

Our mission is to offer hope as we provide assistance to our neighbors in need.

Meeting Basic Needs in Challenging Times Continuing to Offer Food, Housing Help, and More

Food and shelter. Two of our most basic needs. As the impact of COVID-19 ramped up and began affecting every aspect of our daily lives, ICA remained committed to ensuring that everyone in our community has these basic needs met.

In the past three months, like all of you, we have had to adjust our daily actions, including the ways we operate the food shelf, interact with clients, and engage with our community. But one thing hasn't changed: **we are here to help meet the basic needs of everyone in our community.** We will continue to be here, ensuring that families have food to eat every day, and a roof over their heads every night.



Kari Hoskin, Client Support Front Desk Volunteer

Throughout all of the changes, pivots, quick decisions, and adjustments, we made all decisions based on our values (see page 3) and the safety and well-being of our community -- clients, volunteers, staff, and donors.

Thanks to your ongoing support, we are able to provide food to those in need and continue to provide assistance with rent and utilities, thereby preventing homelessness. We're also still connecting people to other resources in our community to help them stabilize during these difficult times. And while many companies have furloughed and laid off employees, we're continuing to offer assistance to those looking for jobs.

We saw nearly triple the amount of new clients in March and April 2020 than we did during the same time the previous year (165 new households, compared to 60 in 2019.) **We provided 129 emergency food services in March** (compared to 61 in March 2019.)

All told, our **total food services are up 11% compared to 2019, and we anticipate that the need will continue to grow.** During the first three weeks of May, **we helped double the amount of families** compared to the entire month of May 2019. And we anticipate a second wave of increased need to come later this summer, as people are without income for a longer period of time, rent moratoriums are lifted and three months of rent becomes due, and unemployment benefits decrease or cease. We need your help to continue to meet the need in our community and to meet the expected increase in need.

For every dollar you donate, we are able to purchase up to \$10 worth of food. Your donations also enable neighbors to stay in their homes, avoiding eviction and homelessness. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to help our neighbors in need. We are so grateful for your partnership.

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ICA's Impact: January - March 2020

Families Served
1,269

Volunteer Hours Worked
9,534

Pounds of Food Distributed
393,450

that's equivalent to
327,875 meals!

Farewell from ICA Executive Director Peg Keenan

Keenan to Retire in August 2020

Over this last week the leaves have emerged, and the lilacs and the lilies of the valley have blossomed. We're reminded of the changes that come with each season, the renewal that comes in Spring, and the ever changing world we are a part of. The biggest change though that we currently face is the challenging time of COVID-19. We have been informing you of changes in our monthly e-newsletter, as well as in our social media posts. Please know we are working hard to ensure the safety of all our primary stakeholders, while still fulfilling our mission of providing hope and assistance for our neighbors in need.



As we continue to carry out our mission as safely as possible, we have temporarily reverted from ICA's choice food shelf model back to our pre-packaged model. Interestingly, this is how we provided food to clients when I came to ICA in 2013. As I consider my upcoming retirement in August, I think of ICA's amazing ability to morph, pivot, and adjust since 1971, so that we can best serve our neighbors in need.

During the last seven years that I have been at ICA, staff have never stopped trying to deliver our food, homelessness prevention, referrals, and employment support services in new and better ways. We built out our K-Tel site which enabled neighbors to independently select the food they know how to cook and their family enjoys. We strengthened our relationships with other local nonprofits to compliment each others' services. We found new ways to solidify relationships with our supporters so everyone in our community could have a variety of ways to support their neighbors.

I am so thankful for ICA's smart, kind, and amazingly dedicated staff and board of directors, our devoted volunteers, our supportive congregations, our caring schools, and both our new and steadfast donors who now more than ever have stepped up to make a difference in our community. I also want to thank all the other committed leaders from whom I have had the privilege to receive support, guidance, ideas, and sustenance over these years – my fellow western suburban food shelf leaders, foundations, and grantors, and so many social service agencies throughout the Twin Cities.

I have had the privilege to steward ICA for the past seven years. Now I look forward to this next part of my life's journey. I'm sure I will still run into many of you as we are out and about in the community. Until then, please stay safe and be well.

Peg Keenan

What's Next for ICA?

The search for ICA's next Executive Director is well underway. We announced Peg's retirement in April and immediately began a search for her successor. ICA's Board received many great applications from well-qualified candidates, and has since been interviewing their top choices. We hope to have the new Executive Director in place in July, so that Peg and the new leader will have time to work together as this person undertakes their new role.

Questions or comments can be directed to ICA Board Chair Sheila McMillan via email: president@icafoodshelf.org.

