

**WINTER 2025
NEWSLETTER**

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We gratefully acknowledge our generous donors who help us continue to provide Housing, Healing and Hope to our consumers from July 16, 2025 - Nov. 15, 2025.



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A Letter from the Executive Director: Three Years In, Preparing Interim for Its Next Chapter



On December 5, 2022, after approximately two decades in public and private sectors, I embarked on a new journey with Interim, Inc., succeeding Barbara Mitchell as Executive Director. Serving this organization is an honor and a responsibility—one upheld collectively by Interim’s Board, leaders, supporters, and our remarkable staff who ensure Interim remains a positive, effective, and valued community agency.

Housing, Healing, and Hope is Interim’s tagline, but if I could add another “H,” it would be Health.

Amid significant changes across federal, state, and local landscapes, one question has guided my work: How does Interim continue to sustain its organizational health—programmatically, culturally, and in our workforce? How do we remain an agency that expands housing and strengthens our community’s wellbeing? The answer is simple: together.

These past three years have brought challenges, but even more notable achievements—made possible by the dedication, commitment, and compassion of everyone who supports Interim.

Interim has:

- Expanded program services for adults living with mental health and substance use challenges, while collaborating with partners to improve service quality, access, and to innovate in our programs.
- Implemented effective workforce recruitment efforts and strengthened retention through meaningful staff appreciation.
- Modernized our information technology systems to safeguard agency and consumer data.
- Increased transitional and permanent supportive housing, with our newest development—Marina Kai Apartments—underway.
- Continued centering the wisdom of individuals with lived experience of mental illness, substance use, and homelessness. “Nothing about us, without us” remains core to our mission.

2025 marks Interim’s 50-year milestone of serving Monterey County. It has taken a village of trailblazers, advocates, and supporters to reach this moment. As we step into the next 50 years, I do so with optimism—and with full recognition that Interim’s health rests with you. Thank you for all you do to support our mission.

With gratitude,
Dr. Rhiyan Quiton, PsyD
Executive Director

Kelly's Story in Her Own Words: "Finding Myself Again"



At Interim's 50th anniversary gala, Kelly Jimenez took the stage to share her story, moving the entire audience to a standing ovation.

My name is Kelly Jimenez, and I've been many things in my life, but I'm most proud to say that I am an artist, a mom, and a grandma. I am also an alcoholic with an anxiety disorder and a schizoaffective diagnosis.

I grew up in a very dysfunctional family. From as early as I can remember, my parents fought over me like a monkey in the middle. As a baby, I would have panic attacks and even pass out. Looking back, I spent my childhood managing my parents' emotions instead of them managing mine.

I was afraid that if I was myself with my dad, he would reject me—or worse, harm himself. If I was myself with my mom, she would become angry and abusive. When I was

seven years old, my father died by suicide, and that's when the voices began: the negative self-talk, the blame, all the noise.

During this time, my mother, who struggled with alcoholism, checked out on me. We moved twelve times in seven years. By the time I was twelve, I ran away and refused to go back. I ended up in a group home and eventually moved to live with my grandmother.

After high school, I fell into an abusive marriage. My children and I eventually escaped and came to California. That's when my drinking really took over. I lost custody of my son because nobody understood that I had a mental illness. At the time, I truly believed I was damaged, worthless, and hopeless.

God stepped in through my aunt, who sent me to Seven Sons, a mental health facility. I was not functional when I arrived. But when I finally became completely honest—with the staff, with my family, and with myself, things began to shift. I couldn't imagine life without my

children, and that became my reason to try.

After my discharge, I went to Interim's Bridge House. That's where I met Susan Brier, my biggest cheerleader. I also met Beth Barrell from Interim's outreach team, who connected me with resources and guided me without pressure.

Eventually, I went to Shelter Cove, where I learned who I was, got connected with a doctor, and began taking medication. From there, I moved into permanent housing. Hope...that's what I needed most, and that's what Interim gave me.

Interim gave me more than housing; they gave me hope and faith in myself. When I first moved in, I feared the world. Now, thanks to Interim, I have a home, and I've found myself again.

I still have moments, but I work through my mental health every day—with therapy, AA, groups, and giving back.

They say it takes a village. It does. And it doesn't always mean the family you're born into—it's the family that accepts you. And if you can't find one, you're more than welcome to join mine.

Annual Holiday Meals Gather Community Together

Interim, Inc. recently hosted its annual Friendsgiving Lunch at the OMNI Resource Center in Salinas, welcoming more than 200 clients and community members, including individuals experiencing homelessness and those living with mental health challenges. An additional 50+ meals were delivered to Interim's residential and service programs,

extending the impact across the organization.

For the past five years, Coastal Roots Hospitality has supported this tradition, providing more than 500 free meals throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. In addition, Markon Cooperative and its suppliers donated fresh produce.

"Friendsgiving is about more than a holiday meal — it's about reminding people that they matter and that they belong," said Interim Executive Director



Rhiyan Qiton.

Interim will continue the season of connection with its annual Holiday Meal on December 19, again bringing comfort, dignity, and community to those who need it most.

Thank You!


coastal roots
HOSPITALITY



Interim Honors Dorothy Kimble at Annual National Philanthropy Day Luncheon



Interim, Inc. was honored to participate in National Philanthropy Day for the Central Coast. This annual luncheon brings together nonprofits from across the region to publicly recognize

and thank the donors and community partners whose generosity fuels meaningful change.

This year, Interim proudly recognized longtime supporter Dorothy Kimble as our 2025 agency honoree. Dorothy's continued generosity has strengthened our mission of providing housing, healing, and hope for adults living with mental illness in Monterey County. We were especially pleased that her daughter, Jennifer Fletcher, was

able to join the celebration of this well-deserved recognition.

Interim's delegation included Board members Deb Linden and Carl Miller, Executive Director Rhiyan Qiton, and Development Officer Jocelyn Brady, who attended to honor Dorothy and to celebrate the many philanthropic leaders recognized throughout the afternoon.

It was a meaningful afternoon in Pebble Beach, filled with community spirit, shared purpose, and gratitude for those who make our work possible.