Amazing Story of Recovery Marks Evening to Honor Interfaith Volunteers & Supporters

At the recent Honoring the Spirit of Giving & Volunteerism appreciation event (see pages 2-3) Robert Constantino and Judy Balsavich told their remarkable story.

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The Leichtag Foundation has established a matching gift of $300,000 to benefit Interfaith. As a result, each generous contribution up to $300,000 will be matched dollar-for-dollar!

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"Interfaith saved our lives"
To honor and cherish supporters and volunteers of Interfaith Community Services, over 250 people gathered at the beautiful Orfila Vineyards and Winery in Escondido, on April 18 to celebrate the Honoring the Spirit of Giving and Volunteerism Appreciation Event. Leading the cheers of staff, volunteers, and donors celebrating the impact of the important work of Interfaith, Chief Development Officer, Robert Adams, and Volunteer Coordinator, Micki Hickox, led a rousing program.

Also featured were former Interfaith clients and now successful businesspeople Robert Constantino, owner of Balloon Guru, and Judy Balsavich, owner of SunGold Soaps. Their inspirational story of success captivated the audience. The evening concluded with the announcement by Greg Anglea, CEO of Interfaith, of the $300,000 challenge matching gift from the Leichtag Foundation. All who attended felt the evening magic as we celebrated both donor and volunteer contributions during this fun and elegant event.

1) Deborah and Chrystal Williams
2) Paula and Robert Traber
3) Amanda and Jim Roth
4) Yusef Miller
5) “Pep Rally” led by Micki Hickox and Bob Adams
6) Jan and Jim Evans
7) 250 guests enjoyed the evening
8) Diana and Frank Cavanaugh
9) Kathy & Jim Hudson and Martina & Tom Reed
10) Suzi and Chuck Gold
11) Marilyn and Scott Galloway
12) Judi Sanders and Larry Childerston
13) Sharon and Howard Knodt
14) Ann and George Lievers
United Methodist Church of Vista – Cable Fund

The Cable Fund, held at the United Methodist Church of Vista, has again supported the important work of Interfaith Community Services. Focusing on Vista, the Cable Fund provided an overall grant of $20,000, with $12,000 given to benefit Interfaith’s Social Services programs, and $8,000 given in support of Interfaith’s Offering Hope in Housing Rental Assistance program.

Carlsbad Charitable Foundation Announces Support

On May 2, Gayleen Freeman, volunteer leader of the Carlsbad Charitable Foundation, announced that Interfaith Community Services will receive a $15,000 grant. This grant will benefit the expansion of Interfaith’s services at the Carlsbad Unified School District and will connect families of CUSD high school students facing multiple barriers such as homelessness, foster care, poor academic performance, behavioral problems or health challenges, involvement with gangs or the juvenile justice system, social and family issues, and/or learning disabilities with services.

Gary & Mary West Foundation Gives and Gets Involved

In support of Interfaith Community Services’ Senior Program, the Gary & Mary West Foundation provided a $75,000 grant last August. Since then, representatives of the West Foundation, including Program Officer, Vyan Nguyen, have been working closely with Interfaith’s Senior Program staff to implement coordinated client care and enhance quality outcomes. It is an honor for Interfaith to have a leading, nationally-recognized organization like the Gary & Mary West Foundation to collaborate with to ensure their generosity and efforts truly impact the lives of our seniors in need.

San Diego County Employees Help Interfaith

San Diego County Employees’ Charitable Organization (CECO) is an organization consisting of employees and retirees of San Diego County. President of CECO, Mavette Trinidad Sadile, recently announced two grants to Interfaith, including a $3,915.44 grant towards Interfaith’s Housing 1000 program – specifically towards the purchase of new twin and full-size beds – as well as a $1,000 grant to purchase much-needed food for individuals and families in need. These gifts support our efforts to end and prevent homelessness by not only providing for the basic needs of our homeless neighbors, but also by providing approximately 40 beds to furnish their apartments.

Help Us Achieve the Match!

