For further information, please call Robert Adams, Chief Development Officer, at (760) 803-9615 cell or radams@interfaithservices.org