



# Winter 2023

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

## HELPING NICOLE AND HER FAMILY WITH **FOOD SERVICES\***

YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS NICOLE TO FEED HER FAMILY

Nicole is a single mother who recently moved to our area with her two children. She originally was working as a personal care aide and had no need to visit ICA for resource assistance.

That changed earlier this year when she suffered a debilitating injury. Not only was Nicole forced to navigate incredibly expensive hospital bills, but her slow recovery necessitated a switch to a new, less physically demanding career. Unfortunately, the employment transition cut Nicole's regular income in half for a handful of months.

Suddenly facing new expenses and a drastically reduced income, Nicole was introduced to ICA through a friend. On her first visit, she was able to shop our central food shelf and take home a wide variety of protein, fresh produce, canned goods, dairy and snacks for her family. Her twice monthly trips to ICA proved vital in bridging the gap and providing nutritious food to her two school-age children.

Since recovered from her injury, Nicole has regained her typical income and successfully transitioned away from receiving assistance at ICA.



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



## FINDING ASHLEY THE PERFECT **JOB\***

YOUR GIFT ALLOWS US TO OFFER EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Ashley, a recent immigrant to the United States, settled in our area and has been working as a retail warehouse associate.

Unfortunately, this position doesn't include benefits and the pay is hardly enough to afford local housing. Ultimately, she has been hoping to utilize her previous experience working in business.

Ashley was first introduced to employment assistance at ICA through a neighbor, who also benefitted from the resource. Upon meeting with ICA's employment consultant, Ashley was able to receive help with updating her resume, practicing interview skills and job searching. Most importantly, with ICA's one-on-one approach, the resources were totally unique and personalized to her situation.

Recently, Ashley accepted an administrative position with a local business, which includes a pay increase and long-term benefits. She's *thrilled* with the opportunity and credits ICA for the help!

*Ashley was able to work one-on-one with an ICA professional -- which helped her land the perfect job!*

# YOUR GIFTS PROVIDE FOOD, JOBS AND HOUSING

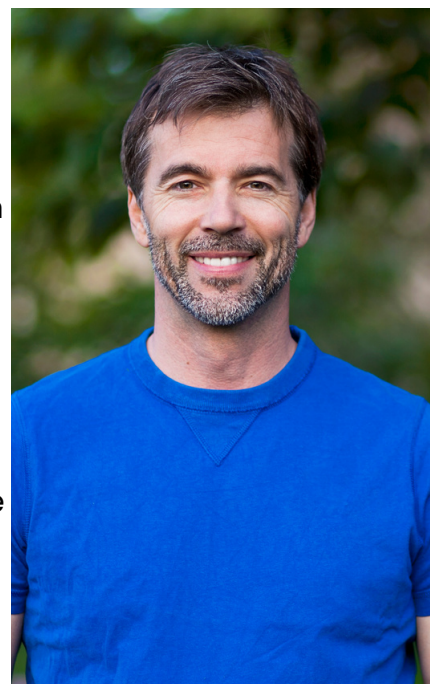
## KEEPING BILL ON TRACK THROUGH HOUSING ASSISTANCE\*

YOUR GIFTS ARE KEEPING LOCAL FAMILIES AWAY FROM HOMELESSNESS

Bill is a local businessman living in Hopkins with his wife and young daughter. He actually has volunteered at ICA in the past through a connection between his employer and our food program. Bill never thought he'd be at ICA to receive services, until his life flipped upside down when his daughter was diagnosed with cancer. Now facing financial insecurity and possible eviction from their family apartment, Bill remembered ICA and made a call to get help.

Initially coming to ICA for help with food, he was surprised to learn of other available services, including housing assistance. After spending time with an ICA relationship manager he learned that his family qualified to receive rental assistance. As it turns out, the rental funds received from ICA were enough to keep his family in their home and stable while he sought out additional income through a part-time job.

The need for housing assistance is surging and creating a more challenging case load than ever before. We are working hard to meet the demand and it remains our belief that keeping local families in their homes is paramount to creating a healthy and stable community for all.



*Bill came to ICA for help following a family emergency -- rental assistance helped him find stability during an incredibly difficult time.*

## SUPPORT ICA'S GIVE TO THE MAX CAMPAIGN!

Fall is here, which means ICA's Give to the Max campaign is officially underway!

**And here's the exciting news. You can double your impact by giving through November 16th!** Thanks to a generous gift from Cargill, your donation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000.

We have very high hopes for 2024 and your investment is needed now more than ever. Questions? Reach out to ICA Director of Philanthropy Scott Searl at [scott@icafoodshelf.org](mailto:scott@icafoodshelf.org).



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