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

We Care About Your Security and Privacy

Rarely does Interfaith publish or place on social media the names of individuals or families who donate to our work. In fact, we welcome your anonymous donations. Unlike many charities, Interfaith does not include long lists of donors in our print materials or on our website. We will not share, sell, trade, or exchange your name and other contact information with any outside parties. However, Interfaith does work with key individuals and organizations when they welcome public recognition.
Ten Month Update

The goal of our Housing 1000 campaign is to house or prevent imminent homelessness for 1,000 men, women, and children by June 30, 2018. As of April 30, 2018, (10 months into the campaign) we are proud to announce that 864 of our formerly homeless neighbors (including 152 veterans) have been placed in housing of their own.

Thank You for Your Support!

L to R: Laurie, Jan, Jenny, Trudy, Dolores, Terri, Katie, Val, Peggy, and Cindy join each month to prepare meals for Haven House Year-Round Shelter.

Kids4Community Bright Futures 5K Run

A bright and sunny Sunday greeted the nearly 500 participants of the inaugural Kids4Community Bright Futures 5K Run on March 25 at the Embarcadero Marina Park on the San Diego Bay. Led by volunteer founder and chair Kenan Pala, the event, “enabled the Kids4Community Foundation to grant to Interfaith Community Services a gift of $10,000 to benefit their efforts to lend a hand to San Diegans who need the support of food, shelter, and rehabilitation programs to help them look ahead to a better future,” said Kenan. “Our organization, Kids4Community, tries to help kids with a passion for service link up opportunities to help provide relief for those in the community who are hungry and homeless.”

The Kids4Community Foundation, along with Interfaith Community Services, would like to thank Kenan’s mother Zeynep Ilgaz, Francis Parker School, Breakaway Training, sponsors, exhibitors, runners, walkers, and the many volunteers who made this event possible.

L to R: Interfaith staff Kiana Quarles, Maria Mercado and Sandi Moran are joined by Maria’s granddaughter Hailey Hernandez at the 5K race/walk.

Chair Kenan Pala (center) holds court with participants prior to the start of the Kids4Community Bright Futures 5K Run.

Ladies Tennis Group Prepare Haven House Meals

For over a year, a group of 15 former tennis teammates have gathered to prepare and serve dinner to Interfaith’s Haven House residents on a monthly basis. On their day of service, the ladies meet at Katie’s home where they prepare her Aunt Char’s famous pasta recipe (including 18 lbs. of meat, 5 lbs. of pasta, and 268 oz. of sauce), along with fresh fruit and spinach salad! According to Dolores, it’s the smiles on the residents’ faces that bring her joy, “The clients are so kind and appreciative. Since we serve regularly, we see some of the same people each month and are able to build a relationship with them.” Another teammate adds, “It makes me realize how fortunate we are to be able to give back and not have to worry about where my next meal is coming from.”
To reach Interfaith Community Services’ goal of Housing 1000 men, women, and children by June 30, 2018, donations towards the Offering Hope in Housing program are vital. Offering Hope in Housing provides assistance to cover move-in costs that are generally beyond the means of individuals and families facing homelessness, such as application fees, security deposits, first and last month’s rent, utility fees, and more.

**Employees of Datron World Communications**

In support of Interfaith Community Services’ Housing 1000 campaign, employees of Datron World Communications recently awarded $10,000 to support Offering Hope in Housing Rental Assistance program. Datron employees take a personal interest in Datron World Communications’ philanthropy and made the award.

**St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church**

Joining the Housing 1000 campaign, St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church donated $10,000 to the campaign’s Offering Hope in Housing Rental Assistance program. Led by volunteers Chris Harrison and Kate McKone-Sweet, St. Bartholomew’s takes a personal interest in the lives of the many men, women, and children who receive help to overcome and prevent homelessness.

Please consider a contribution!

