

March, 2025

Welcome, Julie Tyson

IFM Board of Directors



Julie Tyson is a Calhoun County native who spent the first 22 years of her career on the marketing team at Auto Custom Carpets, Inc. In 2021 she left her career to become part of her husband, Andrew's, family business Tyson's Model City Glass and Graphics in Downtown Anniston. This transition also allows her more time to spend with their two young daughters, Rebecca (11) and Sarah (9). You can find Julie at the "Glass Shop" most days during the week where she manages the Graphics & Sign side of the business.

Julie has a heart to serve people in need as well as encourage and help people make better choices in life to create the health & life they have always wanted. She is excited to get this opportunity to use her unique skills to make an impact in her community by serving on the Interfaith Ministries Board. Julie is most looking forward to the upcoming Interfaith Ministries 50th Anniversary Celebration that is going to take place in August. Look for exciting information about this event coming soon!

CHRISTMAS CLEARING HOUSE

This year brought a new, creative approach to an existing program.



65 FAMILIES SERVED

Joint efforts with several community partners allowed us to take the Christmas Clearing House experience to a new level. Families were able to shop in a more laid back setting, thanks to Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church.

184 CHILDREN RECEIVED GIFTS

Families shopped for clothing, books and toys for children of all ages. The items were donated by community members, and purchased by Interfaith Ministry's volunteers with funds given by our generous donors.



35 VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are the heart of this program. Handling tasks from shopping and organizing gifts to greeting guests and helping families shop, this group of dedicated volunteers made the updates to this program seamless and successful!

Jubilee



In many religions, a jubilee is a period of celebration, a time to recognize a pilgrimage or celebrate the act of coming home. It's not lost on the staff of Interfaith Ministries that our 50th anniversary year is also the year that Martha's Hope, The Martha Vandervoort Center to End Homelessness, came to find it's home in the same location as our office!

Nan Christian worked to bring her vision to fruition in 1975. After leading Interfaith Ministries until her retirement in 2007, she chose Martha Vandervoort as her replacement. Martha was a tireless champion for the homeless of our community. Martha led Interfaith for many years before our current Executive Director, April Lafollette took the reigns. Just three directors in fifty years. We believe this consistency in leadership and steadfast commitment to the mission of IFM has created a dynamic non-profit that is standing the test of time.

We will spend the next several months sharing memories and celebrating the services we've provided for the last fifty years. We will pay tribute to the visionaries, leaders, volunteers and donors. The celebration will culminate in a jubilee of our own. Details coming soon on this wonderful time of recognizing our community of donors, volunteers and friends!



Nan and Martha in 2007



Martha and April in 2014

Expanded Ministry Brings Opportunity for Donors and Volunteers

With the opening of Martha's Hope (The Martha Vandervoort Center to End Homelessness), the number of people showering with our Open Door Program has increased dramatically. We've seen a 50% increase in clients. Some clients leave their dirty clothes for us to launder and re-hang on the racks. Clients select approximately 75 shirts and pants each shower day. About 30% of those items are expected to be recycled in our laundry. We are **ALWAYS** in need of jeans and t-shirts for our clients to change into.

We also invite people who feel led to participate in this ministry to come in and see if you may like to be a volunteer organizing donations or supervising the showers on Monday and Thursdays. Please bring donations to Interfaith Monday thru Thursdays 8-2 and call 256-237-1472 to volunteer.



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