

**Director's Notes**

Another month already come and gone. It seems our days are flying by, soon we'll be commenting on Christmas##\*#++\*^!!

**Notes and Comments:**

As of the first of April, we are going back to clients' receiving groceries ONCE a month. There are plenty of jobs, and a huge plethora of resources in the county and by applications. Therefore, it's time to get back to our standard of distribution after two years of the Co-Vid issues affecting all of us.

It is important to note that because of our dedicated staff of volunteers continued who came in day after day, Interfaith was one of just a few to be able to continue serving without a hitch! So many comments in the community about our resolve and steadfastness in light of all things, and how pleasant everyone is time after time, day after day. BUT, please be prepared for some of the clients reacting to the change back to normal. Many did not know of our "normal" because they had never had to ask for help before. They may be surprised, didn't plan well, and simply aren't back to their "normal" quite yet. Be patient, explain, and let them know of all the other places they can receive help.

However, we have been seeing an inordinate amount of clients for utility and other assistance needs. Water and propane, tires, and electricity are top on the list. Utility companies may now charge late fees, and even turn off services (as of Jan 1). Many clients used benefits, etc., for other needs...rent, medical, car, home repairs, neglecting the utilities. We've done the best we can, but it's once a year help from any of those agencies, and it's all caught up to them. Because we have been able to assist through Salvation Army and the Sonora Area Foundation's Grace Fund, we've been able to help far more than we could if it was just Interfaith.

So, how can a peacock be more proud??? Thank you all who were able to help and carry on for our clients. It has made a huge difference for them and our community.

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**April Training Dates**

New Volunteers:	Tuesday	April 26	1-4	Conference Room
Pantry Volunteers:	Monday	April 25	1-3	Conference Room
Clothing/T/HH/D	Wednesday	April 27	1-3	Conference Room
Interviewers	Thursday	April 28	1-3	Conference Room

Please sign up....by note to Cathie or placed on her desk. It helps when preparing packets!

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Legal Services has continued to grow!! There are now 3 attorneys, 1 paralegal, 3 Notaries, and an office full of busy folks making appointments, answering questions, filling our forms, graciously talking with the clients. They also received a grant to upgrade their office equipment, which over the past few weeks have been installed and programmed...all behind the scenes by Gregory Oliver. The Conference Room now has space for Intake, making

appointments, follow up...in a quiet setting. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Interview Office has been rearranged to accommodate the needed computer, printer, and phone, shared by Eric Andahl and our paralegal. My office is used by Attorney Hal Channel on Fridays. We are proud of these folks, who are providing this huge service for anyone...regardless of income, age, or where they live. Thanks to you all!!!!

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**Dates to Notes**

April 15 AND 18      Friday and Monday      Easter Holidays      Enjoy with families

**Staff Highlights**

Debra Karr      Administrative Assistant

Most of you may already know her. She handles the Referral Office on a daily basis. Big smile, always willing to help with special projects, reports, handles inquiries, and is an outstanding artist and creator of beauty.

Jasman Thomas      Outside Donations Coordinator

Some of you may have already met her. She handles the donations at the back door, meets and greets the donors, offers options, and keeps the back area clean and safe. 2 children, one fine man in her life. She's here 5 days a week, and has taken a HUGE load off the volunteers trying to serve the clients as well. Big smile, happy attitude, and plenty of fun.

We ALL thank you for being here!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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**News:**

1. GSAC (Give Someone A Chance shower bus will be here on Thursdays...starting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
2. Love Tuolumne County will be here April 23 to clean up and replant our garden. Sonora Sunrise Rotary will be here to provide a BBQ lunch meal. If you are around, please drop by and thank them, and how we use the produce for our clients. In addition, a group will be using our Conference Room or Pantry area to paint rocks as well.
3. Our Board is considering a "workday" at Interfaith...wash windows, clean up outside by wood area, and Quonset hut, some weed eating around our little creek in back of wood cargo container and garden, and other small projects as well
4. If coming down the 108 by-pass, you can now take the Standard Rd turn off dropping off to the right, and coming to the Mono Way(Hwy 108) and Standard Rd intersection.) Try it...it's easy.
5. April is colorful month...wear bright spring-like colors to work. May is Round Up and Rodeo Month, along with Mother's Day. Western attire or "motherly" stuff is fine (hahahahahahaha!!
6. The Gathering Church has now become one of our sponsoring churches. Couple of new volunteers will be coming, and a new Board rep with be attending the meetings.

**Take care of yourselves, bring friends to volunteer, and enjoy yourselves serving our clients with gusto and delight!**