In late 2017, Interfaith opened the very first community-based veterans “Bridge Housing” program in San Diego County. Operating out of our Division Street apartments in Oceanside, Interfaith’s Bridge Housing provides safe, high-quality housing and supportive services for homeless male and female veterans who are working toward housing of their own but are currently living on the street. Since the program launched, fifteen veterans have already graduated from our Bridge Housing and into homes of their own.

Interfaith has also launched a new, strength-based counseling modality called Post-Traumatic Growth. The program is led by Interfaith’s Clinical Director Dr. Megan Hawker, an Army Veteran who completed her doctoral thesis on Post-Traumatic Growth. Interfaith is helping veterans identify their strengths – often garnered during their military service – and utilize them to overcome traumatic experiences. With support from the Genentech Foundation, Interfaith also offers technology-focused vocational training, helping our veterans overcome Post-Traumatic Stress while training for and entering into well-paying, sustainable careers.
For the past several years, Sidney “Big Sid” has been a fixture throughout San Diego’s North County. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Big Sid has spent years connecting veterans to housing and employment through programs at Interfaith Community Services. While he never imagined contacting Interfaith to seek help for himself, that day came due to a complication in his living situation when he was forced to find a place of his own. After couch surfing for a few months, Big Sid resorted to living in his storage unit – which he affectionately refers to as his “bat cave” – until he turned to Interfaith for help.

Reaching out to Interfaith, Sid was able to secure a spot in our transitional housing program for veterans. While moving into a new apartment with strangers proved to be an adjustment, “I whipped the apartment into shape in no time,” said Sid. “I cleaned and created daily schedules so we could all be respectful of each other’s space.”

For two years, Sid lived in Interfaith’s transitional housing, all the while volunteering with Operation Hope, coaching football with Escondido’s Pop Warner Football Club, and attending classes while working at Palomar College. Today, Sid has graduated from Interfaith’s transitional housing program and is happily residing in an apartment of his own in Oceanside.

“I want to serve my community,” said Sid. “I want to advocate for those that don’t have a voice.”

Through hard work and a strong drive to succeed, Sid was determined to find a home, and today he is using his experiences to help others. “I don’t want people to be like me, I want them to do BETTER than me.”

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Sidney “Big Sid” spent two years in Interfaith’s veterans transitional housing program before moving into permanent housing last fall.

Donate lightly used furniture appropriate for small apartments such as small sofas, bedroom dressers, chairs, tables, nightstands, and lamps.
Local Philanthropists Jack and Caroline Raymond’s $50,000 Matching Gift Towards Housing 1000 Campaign Complete

Interfaith is thrilled to announce that the $50,000 needed to match Jack and Caroline Raymond’s gift to the Housing 1000 campaign has been met!

Longtime supporters of Interfaith’s housing programs, the Raymonds – after whom Raymond’s Refuge, Interfaith’s housing for formerly homeless disabled seniors, is named – have played a major role in San Diego’s philanthropic community for decades. By announcing this matching gift for Housing 1000, the Raymond’s further demonstrate their commitment to supporting North County’s individuals and families in need of a hand up, not a hand out.

“Jack and Caroline have supported Interfaith’s efforts to end homelessness across North San Diego County for the last several decades,” said Greg Anglea, CEO of Interfaith Community Services. “Their continued support of Interfaith’s Raymond’s Refuge, the Haven House Year-Round Shelter, and now the Housing 1000 campaign are just a few of the ways they have proven themselves to be outstanding community and philanthropic leaders.”

Since December 2017, every dollar donated to the Housing 1000 campaign was matched by the Raymonds, dollar for dollar, up to $50,000. Interfaith thanks Jack and Caroline, and all of our donors who contributed to this incredible showcase of community support for Housing 1000!
Casa de las Campanas – Seniors with Heart

Casa de las Campanas, a not-for-profit retirement community located in Rancho Bernardo, has been a strong supporter of Interfaith Community Services for a number of years. This support comes in a very special way – by sharing the outstanding culinary arts served daily at their facility. Each week, the kitchen staff at Casa de las Campanas – led by Executive Chef Stephen Window – delivers meals to Interfaith that we then serve to our homeless North County neighbors. As they say at Casa, “Great Taste is on the Menu,” and because of this organization’s generosity, Interfaith is able to treat our clients to the same high-quality, nutritious food choices at our Margaret R. Freund Family Nutrition Center in Escondido, as at Casa de las Campanas.