**Assistance League of Inland North County**

Stepping up to make a major impact on Interfaith’s Housing 1000 campaign, the Assistance League of Inland North County announced the underwriting of $35,000 to purchase 200 new beds and bedroom dressers to support the Make It a Home program. Philanthropy Chair Jean Duncan, announced this wonderful gift that will provide practical assistance to homeless men, women, and children served by Interfaith who are struggling to overcome or prevent homelessness. As Interfaith Chief Development Officer, Robert Adams said, “This generous, practical gift meets one of our greatest needs that makes life better for hundreds of men, women, and children for years to come!”

The Assistance League of Inland North County is primarily funded by their Assistance League Thrift & Consignment Shop, located at 2068 East Valley Parkway in Escondido. This all-volunteer group, led by President Jeanne Bente, has a long history of philanthropic dedication and programs that benefit the children and youth of Escondido. We are so appreciative that this wonderful group has chosen Interfaith as the beneficiary of their generosity.
During their stay at Interfaith Community Services’ residential addiction recovery program in 2006, successful business owners Robert and Judy never thought they would be where they are today. Robert has since founded Balloon Guru, which has grown into what is now San Diego’s largest balloon event decorating company. Judy founded SunGold Soaps, an all-natural, hand-crafted bath products company that features products at art shows across the county and online.

When Robert was introduced to Interfaith, he was suffering from drug and alcohol addiction and was living in a van. “I had zero integrity,” said Robert. “Everyone I knew had detached from me; I had no friends, no family, no one trusted me. I knew the end was coming if I didn’t get help.”

A friend brought him to Interfaith Community Services’ Escondido Community Sobering and Stabilization (ECSS) program.

Judy was entering the same Interfaith program with addiction problems of her own. At the age of 39, Judy had never had a sip of alcohol. But, after a relationship breakup, Judy turned to alcohol as a way to cope with the stress. Within a few years she was an alcoholic and unable to function, causing her to lose her job and home.

Meeting in a meal line, Robert and Judy became inseparable. Today, Robert and Judy are still a couple with over 10 years of sobriety. They have a beautiful home, have rekindled relationships with their family and their businesses are booming.

Robert and Judy look for others who need help and offer them employment whenever the opportunity is presented. “We have learned to live a great life without drugs and alcohol,” said Robert as his eyes filled with tears, “Interfaith saved our lives. I’m just so grateful.”

Interfaith continues to make helping those struggling with addiction a priority. In December 2017, we launched the first phase of our Joan and Lee James Recovery & Wellness Center, a 44-bed residential program located at our Betty and Melvin Cohn Center Escondido headquarters.

The Leichtag Foundation honors the legacy of Lee and Toni Leichtag. Sharyn Goodson, Director of Philanthropic Strategy stated, “The Leichtag Foundation is proud to support and honor the model, multi-faceted programming that Interfaith Community Services provides to advance self-sufficiency in the region. With the grant announced, the Foundation has awarded nearly $3 million in funding to Interfaith over the past 10 years. The Leichtag Foundation has great confidence in Interfaith’s staff and leadership, and is especially appreciative of the important role the CEO, Greg Anglea, plays as one of our region’s top leaders.”

A matching challenge gift has been announced by the locally-based Leichtag Foundation. This matching gift will double the value of each donation to Interfaith Community Services, up to a limit of $300,000. Their generous challenge is part of the Leichtag Foundation’s recent two-year pledge of $600,000 to benefit Interfaith. This commitment will support Interfaith in an unrestricted fashion, plus allocate needed funds for the Carlsbad Service Center and Immigration Legal Services over the next two years.

The Leichtag Foundation offers a $300,000 matching gift challenge. This gift will double the value of each donation to Interfaith Community Services, up to a limit of $300,000. Their generous challenge is part of the Leichtag Foundation’s recent two-year pledge of $600,000 to benefit Interfaith. This commitment will support Interfaith in an unrestricted fashion, plus allocate needed funds for the Carlsbad Service Center and Immigration Legal Services over the next two years.

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An amazing story of recovery continues on the next page.
We value your contribution and assure you that it is used effectively. Please contact us for a tour of Interfaith.

83%

Percentage of participants in family housing programs who exited to secure, permanent housing

Interfaith helped Winona and her daughter find independent housing