



# Fall 2023

**Our mission is to create a healthy and stable community for all.**

## Event Spotlight: 10th Annual The Great Taste

We're so excited! The 10th annual The Great Taste is coming back to celebrate ICA's 52nd anniversary. **Please join us Thursday, October 12 at Oak Ridge Country Club for a wonderful celebration of community, generosity and neighbors.** Every year we look forward to this evening and the opportunity to gather together.

# THE great TASTE

Presented by **DORAN**

**New this year!** The evening will feature a community award, named after beloved ICA supporter Ron Kamps, to celebrate our generous volunteers. We can't wait to start this new tradition!

Ready to get your tickets? [Visit one.bidpal.net/tgt2023/ticketing](https://one.bidpal.net/tgt2023/ticketing)

## An Invite From ICA's Dan Narr and KARE 11's Belinda Jensen

First started a decade ago, The Great Taste has become ICA's signature event and a tremendous opportunity to gather supporters and highlight work that has been accomplished in the previous year. For the past four years, we've been fortunate enough to have KARE 11 Chief Meteorologist Belinda Jensen join us as emcee of the evening. **Belinda is an amazing supporter of our efforts throughout the year and we always look forward to having her host The Great Taste.**

Recently, Jensen and ICA Executive Director Dan Narr got together to talk about The Great Taste and what has them excited for this year. "We have really fun cocktails and a great silent auction. We always have fun and I love helping," says Jensen. **"I think they do such a great job at ICA with not only feeding the person, but also finding out what they need otherwise and trying to make them more independent."**

"The Great Taste is an event that really helps us share where we've been, where we're going and use it as a town forum," explains Narr. **"It's a night I eagerly await every year and I love connecting with our amazing community of ICA supporters. I would encourage anyone and everyone to join!"**



Scan the QR code to watch the full welcome video with Dan and Belinda!

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### ICA'S IMPACT: May - July 2023

**Distributed 267,211 pounds of food,** equivalent to **222,676 meals**



Met with **19 job seekers** a total of **48 times**

**Served an estimated 1,512 households** (4,569 neighbors) across all services





## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dan Narr

As kids return to school and the leaves begin to change, here at ICA we remain busier than ever and overwhelmingly grateful.

**It was another fantastic summer season that allowed us to reconnect with so many partners and community members at various events and gatherings.** For me, there's truly nothing more gratifying than coming together and being able to spend time with the people that make this community so special.

While out in the community, I often get the question about how things are going at ICA. **Truthfully, I can say the need for help remains as high and consistent as we've ever experienced.**

**We're seeing over 1,000 households coming to us for food resources alone on a monthly basis. That's well over a 10% increase when compared to just one year ago.**

**There's also a steady number of immigrant families coming to us for a number of reasons.** Our assistance may start with food and the essentials, but as we get to know them and learn more about their situation, often times we can help lay the groundwork to long-term stability through housing assistance, employment services or community referrals.

**Of course, none of this critically important work would be possible without your support.** Through financial gifts, food donations and volunteer hours we're able to directly meet the need of our neighbors and act quickly when emergencies arise. I'm so proud of the ongoing work happening at ICA and hope you'll continue to champion our cause, in whatever way possible. *Thank you!*



## The Cost of Housing in Hennepin County

Our mission at ICA is to create a healthy and stable community for all. **A major part of accomplishing that mission is supporting the needs of our neighbors as it relates to housing.**

Published just a few weeks ago, the 2023 Hennepin County Housing Profile is a snapshot of current trends compiled by the Minnesota Housing Partnership.

**At a glance, their assessment finds that homes in Hennepin County are not only aging, but rapidly becoming unaffordable for a large number of residents.**

For example, their research indicates that a salary of \$92,760 is needed to afford a local median-priced home. The average wage for registered nurses, one of the area's most in-demand professions, falls short of that number. Additionally, they pinpoint \$53,160 as the necessary salary to afford a two-bedroom apartment. That dollar figure exceeds the median wage of local retail salespersons, personal care aides and customer service representatives.