A photograph of a white ceramic bowl filled with a light pink soup. The soup is garnished with several fresh blueberries and a sprig of green mint. The bowl sits on a light-colored, textured cloth. In the background, there is a small white bowl filled with more blueberries and another sprig of mint. The overall scene is bright and fresh, suggesting a healthy meal.

“Please thank everyone who is helping you to stay open and provide food. And please tell them to stay healthy!”

-- ICA Client, May 2020

Addressing Housing Needs

Preventing homelessness is one of ICA's core programs. Homelessness Prevention sometimes means providing financial assistance for a utility bill or part of a rent payment, without which clients would lose their housing. These situations are short-term, with solvable, foreseeable outcomes, and are determined on a case-by-case basis.



Due to the COVID-19 crisis, ICA has additional funds available to help those in our community who are in danger of losing their housing. The funds come from several sources. In April, the City of Minnetonka authorized funds to specifically assist Minnetonka residents who have been impacted by COVID-19 and cannot afford housing costs. There are also COVID-related funds available for Hennepin County residents through additional grants, as well as funding from community donors.

Our case managers have been meeting with clients via telephone and email to help in these situations. They also work with clients to provide referrals to other agencies and programs, including SNAP, Energy Assistance, financial counseling, and more.

We anticipate that the need for rental assistance will increase drastically this summer. While we've received additional funds, the need is anticipated to be even greater. **Through the first three weeks of May, the dollar amount of housing assistance is already more than triple what it was the entire month of May last year, and the number of households served has doubled.** To support this program, please give at icafoodshelf.org. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need keep a roof over their heads.

Current Needs

Due to current food sourcing shortages, we are currently running low on the following items. If you are hosting a food drive, please consider doing an "item specific" drive and pick two or three items from the list.

- Cereal
- Pasta
- Canned tuna or chicken
- Oil, Flour, and Sugar
- Ready-to-eat soup
- Diapers (especially size 4)
- Pull-ups
- Diaper wipes
- Toilet paper

With limited volunteers right now (in order to maintain social distancing), hosting focused food drives will help us easily sort the items and quickly get them into the hands of our clients. Thank you!

Donation Questions & Contact Info Updates

Do you have updates to your name, address, or other contact information? Please let us know and we will update our records.

Contact Community Relations Director Jill Holter with any changes. Jill can also answer questions about giving to ICA, stock gifts, and more. Thank you!

Jill Holter: jill@icafoodshelf.org or 952.279.0280

Our Values

Earlier this year, ICA staff gathered to clarify and define our common values as an organization, to use these values in our decision-making processes.

ICA Values:

- **Justice.** We believe everyone deserves to thrive.
- **Kindness.** We treat everyone with dignity, respect, and without judgement.
- **Quality.** We strive to provide outstanding assistance.
- **Balance.** We do our best work when we consider all in ICA's community.
- **Creativity.** We grow and change to better serve our community.
- **Sustainability.** We use our resources wisely to ensure we will be here when our neighbors need us.

Recent Grants

ICA recently received grants from the following organizations:

- United Way
- Crocus Foundation
- Just a Dream Foundation
- Schulze Foundation
- Fairview Foundation
- Target Foundation

Thank you for your support!



ICA gather for good

Join ICA for an at-home community fundraiser to help our neighbors!


 **gather**  **eat**  **sleep**  **give**


Eat Out! Sleep Out! And Raise Funds for ICA


ICA Gather for Good | Thursday, June 18 | Your home or backyard


Join us for an event that will not get cancelled -- ICA Gather for Good -- a stay-at-home fundraiser for ICA Food Shelf to support two of our most essential programs: food services and homelessness prevention.

Here's how you can get involved:

 **gather** Plan an evening at home that represents two of our most essential programs: food services and homelessness prevention. Include a meal and/or sleep out in your plans.

 **eat** Cook out, take out, or enjoy a simple meal together! Whatever you choose to do, come together and do it with intention.

 **sleep** Sleep outside or sleep inside and remember the people in our community who are facing a housing crisis.

 **give** Register and Fundraise. Invite friends, family, and networks to sponsor your efforts and contribute to the cause. Fun prizes for those who raise the most! After you've registered, a volunteer will deliver a yard sign for you to show your community support and participation.

Learn more and register online at icafoodshelf.org/gather-for-good. And a huge thank you to our sponsors:



Save the Date! The Great Taste
Thursday, October 8, 2020
The event might look different this year! More details to come.



Summer Events: Tour de Tonka, Night to Unite
Follow us on Facebook or subscribe to our e-newsletter to hear the latest news about these events and more. Visit icafoodshelf.org/subscribe to sign up.

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ICA is a 501(c)3 organization. Tax ID # 41-0979010 Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Serving residents of Hopkins, Minnetonka, Excelsior, Shorewood, Deephaven, Greenwood, & Woodland since 1971.