



# Winter 2020

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

Working at ICA is such a privilege. I witness firsthand how our work impacts our neighbors. These stories touch me deeply, and I would like to share two such stories\* with you here in this newsletter. As we come together as a community to help one another, I believe that we are also able to find meaning. Wherever we find ourselves in these trying times, walking together and listening to each other offers us the opportunity to find encouragement and hope. We are here to serve our community together.

In response to COVID, we are constantly pivoting and adjusting our hours, our operations, and our service model in order to safely serve our clients and respond to new and changing need within our community.

As we approach the New Year, we continue to respond to current needs. We are also making strategic plans in order to meet the need in our community as it evolves in the next five to 10 years. We have an amazing community network that has responded to crisis by securing resources to help our clients. We must continue to make new connections and build new relationships so we stand ready to serve our neighbors with exceptional kindness, creativity, and unmatched dignity in their time of need.

Thank you for so generously giving to help those in need in our community. Your ongoing support makes such a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Together, we can ensure that all have access to healthy, nutritious food, safe and secure housing, and employment that allows each of us to care for our families.

Sincerely,  
Dan Narr, ICA Executive Director



**Dan Narr, Executive Director**

*\*Note: To protect client privacy, we have changed names and identifying details and used stock photos in the included stories.*

**“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT’S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.” --MARGARET MEAD**



**1 in 8**

Minnesotans  
are now  
experiencing  
hunger



**423%**

increase in Housing Assistance since COVID began



**\$650**

the amount a family of 4 can save by visiting ICA twice a month, which can then be used for other expenses.



**17.8%**

of students in Minnetonka and Hopkins School Districts are eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch



**84%**

of ICA clients skipped meals or ate less than they wanted to before visiting ICA

# HELPING KARA WITH FOOD & EMPLOYMENT\*

## YOUR GIFTS HELPED KARA FIND A JOB -- TWICE!

A few years ago, Kara was newly widowed and struggling to make ends meet working two part-time jobs. She came to ICA seeking assistance with food, rent, and employment.

After visiting the food shelf for healthy, nutritious food, Kara applied for rent assistance and also worked with our Employment Specialist. She updated her resume, received coaching with her job search, and practiced interviewing. Kara found a great job which helped her regain stability! She was relieved to be back on her feet and no longer needed to visit ICA for help.

This August, due to the pandemic and increased expenses, Kara needed an additional part-time job to supplement her income. She once again met with our Employment Specialist (virtually this time!) to update her resume and make connections to job opportunities. Through this support, Kara found a part-time job to keep her stable during these uncertain times.

For nearly 50 years, ICA has been here to help clients through crises and challenging times. When a client puts their trust in us, we consider it a privilege to continue to be here to help them -- both in the short- and long-term. Kara knew she could depend on ICA when times became difficult again. Kara is an inspiration to us all.



**Kara visited ICA for help a few years ago and got back on her feet! She recently needed more help and knew she could once again turn to ICA**



**Sue was able to find the job she needed -- and help while she worked toward her first paycheck!**

# KEEPING SUE ON TRACK\*

## YOUR GIFTS PROVIDE FOOD AND SO MUCH MORE!

Sue has been working temporary jobs for several years and was just about to start a new full-time, permanent position with the pandemic first began. Unfortunately, her job was eliminated. Sue immediately turned to ICA for assistance with food and housing support, preventing a long-term crisis and homelessness for herself and her family.

Because ICA was able to help Sue get the food she needed, as well as help her bridge the gap by helping with her rent, she was able to focus on finding a permanent position that met her financial needs. Preventing homelessness and keeping clients healthy and safe is ICA's top priority.

ICA clients like Sue often have complex needs and issues, and when our Case Managers take the time and care to get to know each individual, we can better help them achieve lasting stability. Providing resources and hope means our whole community is stronger.

**ICA FOOD SHELF**  
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