



Barbara Whitney is a long-time resident of Interfaith's senior housing complex and is a registered client of Interfaith. She moved into the complex in 2015 and registered with Interfaith in 2020. She utilizes many of the organization's services, including the on-site pantry service, which supports her nutritional needs. She also receives guidance in the computer lab, help with budgeting goals, and stays connected to community resources through Interfaith's on-site resident coordinator.

Barbara actively engages with the complex's community by volunteering and attending events. She attends onsite Interfaith-hosted events, including the summer and winter parties, weekly bingo, and the newly added recurring game days.

Barbara has shared that she loves Interfaith, the housing complex, and the community it brings. She has no plans to move, as the place has truly become a haven and home for her. She lives with her two service dogs and is a very warm and inviting presence for her fellow neighbors.

Barbara enjoys attending Interfaith's bingo day, listening to Christian music, and playing with her dog. She attends a local Apostolic church.



Paula is a single mother who survived 27-years of domestic violence. Due to her past, Paula has severe PTSD and works hard every day to take care of her mental health. She has a 17-year-old daughter, Gabby. Paula has worked hard to prevent Gabby from being exposed to any form of violence or drugs. Her family has been stably housed with Interfaith's Permanent Supportive Housing for 14 years. She says that Interfaith Community Services has allowed her to create a healthy and safe environment for herself and her daughter to thrive. Paula studied fire technology, emergency management, and general education. She works as an employment specialist, where she helps others find a job that best suits their talents.

Paula is a hard worker, and she's been able to maintain employment and financially provide for her daughter. She loves plants and has many of them beautifully displayed at her home. Paula says that her plants bring her peace when she's caring for them. She is kind, loving, and has always been a great daughter by helping take care of her elderly parents. Last year, Paula's mother was diagnosed with cancer. Paula was always there to help her mother with her doctors' appointments and anything else she needed assistance with. Unfortunately, Paula's mother passed away this past August. The family is still working on healing after losing someone so dear to their hearts.

Gabby is currently a high-school senior, making good grades. She's involved on campus, including being in the Anime Art Club and Graphics Art Club. Gabby wants to work for FEMA and earn her degree in Emergency Management or Cyber-Security. Although Paula and Gabby have busy schedules, they often volunteer their time to the community to help others whenever possible. This year, Paula's family hopes to spend a relaxing and joyful Christmas surrounded by their loved ones.



Isabelle decided to make a change for the better. She overcame addiction in February 2010 and has been sober ever since. Last year was an especially tough year for Isabelle and her children after her husband and father of her children, Hector, unexpectedly passed away. He was a great father, husband, and friend who was loved dearly. He worked hard to provide for his family and dreamed of owning a trucking company one day. Isabelle speaks of Hector as a positive individual with a good heart who was always on the go and willing to help others. Hector brought happiness and adventure to their family, so now Isabelle has been implementing that same energy into her children's lives.

Isabelle is resilient, no matter what life throws at her. At first, the loss of her husband was difficult, and she was angry at the world. Now, Isabelle is working on herself and trying to heal. There were times when she entertained the thought of relapsing, but she prayed, stayed strong, and most importantly thought about her children. Isabelle began working 2 months after her husband's passing in order to care for her children and remain busy. She is still navigating how to be without him, but Isabelle's grateful for all the love and support she has received from both sides of the family. This year, her family will be going to Mission Bay, where Hector is resting, and hold a Celebration of Life.

Isabelle is a wonderful mom to her children, Robin and Marshall. Isabelle said that having her son Marshall changed her life and motivated her to get clean. Marshall is a great kid with a big heart and is doing well in 7th grade. Isabelle would describe her son as an old soul because he's strong and mature for his age. Marshall spent a lot of time with his dad and bonded over their love of baseball. He recently joined a baseball team and is enjoying his time on the field. The youngest, Robin, is now in 2nd grade and enjoys her math courses. When she's not in school, you can find Robin dancing and drawing. Isabelle said that her daughter is full of energy and got her dad's creative side. Robin likes to watch art videos on YouTube and follow along. Since she loves to dance, Isabelle hopes to get Robin into gymnastics, so she can learn and grow into her talent. Isabelle is dedicated to keeping her family safe and happy. She hopes to have a wonderful Christmas with her family this year.