After experiencing homelessness in 2017, Brian lived in Interfaith’s Haven House Year-Round Shelter before moving into his own home last December.

Brian had been working in retail for over 20 years when he found himself unemployed after losing his job at Brookstone due to post-holiday layoffs. It was January of 2017 and very few of the companies Brian was researching were hiring at that time. After reaching out to family members for assistance, Brian became increasingly worried about his future. “That’s when I started stressing,” said Brian.

Around this same time, Brian lost both his mother and beloved pet cat; these losses had a severe effect on his mental health. When he was asked to leave his apartment and was forced to find housing within a short period of time, Brian continued to spiral downward. Unable to find a new place to live, Brian and his remaining cat, Nala, found themselves homeless and sleeping in a partially wooded area in rural Escondido.

“I had never experienced it before and I thought the worst,” said Brian. “Everything races through your mind like ‘What are people going to be like on the streets?’ or ‘What am I going to do?’”

Before Brian had resorted to sleeping on the streets, he had already begun the intake process for Interfaith’s Haven House Year-Round Shelter. He was homeless for a little over a week when he received news: there was a bed available for him in Haven House, however Nala would not be able to live in the shelter with him. Entrusting a close friend with Nala, Brian moved into Haven House and lived there for seven months, creating very special bonds with fellow Interfaith clients and staff members during that time.

“Interfaith has been just amazing,” said Brian. “I am so incredibly grateful for everybody there. Just getting into the shelter made such a huge difference for me. You have a place to sleep. The bed is comfortable. And yes, there are 48 other beds in there, but I liked that. I liked the people; I got to know everyone in there.”

During the seven months Brian lived in Haven House, he was learning to cope with the traumas he had endured, while also working with his case manager to find both a job and permanent housing. Soon thereafter, Brian found a job working at a local gas station, which proved to be a great start for his new life.

Shortly after obtaining this position, Brian’s case manager contacted him with even more good news: that he had qualified for the Rapid Rehousing program and Interfaith would be able to help him move into his own home. In early December 2017, Brian moved into his new home in Escondido and was ecstatic to finally be reunited with Nala.

“It’s been bittersweet!” said Brian. “Interfaith has been so incredible and I miss going back there every day. It feels like a family.”

The Casa de las Campanas nutrition program is led by Executive Chef Stephen Window and supported by Executive Director, Kim Dominy.
USS Midway Sails Again for Veterans

The USS Midway Foundation generously granted $25,000 to Interfaith Community Services’ veterans programs this year! This gift will be used to provide support services and housing resources for our local veteran community. As the largest provider of veteran services in North San Diego County, Interfaith found housing for 511 veterans in 2017 alone. Thanks to the continued support of the USS Midway Foundation, Interfaith looks forward to helping even more of our nation’s heroes this year as they transition from military to civilian life.

Genentech Foundation Funds Innovative Veteran Employment Programs

To augment Interfaith’s employment development program for veterans, the Genentech Foundation granted $160,000 in 2017 to expand our veteran career and educational pathways to enter the growing field of biotech in the San Diego area. This grant provided enhanced support in behavioral health, job development, and coaching with a focus on strengths-based growth. The funds also provided support for tuition costs for educational training, on-the-job training, and internship wages. Funded from January of last year through December 31, 2017, the program provided behavioral health services for 50 veterans, and has assisted 12 with successfully gaining employment.

The Patriots Connection at Rancho Santa Fe Supports Local Homeless Veterans

In 2017, the Patriots Connection Fund at the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation awarded Interfaith $15,000 to help address the comprehensive issues facing low-income and homeless veterans. Interfaith’s services for veterans are specifically designed to meet the unique needs of those who have served their country while providing housing, employment, behavioral health, and supportive services with appropriate trauma-informed care practices. These programs strive to prevent and end homelessness for veterans in North San Diego County and ensure veterans can successfully transition their military experience to civilian careers.

