

Interfaith Ministries, Inc.

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA



"Bringing God's People Together To Serve God's People in Need"

OCTOBER 2016

LIVING HISTORY

On Sunday, September 11, 2016, Interfaith Ministries hosted a Community Service Provider Fair and was honored to have as a guest speaker Mr. Henry "Hank" Thomas. Mr. Thomas was the youngest of the Freedom Riders who rode a bus into Anniston in the early 60's and lived through the bus-burning event that became a watershed moment in the Civil Rights movement. During his talk, he gave a poignant account of what it was like for him to have survived that life-changing experience.



Mr. Thomas was 19, a teenager like many in the audience, when he rode the Freedom Riders bus into Anniston. Although there had been warnings of the potential for disorder, nothing prepared this young man for the violent attack on the bus. Mr. Thomas and the other riders found themselves facing death from all directions. If they left the bus they would be at the mercy of the crowd trying to burn the bus. If they stayed on the bus they would surely die.

In an astonishing twist of fate, the firebombs that were supposed to incinerate the bus and its passengers became the means of their escape. The fire caused the back of the bus to explode outward and back, allowing the Freedom Riders to escape and dispersing the crowd at the same time.

Dozens of local adults and youth listened as Mr. Thomas relayed his personal feelings about not only that historic day but the changes in civil rights throughout his whole lifetime. The central point of Mr. Thomas' speech was:



Reconciliation. He is convinced that his purpose is to bring to all the message and importance of reconciliation among all peoples if we are to make continued progress as a society. He is positive that strides have been made, and will continue to be made as we all keep reconciliation at the forefront of our efforts. His message made a powerful appeal to the young people attending that it is their duty and privilege to become involved in community service and to exercise their rights as Americans to vote.

What Would You Give For A Shower?

Most of us take for granted the most basic amenities of life. We have a home, safe from the elements and a place to take care of our personal hygiene. We shower, shave and brush our teeth as part of our daily routine.

Right here, in Calhoun County, there is a group of neighbors who rely on Interfaith Ministries for a safe place to be able to perform these simple tasks the rest of us take for granted.

Each Monday and Thursday morning these neighbors sign the shower roster and wait their turn to make use of the donated travel sized toiletries and shower facilities at The Bridge.



Interfaith client makes his selection of toiletries before from donated items.

A volunteer monitors a table in the hall on which lies towels, washcloths, shampoo, body wash, razors, toothbrushes, combs and deodorant. Our clients select what they need and take their turn. Often a stack of clean shirts is available for the clients to select. They love a fresh, clean t-shirt after their shower.

We are in dire need of volunteers who are willing to man the shower table in the hall and distribute the toiletries to our clients on Monday and Thursday mornings. We are always on the lookout for travel size toiletries, especially razors and deodorant, and t-shirts. If you can donate your time from about 8:30 am to 10 am, please contact us at 256-237-1472.

Focus on Volunteers



Pat Griffin is our newest regularly scheduled Interfaith volunteer. She's been a Meals on Wheels driver for years and has just moved to working the front reception desk this summer.

We have a very dedicated group of volunteers greeting our clients in the mornings and afternoons but we need to grow our roster. Presently, we have only one or two folks who are available to fill in when one of the regular volunteers is out.

This is an opportunity to live the mission of Interfaith, "Bringing God's People together to Serve God's People in Need." We welcome both men and women to join us in our mission. Please contact April LaFollette or Esta Spector to find out more about volunteering at Interfaith.

Second Annual Community Resource Field Trip

Staff, volunteers and potential volunteers of Interfaith Ministries set out last month to visit several community resource organizations on what is being billed as "The Second Annual Interfaith Ministries Community Resource Field Trip". About twenty people spent the day working their way up and down Noble Street visiting various agencies that provide services to the clients of Interfaith.



Volunteers and Staff of IFM enjoy a "Meals on Wheels" lunch at Stringfellow Memorial Hospital

Everyone wins when personnel at all the local service providers understand what the others do and we work together to assist our clients. Programs from The Family Service Center, The Anniston Soup Bowl, Community Enabler Developer, The Salvation Army, Quality of Life Healthcare, St. Michaels Free Clinic and IFM's own Meals on Wheels Program were all introduced to our field trip participants.

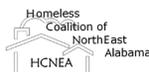
We want to especially thank the large group of Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun members who made the trip with us.

If you have time and talents to share with God's People in Need, please contact us at Interfaith and we will find a place for you to lend a hand.

Salute to Volunteers

Vera Chapman
Pat Griffin
Esta Spector
Charlotte Stratton
Anne Jackson
Sandy Wingo
Peggy Gudger
Ann Kerr

For more information on Volunteering or to make an online Donation, visit us on the web at www.interfaithcalhoun.org



Address Service Requested



Interfaith Ministries, Inc.
1431 Gurnee Avenue, Suite A
P.O. Box 1444
Anniston, AL 36202

