



# Fall 2022

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

## It's Good to See You Again!

Like many of you, ICA was forced to change some of our operations in the past couple years and adapt to an increasingly remote environment.

While we're keeping many of these new strategies in place, in our opinion, nothing beats getting together and gathering as a community. We love reconnecting with ICA supporters and opening our doors.

*Whether it's attending an ICA event, touring our food shelf, or grabbing coffee, we'd love to see you and catch up! As ICA embarks on exciting future plans, we want to ensure you're on our team.*



To learn more about our plans and how to get involved, contact Dan Narr at (952) 279-0291 or [dan@icafoodshelf.org](mailto:dan@icafoodshelf.org)



## A Record Season Serving our Neighbors

With kids home from school, we know the summer months can be an extremely busy time for Minnesota families. **It's no exception here at ICA, where we're serving more neighbors than we have in years.** Rising costs at the gas pump, grocery store checkout, and elsewhere, are driving more and more families to our door as they seek a helping hand.

**Last month alone, ICA provided nearly 1,500 food service orders to over 900 different families. Of all those households, over 80 are brand-new to ICA food services.**

Our **ICA Summer Produce Markets** remain busy, as they provided 241 services last month. Roughly an eighth of all those visits were from families that have never previously utilized ICA programs. In addition to record-breaking food distribution numbers, our case managers allocated over \$27,000 in financial assistance this past month.

**In fact, we're so busy that we're expanding our hours!** We are now open for regular Saturday hours going forward with the belief that adding weekend time slots will help working families avoid a long wait for services.

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### ICA'S IMPACT: May - July 2022

**Distributed 282,681 pounds of food,**  
equivalent to **235,568 meals**



Met with **22 job seekers**  
a total of **101 times**

**Served an estimated 1,373 households** (3,937 neighbors)  
across all services





## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dan Narr

Something we often talk about within our organization is that as the community continues to change, we have an obligation to change with it and tailor our services to the specific needs of our neighbors.

We're finding that hundreds of new families are moving into our main service area and seeking our assistance. **The specific numbers are on track with what we experienced at the very beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.**

**Additionally, we're receiving feedback that rising inflation is causing many local households to cut back on expenses and in turn, they're using our services to help bridge the gap.**

**We're also witnessing an influx of refugee families in our community that are essentially starting their life anew.** This can include settling into a new living space, searching for new jobs, adapting to a new culture, and attempting to learn a new language.

As more neighbors come to us with a similar backstory, we're busy changing our approach to make the transition as easy as possible for both them and their families.

For example, we recently expanded our in-person interpreter services to cover four different non-English languages. **A neighbor can come to us and find helpful volunteers speaking fluent Spanish, Russian, Somali, and Ukrainian on a weekly basis. We've also partnered with an outside service group to offer translation services over the phone in dozens of languages.**

With this in mind, *more than ever*, we're relying on our outstanding community of supporters to elevate our efforts. **A gift to ICA goes directly to our mission of providing stability to each and every one of our neighbors.**



## ICA EXPANDING SERVICES INTO MORE LOCAL SCHOOLS

After laying the groundwork of school-based market and resource centers last fall, ICA is continuing to expand into more area schools and offer a wide range of services to local families.

**This month, a grand opening ceremony is taking place for a new facility at West Junior High School, while a similar space will be officially opening at Alice Smith Elementary following a soft launch earlier in the year.**

ICA is continuing forward with an expansion into local schools based off feedback from area teachers, counselors, and families. **The resounding response is that this type of structure is paramount for families that have barriers to accessing services at our central location.**

**Statistics provided by West Junior High indicate that nearly 20% of their entire academic population are open enrollment.** These students are bussed to Hopkins each day from all corners of the Twin Cities Metro area, many of which live with their families in North Minneapolis neighborhoods where they are more vulnerable to resource insecurities than local area school children.

With fresh and nonperishable food onsite in the school building, we're providing families with an opportunity to take what they need without planning an additional trip outside their daily routine. **Family liaison workers are also on site to better learn about specific needs and help spread information about other nearby resources.**

# UKRAINIAN OUTREACH

For anyone following the news this year, it's been plain to see the devastation inflicted upon Ukrainian families. As it turns out, many fleeing Ukrainians have landed in the Twin Cities Metro area as they seek to rebuild their lives.

