



# Autumn 2020

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

“We have been seeing so many new clients, people who are visiting ICA for the first time. I see such gratitude; the need right now seems to be deeper than ever.”

--Ginger, ICA Volunteer

## Continuing to Help; Planning for the Future How ICA is Helping Neighbors In This "New Normal"

As we previously reported, when COVID hit, we immediately changed the way we do business – converting from a choice-model food shelf to a drive-up model. We continue serving clients with our new drive-up service model, though it has evolved based on feedback from our clients. We have increased hours and appointments to serve more people more often, we have added a farmers’ market area where clients can choose their own produce, and we have added staples bags for clients to choose what they most need. Clients also continue to have the choice of perishable foods, including dairy, eggs, meat, and produce.



People often ask us, “How is it going at ICA?” The answer is – we are doing well! We are meeting the need of our neighbors and our community has stepped up to help us answer that need. That said, like the rest of the world, things are constantly changing and often times hard to predict. From month to month, we see some services increase while others remain constant. Our food services remain our most-used program, and according to a recent study by McKinsey & Co., **the need for food will continue to increase -- between 65% and 125% in the coming year.**



Service right now is all about striking the right balance and being ready for what the next day brings. No matter what is coming, we are committed to:

- Providing adequate nutritious food to all who need it.
- Meeting the needs of our current clients, while being ready to serve a large influx of people who may be new to ICA, and perhaps new to being in need.
- Protecting the health of our people—clients, volunteers, and staff.

**Thank you for your ongoing partnership in helping those in need within our community.**

## Emergency Rental Assistance Keeps Families in Their Homes

COVID has impacted many of our neighbors, due to job loss or cut hours, and many find themselves in the dire situation of falling behind on their rent and/or utility bills. In just the past couple months, we have seen a **423% increase in homelessness prevention services**. We are honored to partner with both the city of Minnetonka and the city of Hopkins to assist neighbors who have been directly impacted by COVID through CARES act funding for Emergency Rental Assistance.



While these funds make an incredible impact, the need is even greater. In August, only 43% of the families we helped with Housing Assistance were eligible for these COVID-specific funds. As always, we still see many families in need because of everyday life situations such as an unexpected medical bill, car repair, or missed work due to severe illness. For many, these situations can snowball and lead to housing instability or even homelessness.

As we continue to meet the needs of our neighbors, we need *your* help to assist with the housing needs in our community. When you make an undesignated gift to ICA, we can use those funds in the best way possible, applying them to the programs where they are most needed. Donate online at [icafoodshelf.org](http://icafoodshelf.org) or send a check in the enclosed envelope. **Thank you for your gift of hope and stability.**

## From the Executive Director

### ICA's New Executive Director Dan Narr Reflects on His First Two Months

Have you ever felt like you were led to a place for a significant purpose? Where the moment you arrived you knew something larger than yourself had brought you there? I had that feeling the moment I walked through the doors of ICA Food Shelf.



Since arriving, I have shadowed staff, talked to volunteers, listened to clients and supporters, learned from hunger relief partners -- engaging with all the people who make up the ICA community. In every conversation, a sense of joy shines through -- joy that ICA assists our neighbors with so much dignity and respect. It was immediately obvious to me that the power of community is at work. And that we serve an essential purpose everyday within our community.

As I continue to meet neighbors, volunteers, supporters, and friends, I feel a sense of urgency, especially in the environment of COVID. In our resolve to be responsive as the need for our programs rises, we must consider what our community needs will look like when the eviction moratoriums cease, unemployment benefits expire, SNAP and P-EBT benefits end, and families lack the resources they need to support their households.

**In the past three months, ICA has seen a 423% increase in housing assistance services and a 40% increase in home food deliveries.** In the coming months we expect to see a critical rise in need in our community and we are working hard to make sure that we can respond accordingly. *Our goal is to ensure that none of our neighbors falls through the cracks;* and that **we help everyone who needs food, financial assistance, emergency assistance, or employment assistance.** This is the time when everyone in our community can come together to help.

You may know of someone who is struggling to put food on their table, may not be able to pay their rent, or is looking for a job. Tell them about ICA. By doing so, your actions will help inform and educate others who may be unaware of the services ICA provides and ultimately provide nourishment and stability for your neighbors. The more we work together, the better we can work in concert to not only provide services, but to secure the necessary financial resources to meet the need in our community.

**Together we are serving one mission, to offer hope, stability, and well-being to those we serve.**



Jackie\* has worked for temp agencies for several years. She had just started a new job through a new agency when the COVID shutdown began, and found herself unexpectedly unemployed. Jackie came to ICA for help. She worked with our employment consultant and found a new job! She also received food and rental assistance from ICA as she works to get back on her feet.

*"It has been a long, tough road trying to get hired with everything that has been going on. I was getting closer to being financially ruined, possibly homeless, and I was scared out of my mind.*

***Thank you for all your help!"***

\*Name and identifying details changed; stock photo



Join us **virtually Thursday, October 8th** at 7 p.m.  
for the 7th annual **The Great Taste!**

Emceed by **KARE11's Belinda Jensen**, this virtual event will feature **stories from ICA clients**, live musical performance by **Tim Mahoney**, plus our fabulous live & silent auctions.

Funds raised will directly benefit our neighbors in need.

Tickets are free; \$25 gift bag available!  
RSVP at [icataste.org](http://icataste.org).