Leonard is a good man with a great ability to maintain a positive attitude and see the best in the world around him, despite some difficulties. Two years ago, Leonard was connected to Interfaith after his mother passed away. His mom was his main caretaker and was left in a bad situation without her. Although he remembers always helping his mother and his peers, Leonard says he knows very little about taking care of himself. As a result, he ended up homeless for a time after his mom passed.

Then, Leonard was connected to Interfaith and has been residing in permanent support housing within the organization. He is working diligently to develop his skills through occupational therapy and classes. Leonard enjoys learning to cook and clean and even living on his own because of his newfound abilities. Although he is still learning a lot, Leonard has never let a lack of skills get in the way of him trying to help other people. He is always reaching out and finding ways to help others. He has a great attitude about life and is delighted at the prospect of receiving a gift from someone he doesn't know.



Fidela is a single mother taking care of her daughters, Nadia and Carly. Nadia is a 16-year-old high-school senior and Carly is an 18-year-old college student. When Nadia was asked to talk about herself and family, Nadia began to cry. Nadia stated that, if she could give the world to her mother, she would. Nadia notices all the sacrifices her mom goes through on day-to-day basis.

Recently, she noticed how her mom's physical health is declining, including her knee pain causing her to limp and her swollen hands after work. Despite this, Nadia's mom continues to show up to work every day. Fidela currently is a Dish Washer at local restaurant. Nadia greatest motivation is her mother and her desire to care of her mother when she is older. Her mother is her hero.

Nadia recently started a new job as a Lifeguard to help pay the family's bills and other personal expenses. Nadia was also able to do a paid internship over the summer through Interfaith Transitional Youth Academy Program, giving her the ability to help her mother financially.

Nadia is a very intelligent and compassionate young lady. She loves giving back to her community, with a great amount of community service hours. She also enjoys swimming and is on her high school's Water Polo and Swim team. Nadia is overwhelmed with happiness and wants to emphasize that her mother is her priority. She wants her to be surprised this Christmas. Nadia thanks you for your time and wish you and your family Happy Holidays!



George has been stably housed with Interfaith's Permanent Supportive Housing program since 2013. George is a U.S. Air Force Veteran, a pilot, a retired LAPD reserve officer, a life-long student, a brother, a son, and a mentor to his friends and other veterans in his community. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, George earned his security guard certification, joined the LAPD Reserve Corps, and completed his 4-year degree in Criminal Justice & Forensics with a minor in Political Justice. Later, following in his father's footsteps, George went to flight school. He worked as a flight instructor for some time before being hired by a major airline. George was flying for this airline on September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center was attacked. Not long after this tragic event, George fell into hard times. He was laid off by the airline and was diagnosed with diabetes just a week later.

George did his best to stay afloat by taking security guard jobs whenever he could. However, he was confronted with adversity once again when he was hit by a car on-the-job. George's injuries kept him from being able to work and he eventually became homeless. Thankfully, George contacted the VA, and they directed him to Interfaith. George was immediately placed into emergency shelter where he received case management. To this day, George remembers the name of the Interfaith employee that counseled him at Interfaith's Haven House shelter and provided him with the information and resources he needed to start obtaining the VA benefits and compensation he deserved.

Then, in 2013, after 7 months in emergency shelter, George was connected to the Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Since then, George has been steadily increasing his income and investing more time in his hobbies and passions, one of which is painting model soldiers. Unfortunately, George suffered a stroke in April 2020. For a period of time following the stroke he was unable to walk, talk, eat, or swallow. However, the recovery that George has made in the last 5 years is truly incredible and a testament to his mental fortitude and unbreakable spirit. Although he still faces health challenges on a daily basis, George is optimistic about the future. He hopes to start a business with a good friend of his and buy a home within the next few years.