Interfaith is Transforming Lives Across San Diego County

JOURNEY TO HEALING
The Largest Mural in Escondido

EXCITING UPDATES
at the Abraham and Lillian Turk Recuperative Care Center
Interfaith launched its new Graduate Lodging program at the end of 2020 housed at the Abraham and Lillian Turk Recuperative Care Center. While renovations are currently underway for the Recuperative Care Center, Interfaith has already helped 45 individuals through the Graduate Lodging portion of the site since the beginning of the year. Individuals are referred to Graduate Lodging through our partnerships with local community programs, Homeless Outreach Teams, and internally from our other programs. In addition to a safe place to sleep and three meals a day, residents also work with case managers and therapists to stabilize and continue on their path towards self-sufficiency.

After being incarcerated for 18 years, Allen struggled to adjust to regular life. He lived in his car for more than two years and continuously searched for stability. Yet, when he was diagnosed with COVID, Allen knew he needed help rebuilding his life. Through our partnership with Neighborhood Healthcare, he was able to address his health concerns as well as receive basic needs and case management services at Interfaith. The support helped him secure a room at the new Abraham and Lillian Turk Recuperative Care Center. When asked how he felt about his new home he said, “I didn’t think that people cared. But there are people praying for you and you don’t even know who they are.” Allen feels a new sense of gratitude and when looking to the future, he wants to help children stay on the right track.

Tammie arrived at Interfaith requesting shelter and addiction recovery support after losing her home. After overcoming various challenges with COVID isolation, mental health issues, relapse, and hospitalization, Tammie was able to stabilize with support from Interfaith and our Recuperative Care Program. Now that Tammie is sober, she is working with our case managers and excited about moving into her own apartment and inviting her family and grandkids to visit her. Congratulations, Tammie!

Help people like Allen and Tammie.
Make a gift today: interfaithservices.org/donate/

COMING SOON ... INTERFAITH IS OPENING A FAMILY SHELTER!
Local Escondido artist, Mauro Alvarez, created a masterpiece mural, “Journey to Healing.” The mural was developed with input from Turk Center residents and is now the largest mural in Escondido.

“I am also a person who battles addiction, from the streets of Escondido, and I want to give back to the people where I come from and show them that there is life after the tunnel of addiction. This process also helps me to heal. The Phoenix rises from the ashes. There are more than 12 birds, representing that after you finish the program, there is always work in healing from darkness to light. After addiction, it is brighter. Every step of the program you are one step closer to freedom; so, once you break the chains of whatever is holding you back from succeeding in life, then nothing will stop you… it’s just beautiful light and bright colors.” – Mauro Alvarez

A) Interfaith Board Vice Chair, Dr. Kadri Webb signing the wall.

B) Escondido Mayor Paul McNamara and Interfaith CEO Greg Anglea.

C) Artist Mauro Alvarez and longtime donor, Dorris Kingsbury.

D) Community member Emuna McCurdy signing the wall.
MEASURABLE SUCCESS ON THE FRONTLINES

Throughout the pandemic, Interfaith has remained open, providing critical, uninterrupted services for our neighbors in need. Thank you for making this impact possible.

Interfaith’s Nutrition Center staff and volunteer team is so excited to be welcoming people back indoors for our morning soup kitchen! While Interfaith never closed throughout the pandemic, our morning soup kitchen had to adapt to only serve ‘grab and go’ meals. For the nearly 150 individuals who come to Interfaith for our morning meal each day, we offer a warm and nourishing meal, along with access to laundry and shower services, and now the opportunity to eat inside instead of on the streets.

“We are seeing the number of people being served increasing and new people seeking support,” says Food and Nutrition Manager, Doug Ferris. “That’s why we are here. It’s all about helping the people.” In order to keep our momentum forward, we need volunteers!

Join our invaluable community of volunteers, interfaithservices.org/volunteers/

A MOTHER’S endless love

In partnership with Friends of La Posada, Interfaith Community Services hosted the inaugural Andrew Salazar Memorial Golf Tournament to raise funds for addressing homelessness, mental illness and addiction in our communities.

“Andrew Salazar was my son. He was a very talented musician who suffered from addiction and a recent diagnosis of mental illness, which led him to homelessness. He took his life at the age of 29. Had the option of recuperating in Interfaith’s Recuperative Care Center been known and made available then, Drew would most likely be alive today.”

– Brenda Mitchell, Friends of La Posada Vice President

The “Homeless in San Diego” Podcast was created to shine a light on homelessness. Our goal this season is to take a deeper look into: Poverty, Housing, Recovery, and Mental Health.

During each episode, host Greg Anglea explores one of these topics to uncover meaningful truths about the underlying problems and solutions of homelessness.