## Thank you to our sponsors!

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# Turkey and Holiday Food Program

Though it is only September, we are busy planning for our annual Turkey & Holiday Food Program! Each year, we give away turkeys and the all the fixings for a holiday meal to hundreds of families in need in our community. We have been hosting this program for over 20 years, and it is one of the highlights of our year!



This year, though COVID is forcing us to make some adjustments for safety, we plan to continue this beloved program. And we plan to serve more of our neighbors than ever before. We are gearing up to be ready to provide holiday meal fixings for *anyone* in need in our community.

We invite you to join us and help provide turkeys and more to our neighbors. Here are the ways that you can get involved (both now and in November):

- **Food needs:** We are in need of 1,500 each of canned yams, canned cranberries, canned pumpkin, and stuffing.
  - All donations should be dropped off by the end of October – if not sooner!
- **Volunteer:** We need volunteers throughout October and November. View needs at [icafoodshelf.org/turkey](http://icafoodshelf.org/turkey).
- **Donate funds:** Help us purchase turkeys and fresh produce! Every \$20 donation will supply one family with all they need for a holiday meal.
- **Help us raise funds:** Sell Turkey Certificates at your workplace, congregation, or community organization! This is a great way to do good and connect with your team, family, and friends. Contact Development Director Patti Sinykin to learn more: [patti@icafoodshelf.org](mailto:patti@icafoodshelf.org) or 952.279.0290.
- **Spread the word:** Share the news about our Turkey Program and that ICA is here to help! You never know who might be in need. Help us ensure that all who need ICA's help can get it!

**Thank you for helping us ensure that all in our community are able to celebrate the holidays with their loved ones over a good meal!**

## ICA Continues to Feed Hungry Kids!

We're extending our Kids' Summer Market into the fall, providing extra bags of food to families for each school-aged child in their household. We know families need the extra food right now, as so many children are still at home due to the distance learning and hybrid models the local school districts are offering.

We're continuing to work with 17 schools in the Minnetonka and Hopkins School Districts to provide weekend food and snacks to students in need. Weekend food packs provide additional food to students on the weekend and during breaks when school breakfast and lunches are not available. Snack bins are filled with healthy, grab-and-go snacks for students experiencing food insecurity. These items replace a missing breakfast or mid-day snack as needed.



Kids' Bags include kid-friendly food and snacks, plus handmade kids' masks donated by ICA supporters

In the spring when students began distance learning, we worked with our school partners to help get extra food to families who needed it. And as we head back into a new school year, we will continue to work with our school partners to help spread the word about ICA's services to their students and families!

*"Our students really light up when they receive their weekend food bags. They look forward to receiving the bags and tell me that their parents are grateful!"*

-- Hopkins Elementary School Social Worker

To support ICA school programs, please donate online at [icafoodshelf.org/donate](http://icafoodshelf.org/donate). Or consider donating food for these programs.

### Current Needs:

individually packaged nut-free and peanut butter-free options:

- granola bars
- fruit cups
- applesauce pouches
- pretzels
- goldfish or crackers
- fruit snacks

# Autumn 2020 Events Calendar

For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website: [icafoodshelf.org/event-calendar](https://www.icafoodshelf.org/event-calendar).

## Tommy's Tonka Trolley Day

**Sunday, September 27**

Join Tommy's Tonka Trolley for a free scoop of ice cream and make a donation to ICA. Rain date the following Sunday.

## National Night Out/Night to Unite

**Tuesday, October 6**

Please consider hosting a food drive for ICA as part of your neighborhood gathering!

## The Great Taste

**Thursday, October 8**

Join us virtually for our 7th annual fundraiser including a silent auction, live auction, and stories of how ICA is making an impact in our community every day. [icataste.org](https://icataste.org)

## Community Food & Hygiene Drive

**September 22 & 26, October 20 & 24, November 24 & 28**

To benefit both our local community and greater community, ICA is hosting a monthly food and hygiene drive to benefit our neighbors in Minneapolis. More info at <https://www.icafoodshelf.org/community-drive>.

## Turkey Coupon Sales at Minnetonka Cub

**November 6-7 & 13-14**

Provide a meal for a family in need this Thanksgiving and holiday season! Just \$20 will provide a turkey and all the fixings. Volunteers needed to staff the table. Sign up at [icafoodshelf.org/turkey](https://www.icafoodshelf.org/turkey).

## Give to the Max Day

**Thursday, November 19**

Minnesota's annual day to support nonprofits! Stay tuned for information on matching gifts. Donate at [icafoodshelf.org/donate](https://www.icafoodshelf.org/donate).

## ICA's Annual Turkey & Holiday Food Program

**Saturday, November 28 and throughout November**

We will be distributing turkeys and the fixings for holiday meals throughout the month of November, with one big day on Saturday, November 21. Volunteers needed! Full details available at <https://www.icafoodshelf.org/turkey>.

## ICA Day at Maynard's

**Monday, November 30**

Each year, Maynards generously donates 100% of the proceeds from this day to ICA! Join us the Monday after Thanksgiving for a break from turkey leftovers! Reservations open November 1.

## Recent Grants

ICA recently received grants from the following organizations. We are so grateful for their support.

- Minnetonka Family Collaborative
- Propel Nonprofits
- Rotary District 5950
- Northrop Grumman

## ICA FOOD SHELF

Administrative Office

12990 St. Davids Road

Minnetonka, MN 55305

952.938.0729 · [icafoodshelf.org](https://www.icafoodshelf.org)

Food and Client Services

11588 K-Tel Drive

Minnetonka, MN 55343



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.