**Not surprisingly, research also indicates that Hennepin County residents are facing eviction and homelessness more than ever.**

At ICA, housing assistance can mean providing financial assistance for a utility bill or a portion of a rent payment. These situations are short-term with solvable and foreseeable outcomes. **More than anything, we're committed to helping local families stay in their homes and navigate emergency situations.**

## Opening Our Doors to Community Leaders

Here at ICA, we love taking the opportunity to open our doors and collaborate with local leaders about a number of issues facing our community.

A few weeks ago, we were thrilled to host a group that included U.S. Representative Dean Phillips, PRISM: Golden Valley, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis, Bet Shalom Congregation and others.

In addition to giving a behind-the-scenes look at ICA's facility and providing updates about our high service numbers, it was an opportunity for everyone to weigh-in on current hunger and resource related issues in our area.

We're incredibly thankful to Representative Phillips for making time to participate in this important discussion. A number of important federal assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program, run the risk of shrinking considerably without support from lawmakers.



ICA was thrilled to host a number of community leaders and advocates for an important conversation about local food and resource insecurity trends.

**We are so grateful for the long-time partnerships and relationships we have with a number of local lawmakers, community organizations and congregations.** Do you belong to an organization or faith community that is interested in collaborating to help support and strengthen our community? We'd love to get the conversation started! Please reach out to ICA Executive Director Dan Narr at [dan@icafoodshelf.org](mailto:dan@icafoodshelf.org).



**ICA has made such a difference in my life. Thank you for everything you have done for me and my family!**  
– Neighbor using ICA's services



## A "Sweet" Surprise!

It doesn't get better than this! Earlier this summer, Anja, Isla, Wesley and Calvin stopped-by our office to donate some cash and birthday bags to ICA. **In fact, for the second consecutive year, these four Excelsior kids raised all the funds by operating a lemonade stand during the summer. We're so proud of your efforts!**

As we continue to navigate record high service numbers, the generosity of our community is appreciated more than ever. **All gifts to ICA, small and large, play a major role in helping local families and individuals find long-term stability and independence.**

More donor stories at: [icafoodshelf.org/spotlight](https://icafoodshelf.org/spotlight)



# CONGRATULATIONS TO ICA'S NASRA ALI

## Newest Relationship Manager is Honored With Award

ICA's Community Relations Department is partnering with the Augsburg University Social Work Department to help give junior and senior year students an opportunity to receive professional experience working in our community.

We've been incredibly fortunate to have Nasra Ali working as an ICA relationship manager intern for the majority of 2023. In addition to gaining hands-on experience in the arena of social work, Nasra has brought a fresh perspective and unrivaled enthusiasm to the position.

**Recently, Nasra was recognized with the "Community Relations Intern of the Year" award at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Since then, she has officially joined ICA's staff as a part-time relationship manager. Congrats, Nasra!**



Interested in learning more about intern opportunities at ICA? Contact ICA Director of Community Relations Dominique Pierre-Toussaint at [dominique@icafoodshelf.org](mailto:dominique@icafoodshelf.org).

## OTHER EVENTS *For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website: [icafoodshelf.org/events](https://www.icafoodshelf.org/events)*



### ICA's The Great Taste

**Thursday, October 12**

**Our signature event!** The 10th annual The Great Taste is coming back to commemorate our long overdue anniversary! Please join us for a wonderful celebration of community, generosity and neighbors.

Additional information at: [www.icafoodshelf.org/taste](https://www.icafoodshelf.org/taste)



### Turkey Certificates

**November 2023**

Starting soon, ICA will be busy distributing holiday meals to our neighbors. Some of the items typically offered include turkeys, boxes of fixings and pies. You can help support this program by purchasing a turkey certificate online.

Ready to give? Visit: [www.icafoodshelf.org/turkey](https://www.icafoodshelf.org/turkey)



### ICA Day at Maynards

**Monday, November 27**

We hope you'll plan on spending the day at Maynards on Monday, November 27 for ICA Day! For the entire day, 100% of proceeds will be donated to ICA to directly support our ongoing work. Reservations begin November 1.

Questions? Contact ICA Director of Philanthropy Scott Searl at [scott@icafoodshelf.org](mailto:scott@icafoodshelf.org)

### ICA

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