Tune in and listen by visiting homelessinsandiego.org or your preferred streaming platform.
Need a Summer Job Done?

Interfaith’s Carlsbad Service Center has Day Laborers Available for Hire!

Day Laborers can help with DIY or professional projects such as:

- Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance
- Demolition
- Residential & Office Movers
- Digging & Trenching
- At-home DIY Projects
- House Cleaning
- Loading & Hauling
- General Labor/Site Clean-ups
- Painting (Home)
- Skilled Labor (Call for availability)

Hourly rate negotiable. Average hourly rate is $13-$15 per hour.

A safe, neutral site where day labors can connect with the community and negotiate fairly for employment.

PT, FT or Permanent available now.

Carlsbad Day Labor Services
760-448-5696
Laborconnections@interfaithservices.org

Interfaith Community Services is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit tax exempt organization. Federal Tax ID #95-3837714
**Wall Street Journal, June 2021**
“In recognition of Juneteenth, Interfaith Community Services in Escondido, California established Friday as a day off from work to celebrate.”

**San Diego Union-Tribune, June 2021**
The San Diego Union-Tribune highlighted how the Pandemic brought out the best in people.

“Interfaith saw the biggest food drive in the nonprofit’s 42-year history and new volunteers often had an eye-opening, life-changing experience through their work at the nonprofit.”

“The pandemic really opened some people’s eyes to [poverty and hunger], and for a lot of people, when their eyes are open they want to help. They want to do something. And that will absolutely make a lasting, long-term positive effect.”

– Greg Anglea, Interfaith CEO

**KPBS, June 2021**
“Interfaith has been transforming a run-down Escondido motel into a recuperative center for people in need and is now using art as another tool to help inspire the people they help.”

**The Coast News, March 2021**
“Interfaith will provide them with a space to heal and then work to get them into housing of their own.”

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**Health Equity in Action**
Interfaith was honored to speak at a National conference! We provided expertise on incorporating equitable mental health services in recuperative care for people experiencing homelessness.

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**INTERFAITH RATED A TOP CHARITY**
We received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for the sixth straight year! Interfaith earned the highest possible rating, indicating that we adhere to sector best practices and execute our mission in a financially efficient way. Only 12% of the charities evaluated have received at least six consecutive 4-star evaluations! This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets Interfaith apart and demonstrates to the public our trustworthiness.

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**Force for Good Award**
In recognition of Interfaith’s exemplary mentorship and management of University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences PhD and graduate-level occupational therapy interns, our CEO Greg Anglea received the University’s Force for Good Award.
For more than 40 years, Interfaith has been helping people get back on their feet, obtain a home of their own, find work, and return to school, all while fostering a sense of community and bringing joy back to lives. The pandemic didn’t change that. We have always been a safe haven for people in need. What did change is the tragic reality we see now – thousands of families and individuals who, for the first time in their life, came to Interfaith for help this past year.

Ways to Give

DONATE BY MAIL OR ONLINE – Mail your donation to 550 W. Washington Avenue, Escondido, CA 92025 or visit www.interfaithservices.org/donate/

SUSTAINING SUPPORTER – Create a monthly or quarterly automatic donation from your credit card or debit card – can be cancelled at any time.

IRA – If you are 70 ½ or older, an IRA gift can be made up to $100,000 without incurring federal taxes.*

STOCK – A stock gift often enables you to deduct the full fair market value of the appreciated stock without incurring capital gains tax.*

WILL – Work with your financial advisor to designate in your will or living trust a gift of a specific amount, percentage of your estate and/or specific asset.*

*Please consult with your personal financial advisor about all potential financial benefits of investment and charitable giving strategies.

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Jennifer’s favorite part of volunteering in the kitchen is serving residents. She says, “It makes other people feel better and then you feel better too.”

Gary has been an Interfaith volunteer since April 2021, helping anywhere we need him – in the pantry, kitchen, with administrative tasks, and as a Road to Recovery driver. Now five years sober, he feels fortunate to have found stability and established his family into the local community. “We struggled at one point, but now our lives are focused on giving back.” As part of that mission, Gary has been mentoring Rick, a recovering alcoholic, who he later learned was once an Interfaith client and found the assistance he received was instrumental in his recovery. Rick now has a job in the trade industry, his own apartment, and has been clean for more than a year.

“Interfaith gives people who are desperate for help an opportunity to breathe. It gives them the tools, structure, network of resources, and most of all, the respect they need to just get a chance to lift themselves up and out of a bad situation.”

At the onset of the pandemic, Interfaith lost 86% of our long-time, dedicated volunteers due to restrictions. At the same time, our requests for food pantry and other basic needs soared by nearly 400%.