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.

3 WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE, DONATE OR VOLUNTEER

1. Visit our website at www.interfaithservices.org and click the yellow “Donate” button
2. Mail a contribution to Interfaith Community Services
   550 W. Washington Ave.
   Escondido, CA 92025
3. Contact Robert Adams, Chief Development Officer, at (760) 489-6380 ext. 206, or via email at radams@interfaithservices.org
Interfaith Community Services is sad to announce that longtime supporter Dorothy Hawthorne passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Monday, July 3, 2017; she was 86 years old. Dorothy and her loving husband, Tom Hawthorne, enjoyed 69 years of marriage and were each other’s best friends.

Dorothy volunteered at a number of charities and served as a Gray Lady at Balboa Naval Hospital during the Vietnam War.

Dorothy’s experience with active duty military and veterans at Balboa later inspired both her and Tom to provide the lead gift to create the Hawthorne Veteran and Family Resource Center in Escondido.

The Hawthorne Center is home of the 32-bed Interfaith Recuperative Care program serving both homeless veterans and non-veterans post-hospitalization for physical and/or mental health conditions in a caring, healing environment. Since opening in fall of 2016, 75% of the Hawthorne Veteran and Family Resource Center clients have exited to safe housing.

Dorothy was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1930. She met Tom at the age of 16 while working at a Thrifty Drug Store soda fountain and they married in 1948.

Dorothy supported Tom in his successful 50-year career as the Caterpillar tractor dealer at Hawthorne Machinery Company. Dorothy loved the sun and being at home to tend to her flowers while surrounded by their dogs, cats, chickens, and sheep. She was a devoted woman and her faith was rooted in the Escondido branch of the Community of Christ church.

Dorothy will be remembered as a quiet, gentle and generous woman – especially to those who had the opportunity to know her at Interfaith. She was kind to everyone she encountered and was known around our offices for the delicious oranges she would grow and distribute in Interfaith’s sack lunches.

Dorothy is survived by her loving husband Tom, who continues to generously support Interfaith and the rest of North San Diego County.

Dorothy will be missed, but her legacy will live on as the namesake of the Hawthorne Veteran and Family Resource Center.
You’re Invited:
Kids4Community to Host 5K Benefiting Interfaith

Looking for a fun way to give back to your North County community in 2018? Join local non-profit Kids4Community as they host their Bright Futures 5K to help our low-income and homeless neighbors in San Diego. Proceeds from the event will benefit Interfaith Community Services.

**When:** Sunday, March 25, 2018

**Time:** 7:30 a.m.
*Kids 1K “Fun Run” (ages 8 & under) will start at 8:45 a.m.*

**Location:** Embarcadero Marina Park South
200 Marina Park Way, San Diego, CA 92101

Kids4Community strives to help children and families give back to their communities in meaningful ways. They do this by partnering with charitable organizations – such as Interfaith – to develop opportunities targeted specifically for children ages five and up in order to introduce them to charitable giving from an early age.

The Bright Futures 5K benefits Interfaith and will help us continue to feed our local homeless population, as well as provide shelter, self-sufficiency, and employment programs to those in need of a hand up, in addition to transitional and permanent housing options.

Register for the Kids4Community Bright Futures 5K by visiting www.kids4.org/5k/

Need Help?

**BETTY AND MELVIN COHN CENTER**
550 W. Washington Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025
760.489.6380

**CARLSBAD SERVICE CENTER**
5731 Palmer Way, Suite A
Carlsbad, CA 92010
760.448.5696

**COASTAL SERVICE CENTER**
4700 North River Road
Oceanside, CA 92057
760.721.2117

**COASTAL VETERANS CENTER**
1617 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058
760.529.9979

www.InterfaithServices.org

The cost of moving into any rental is often well beyond the means of individuals and their families. Moving costs can include application fees, security deposits, first and last month rent, utility fees and more.

Generous donations to Offering Hope in Housing provide assistance with these costs. Per situation the typical need ranges from $250 to $5,000.

*Please consider a contribution!*

Offering Hope in Housing

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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.