MEETING THE NEED YEAR ROUND

ICA's Monthly Donors Plan for the Future

After the rapid growth in need following the economic crisis of 2008, we saw a tripling of neighbors who needed help from ICA. Our generous donors rose to meet the need then, and our community thrived because of your support.

And though the economy has stabilized, we still see 800 families at the shelf every month. After 48 years in this community, ICA intends to continue to be here for every family who needs help, every month, for decades to come.

Monthly gifts make it easy to give and have a huge impact on the lives of those in need. When you give every month, ICA knows that we can count on continuing to provide our services, every month, month after month, to the folks who need us. That’s why we are so excited to launch our Monthly Sustainer program, which allows you to automatically give each month.

We have an incredible incentive for new donors to join our Monthly Sustainer program. A generous donor has pledged $10,000 to ICA if we can sign up 100 new monthly donors. No matter the size of your gift, when you sign up to be a monthly donor, we’ll receive an additional $100 because of the match.

Please consider joining us with a monthly gift in any amount and help us be the steady community resource our families count on. Sign up today: icafoodshelf.org/monthly

“ICA is such a caring, professional, and well-run organization, and we are grateful for the much needed services that it offers to our neighbors.

Giving monthly to ICA ensures that they have more consistent and sustainable funds to provide important services every month to our community.

We hope that our Matching Gift encourages more people to give monthly, and we are excited that each sustainer pledge will actually increase our gift’s impact as well!”

-- Julie & Darrell,
$10,000 Matching Gift Donors
HELPING IN A CRISIS HELPS LONG-TERM
At ICA, we help people during a crisis by providing immediate food and assistance to feed their family. But our work goes beyond providing immediate help during a crisis. We have no limit to how long people can use our services. Whether they need food for 2 months or 10 as they are working to get out of crisis and become self-sufficient, we are here to help.

We also work with our clients to build stability in their lives. Our financial assistance program helps to keep people in their homes through grants that assist with rent or utility payments. You might not know this, but getting behind on utility payments can actually cause people to get evicted—if power gets shut off, that can be a lease violation, so what was a small problem—being behind on utilities—becomes a major problem. Even if a family doesn’t actually get evicted, once a landlord has begun eviction proceedings, an eviction notice on record can prevent someone from being approved for future housing or necessitate a huge, unaffordable security deposit.

But we can’t do our work without your help. We run a very efficient operation, but we still need our community partners to fuel our trucks, run our refrigerators, and purchase foods like milk and eggs. We know that building our monthly giving program will help ensure revenue that we can count on every month. I’ve found that this also makes it easier for busy people to make an impact. Set up your monthly gift to come out automatically and know that you are helping your neighbors every month!

Peg Keesman
Executive Director

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: TONKADALE GREENHOUSE
For Tonkadale Greenhouse owner Jessie Jacobson and her staff, one way they measure success is by how they positively impact their customers and community. While Tonkadale offers a wide variety of plants and flowers to brighten your garden and home, their real focus is on showing gratitude towards their longtime customers and helping the next generation of gardeners experience gardening in new, fun, and creative ways.

Carrying on the legacy of Tonkadale’s previous owners (Jessie’s grandparents), community service and giving back is an important value. Jessie firmly believes that giving back and taking care of others is the right thing to do. “We have the space and resources so why wouldn’t we? As a business owner, if you have it, you give it. That’s just how the world works.” Tonkadale’s philanthropic focus is on helping kids connect with where their food comes from as well as helping to nourish those in need, which is why they have consistently supported ICA for well over 15 years. “People do their best when they have the right food. They are healthier and kids are more prepared to learn,” says Jessie.

Through their “Give and Grow” program, Tonkadale provides seeds and starter plants to numerous community gardens, which in turn grow food for ICA clients. The St. Therese Garden in Deephaven grew over 7,000 pounds of produce for ICA last summer alone! ICA clients were incredibly grateful for the locally grown produce.

Tonkadale has also supported ICA through their seminars and silent auction donations. This March, Tonkadale customers rounded up their purchases for ICA. Tonkadale’s ongoing support helps us keep our shelves full and provide healthy, nutritious food to our neighbors.

Thank you Tonkadale for being incredible neighbors and partners in tackling local food insecurity!
NEW MOBILE FOOD SHELF SITE IN EXCELSIOR!

Our Mobile Food Shelf has been operating since 2012, and is a vital service for our neighbors in the areas that we serve. Our current mobile sites serve three apartment complexes with many low-income residents, many of whom are seniors.

But there is more need than we are currently serving, so we are thrilled to announce the expansion of the program to a fourth site this summer. Even more exciting is the fact that the new mobile site is in Excelsior, which makes food assistance through ICA so much more accessible to neighbors on the west side of our service area!

Excelsior United Methodist Church is our partner in this new mobile site. The site launched on May 22, and is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The church is located near Excelsior Elementary School, as well as a number of apartment complexes with naturally occurring affordable housing. We anticipate serving neighbors from both of these areas, as well as those who live in other parts of Excelsior and Shorewood.

A huge thank you to everyone at Excelsior United Methodist Church for making this possible!

If you’d like to support this program, please consider a monthly gift of any amount. Learn more at icafoodshelf.org/monthly

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS: NEW BLOG SERIES

We are so grateful to the many businesses, schools, and community organizations that support ICA every month. We are starting a new monthly series on our blog (icafoodshelf.org/blog) where we recognize these amazing members of our community.

If you would like to be featured or know someone we should feature, please let us know: email or call our Communications Specialist Monika Salden at 952.279.0297 or monika@icafoodshelf.org.

"WHO CAN I HELP, AND HOW?"

Thrivent Financial members, we would love to work with you! Please contact our Development Manager Patti Sinykin to discuss project ideas and other ways you can get involved: patti@icafoodshelf.org or 952.279.0280

RECENT GRANTS

ICA recently received grants from the following organizations:

- United Way
- Allianz
- Minnetonka Family Collaborative

Thank you for your support!
Summer 2019 Events Calendar

ICA Bazaar  Saturday, June 22 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
This warehouse sale raises funds for ICA programs. New and scratch & dent furniture, rugs, housewares, toys, and more. 80% or more off retail. Visit icafoodshelf.org/bazaar for more information.

Trade Show Food Rescue  Thursday, August 1
Volunteers needed! We need up to 200 volunteers to help pack food at this huge food rescue event. Email events@icafoodshelf.org to sign up. Great for students, groups, and team building!

Tour de Tonka  Saturday, August 3
$1 from every registration fee is donated to ICA. Ride or join as a volunteer! More info at icafoodshelf.org/tourdetonka.

Night to Unite  Tuesday, August 6
Plan a food drive for ICA as part of your neighborhood’s block party. Contact your local police department for more info or visit icafoodshelf.org/night-to-unite

Big Island & Back!  Saturday, August 10
The 6th annual paddle around Big Island starts at Excelsior Beach and benefits ICA. Register at bigislandandback.com.