Some of the major obstacles in servicing these families are awareness and language barriers. **Not only do many of these individuals not speak English, but they also are unaware of the various resources in their area.**

**To help mitigate this issue, ICA is partnering with the Ukrainian American Community Center, which is based in Minneapolis.** Hundreds of refugee families from all over the metro, including our main service area, are flocking to this central location to seek assistance in their native language.

**In an effort to spread awareness about our services, we're distributing informational flyers translated into Ukrainian at this location and in online social media groups.** With in-person and over the phone translation services available at ICA, our goal is to streamline the process for refugee families that come to us for assistance with food, rent, employment, or anything else.



**Наші Послуги**

Харчова Полиця

ICA Food Shelf обслуговує жителів міст Hopkins, Minnetonka, Excelsior, Shorewood, Deephaven, Greenwood і Woodland.

ICA Food Shelf – модель харчової полиці на вибір, що означає, що ви обираєте продукти, які їсте ви та ваша родина та які вже вмієте готувати.

ICA надає фінансову допомогу на індивідуальній основі для оренди та комунальних послуг, щоб сім'ї мали житло.

ICA консультанти з працевлаштування можуть допомогти вам у пошуку роботи, складанні резюме, проведенні співбесід тощо.

Вам потрібна послуга, яку ми не можемо надати? Наші кейс-менеджери допоможуть вам знайти ідеальний ресурс у спільноті.

**Як записатися на прийом:**  
Телефонуйте (952)938-0729 з 9:30 до 15:30 з понеділка по п'ятницю.  
Ви не розмовляєте англійською?  
Запитайте про наші послуги перекладача.

ICA Food Shelf | 11588 K-Tel Drive Minnetonka, MN 55343

*\*ICA is busy distributing flyers like this to help spread awareness of our services to non-English speaking neighbors*



The rental help I received through ICA meant the world to me. I was going to have to live in my vehicle if I didn't get the help I needed.

-- ICA Client



## Way to go, kids!

We may be biased, but is there anything *sweeter* than a summer lemonade stand to benefit the community?

We couldn't be more proud of a couple efforts that took place locally this summer. **A huge thank you to Abby and Jacob (pictured right) and Anja, Isla, and Wesley!** In July, these two groups of kids organized and ran lemonade stands with the sole intention of donating all proceeds to ICA.

Both efforts yielded nearly \$100 each for our organization, but more importantly, it highlights the caring and selfless youth we have living right in our backyard. **What a great example these kids are for everyone in the community!**



# SUPPORTING ICA HOUSING ASSISTANCE

## THANK YOU, ONB FOUNDATION!

A major thank you to an *amazing* community supporter! We're excited to announce that we've received \$10,000 from the Old National Bank Foundation. Specifically, these funds will go toward supporting ICA's housing assistance programming. Thank you for investing in ICA and our neighbors!

Want to learn more about how ICA helps our neighbors stay in their homes? Scan the QR code below!



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



### Community Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, September 24

Faith Church | 12007 Excelsior Boulevard Minnetonka, MN 55343

Come taste a number of different chilis and cast a ballot for your favorite. Please bring a monetary or food donation for ICA. This event is happening in partnership with Hopkins and Minnetonka police, fire, and recreation departments.



### Closing Day at Tommy's Tonka Trolley

Sunday, October 2

379 Lake Street Excelsior, MN 55331

Join Tommy's Tonka Trolley for a free scoop of ice cream on their last day of the season! The event will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until all the ice cream is gone. Freewill donations are being accepted in support of ICA!



### The Great Taste

Thursday, October 13

Oak Ridge Country Club | 700 Oak Ridge Road Hopkins, MN 55305

**Our signature event is back in person!** Please join us Thursday, October 13 at Oak Ridge Country Club for a wonderful celebration of community, generosity, and neighbors. Also, the evening will feature a **big announcement** about the future of ICA.

**ICA FOOD SHELF** (952) 938-0729 · [icafoodshelf.org](https://icafoodshelf.org)

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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.