

**Interfaith Community Social Services**  
**Volunteer Newsletter**      **May 2023**

**Director's Notes** Is it here yet????  
SPRING? I am finally seeing, smelling, and walking around in the dirt at my house. I still have some hard-snow packed mounds, but for the most part, it's melting rapidly with the spring-like weather. And I can't wait to get out there and plant, clean-up, and enjoy it. The turkeys, gnats, tulips, mosquitos, and bears are emerging. Always interesting....

**Here are a couple of things to note:**

- A. Beginning May 1 we will be going back to the Prayer/Announcement circle, at 9:45AM.
- B. Dumpster area: a) PLEASE: do not tie lids open. Burns contacted us, and TOLD us not to do that...it is braking the lids. Do not push the dumpster back touching any fencing...it breaks the fencing. And finally, please be sure the areas in, under, and around the dumpster are cleaned up.
- C. If you have email addresses, please give to Deborah in the Referral Office. And when doing that, please turn in your New (2023) Updated Volunteer Application form. Many numbers, addresses, and contact people may have changed, and we are asking for those updates from everyone.
- D. The GRACE FUND is off and running at mega warp speed. We are suspending the Tire Assistance portion for a couple of weeks until we can catch up with all those who have already applied, but are not yet served.
- E. Barbara will be out for some periods of time due to cataract surgeries. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers And that all goes well.

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**Upcoming Dates to Note**

- May 14      Mother's Day and Round-Up
- May 23      New Volunteer Training 1:30-4:30PM Conference Room
- May 25      Board Meeting 1:15PM

Conference Room

May 29      CLOSED      MEMORIAL Day  
**April 29<sup>th</sup> Love Tuolumne County Workday**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Service Day happened last Saturday. Interfaith submits an application to have folks come here and do a major project for us. Again, this year, as in the past years, they come and renovate the garden area for Spring planting. The produce is given to our clients all summer. Volunteers take turns watering, weeding, and general care of the area. Scott and Lisa Dasko will be overseeing the garden this year...adding plants, planting trees, providing a table and benches/chairs for anyone to come in and enjoy it. They will be hoping for volunteers to water on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thurs, and some weekends. If you are interested, please let them know you can help, substitute, etc. One or the other is usually here on Thursdays Interviewing. And I believe in the Fall they will be preparing and planting a 'winter' garden. Some additional signage, fence extensions, eventual watering system, and prolific vegetables will abound! **Thanks** to Scott and Lisa for taking this on.....we appreciate you two doing this, the work ahead of you, and the end results will be wonderful! This will also invite others to volunteer in this capacity, if that is their preference.

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**Call-A-Day Program**

Many of you may not be aware of one of our 'secret' programs outside of Interfaith walls. Some folks want to volunteer but are not able to help in our work with the clients who come in here. So, some years ago the Call-A-Day Program was placed in our care, and with the help of those who would not be able to otherwise help here, can work from home. The program offers daily calls between 8-10AM checking on homebound,

medically frail, non-drivers, or family/agency request...all for the knowledge of safety and well being. Families. Agencies, and /or self recommendation begins the process. They complete an application, are called by me to make sure they understand the program, get whatever information we need, emergency contact information, etc. Their names are given to all of our callers for the daily calls. Each day our assigned volunteer caller contacts the person, "hello, how are you today?, a little more chit-chat, than onto the next person. Each conversation may last 4-5 minutes. If we can't reach someone, we continue each two hours at least three times. If that fails, we call the "Emergency Contact".. If they do not get a response by phone or in person, we contact the Sheriff's Dept and ask for a welfare check. This programs has existed over 37 years, and now it is with Interfaith. Callers are needed, and new clients are welcome. Please encourage anyone you may know, even for a short time period, after surgery, or medical procedures, or long term. The only few things required of the client is to answer the phone each time, and let us know when they may out of town or not need our services for any reason...short or long term. It is a FREE service. If you have a potential client or volunteer, have them call me. W 532-0905 H 586-4802.

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**BE AWARE!!!** In our volunteer trainings we remind, insist, scare, and tell horror stories of items being stolen from our volunteers and Interfaith. Some clients can't resist, sometimes we find we ourselves misplaced an item, and sometimes people are actually accused of taking something. Most recently, the incidents of "missing" items have almost

become non-existent. However, we are experiencing some minor disappearances from various depts...whether client based or ourselves. PLEASE, if you see someone, anyone, lurking or taking anything YOU know is not up for grabs PLEASE, PLEASE mention it to me. We will check it out, and get to the bottom of it, and try to return whatever the item(s). Lock purses or backpacks in cars or cabinets here, don't leave coins out in the open, Thanks for your help.

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### **SWOT Analysis Results:**

**Pantry:** (S) Friendly, work so well together, Efficient; (W) sometimes not enough volunteers; sometimes low on food items; (O) few more volunteers, encourage food drives; (T) Food costs, food budget adjustments;

**Interviewers/Referral:** (S) Reliable; good substituting; getting to know clients; (W) not always checking files/PORs; run out of forms; need second interviewer now and then; too much confusion on Fridays when Legal Greeter is not there to separate Legal from ICSS clients; (O) get steady Legal Meeter/Greeter; Good when ICSS Greeter reminds clients of POR, number system, and Assistance numbers; Clients thank them and are grateful for help. (T) lack of volunteers, too many rules; hours not long enough.

**Clothing/HH/T/D:** (S) Excellent teamwork; plenty of items; clean, neat, tidy work area; (W) Lack volunteers; items in wrong places; Can't get to donations...too many clients; bin break-ins; (O) more volunteers; encourage household/toiletry donations, showers back on. (T) Lack of items, gets messy.

Have a wonderful month of May!!!