Cue the heroes! We asked, and the community answered, showing up to assist us during our busiest time. In the past few months, as people began to resume work schedules and a new “normal,” we are thrilled to see familiar faces begin to return. Through it all, the one constant has been the determination and commitment of those who have supported us, making sure that not one day went by without providing basic needs to our neighbors. We are forever grateful and inspired by you, our community, who have supported us in ways too numerous to count.
Meet Mitchell Snow, Interfaith’s new Faith Relations Specialist, and employee with Interfaith for five years. “I’m looking forward to getting to know all of the people who are such a huge part of supporting Interfaith.” Contact Mitchell via email, msnow@interfaithservices.org or (760) 807-6518.

“This training exceeded my expectations! I learned so much that I can incorporate into our Ministry. Thank you so much.”

Faith-Based Academy

Interfaith provides training for faith leaders and mental health professionals. The training helps faith communities become part of mental health recovery. Congratulations to this year’s graduates from various communities, states, and countries!

We now offer trainings and single topic presentations in-person and online. If you are interested in participating, please contact Faith-Based Academy Program Manager, Martha Garzon, at mgarzon@interfaithservices.org
Interfaith Community Services’ Recovery and Wellness programs provide a complete continuum of care for low-income individuals struggling to overcome addiction, homelessness, and challenges with physical and behavioral health conditions. We offer detox, short-term residential and outpatient substance use treatment programs.

Prior to finding Interfaith, Tiffany shares that her life was “chaotic, absolutely unmanageable, a struggle to find a place to sleep, exhausting and scary.” Tiffany had been through many rehab programs. The turning point was when she found Interfaith, where care is individualized and rehab, sober living, and outpatient care are tied together to allow her “to get on her feet.” When reflecting on the care received at Interfaith, Tiffany shares that the 5 words that come to mind are family, growth, security, comfort, and learning. “The biggest help I received from Interfaith is a sense of family and that there is always someone I can talk to.” Tiffany still attends meetings as she feels safe, supported, and celebrated in all of her triumphs, including a secure job and reconnecting with family. “Thanks to Interfaith, I have learned how to communicate my feelings and needs. I could not have done it without my team. My life is beyond anything I ever imagined.”

To learn more or refer a potential client, please call (760) 489-6380 ext. 221.

Jared entered our Permanent Supportive Housing program after numerous hospitalizations and a history with a seemingly endless cycle of substance abuse, estranged family relations, and often feeling like an “outsider.” Interfaith provided Jared with Housing in an apartment of his own where he now feels stable, secure, and has discovered his ability to manage the responsibilities of paying rent, utilities, and problem solving. In partnership with Interfaith case managers, Jared is reaching his goals of expanding his education, prioritizing his sobriety, and surrounding himself with people who positively reinforce his healthy lifestyle. He has created a bike club, is in touch with family, and volunteers at the public library teaching children how to play chess. His advice for other people who find themselves in a similar situation, “There is no shame in asking for help.”

Are you a landlord who believes in second chances?

Help people like Jared by partnering with Interfaith to assist our neighbors facing homelessness find a home.

Contact Patti Mack, Rapid Re-Housing Program Manager 760.546.3731 or email pmack@interfaithservices.org
Interfaith’s Transitional Youth Academy (TYA) program supports youth who are dedicated to improving their life skills, academics, and career outcomes. The program combines academic support with intensive mentoring, career development, and opportunities for paid internships to increase work readiness. This year, 100% of our students graduated and are going to college or higher education and 30 students are participating in paid summer internships.

Dulce and her family were able to receive food and emergency rental assistance, costs covered for her AP exams, college applications, school Prom, and cap and gown for graduation. In addition, Dulce worked with an Interfaith case manager on site at her high school, who helped her navigate completing financial aid applications on time, maintaining outstanding grades, and successfully completing her paid internship. Dulce will be attending CSU Fullerton and majoring in Mathematics in an integrated program while also earning a teacher’s credential. Congratulations, Dulce!

Jade is grateful for the TYA program support that helped cover the cost of her AP exams, school expenses, college application fees, and entrance exams. She graduated with honors, as an AP scholar, and received the President’s Volunteer Service Award for over 100 hours of community service. Jade secured $15,000 in scholarship aid toward her post-secondary education and plans to attend Mira Costa College for her Licensed Vocational Nurse Certification and transfer to a four-year university to become a Registered Nurse. When asked how the TYA program has helped her, she stated, “It has helped me by providing a safe and welcoming place to talk and be around others, as well as providing financial help for myself and my family as whole.”
A message from a family you helped at Interfaith Community Services.

This is why we do it.