

Empty Bowls co-chair Amy Saldanha and Hopkins art student Vang Xiong preparing for Empty Bowls



Our Mission—to offer **hope** and **assistance** while upholding the **dignity** of our neighbors as they strive for **self-sufficiency**.

MARCH CAMPAIGN

Minnesota's Biggest Hunger Fundraiser

Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign is an annual grassroots food and fundraiser for Minnesota's food shelves and hunger agencies.

In addition to the food and funds that ICA raises during the month of March, we will also receive a portion of the funds raised by Minnesota FoodShare. The more we raise, the more we will receive.

ICA's March Campaign goal is to raise **\$150,000** and to collect **150,000 pounds of food** during the month of March, and we need your help!



Here are ways that you can get involved and support neighbors in our community:

Donate food: Drop off food at a local food drive or at our K-Tel location (11588 K-Tel Drive, Minnetonka)

Donate funds: ICA's access to discount products and programs allows us to stretch your cash donation further! Donate online at icafoodshelf.org/donate or by mail (12990 St. Davids Road, Minnetonka, 55305)

Host a food/fund drive: Plan a food drive for your office, your neighborhood, or your congregation. Find info on food drives at icafoodshelf.org/food-drive.html.

Attend March events: Join us for the *March Concert for ICA* on March 4 and *Empty Bowls* on March 7. For more events, visit icafoodshelf.org/events.html.

Volunteer: We need volunteers for Empty Bowls! More info at hopkinsschools.org/emptybowls.

Questions? Please contact us at events@icafoodshelf.org. Thank you!

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PEG'S POST

Helping Neighbors Together

Every month you help an average of 2,400 adults and children through your support of ICA. We are happy to report that we continually see our neighbors stabilizing their lives and moving on from ICA. Yet every month, neighbors new to ICA find they need assistance feeding their families, staying in their homes, and finding employment. Often neighbors tell us, "We used to donate to ICA and now we need your services." And that is why you and ICA are here – because we never know when any of us will need help.

Recently we used mapping software to see the geographic distribution of ICA clients and supporters. What we saw was incredible! Donors and clients regularly live in the same neighborhoods and even on the same streets. We are truly a community of neighbors helping each other.

So that brings us to March. March was historically a time of scarcity for food shelves, so the Minneapolis Council of Churches created the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. The March Campaign aims to spread awareness of hunger in Minnesota. Minnesota FoodShare solicits donations from corporations and individuals and then with those



funds, awards food shelves a grant proportional to the amount of food and funds each individual food shelf raises.

So donate generously to ICA during the month of March and see your gift multiply! Attend *Empty Bowls* and the *March Concert for ICA*, or sponsor your own food/fund drive! Have fun and help your neighbors. And did you know that ICA's access to discount products and programs enables us to stretch your cash donation further?

Together we can ensure that everyone in our community is fed. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Peg Keenan



EMPTY BOWLS

A Hopkins Tradition

Tuesday, March 7 | 11 a.m.—7 p.m.

Hopkins Center for the Arts | 1111 Mainstreet

Nineteen years ago, fueled by a passion for creativity and a desire to help our neighbors in need, Hopkins Public Schools art teachers and leaders at Hopkins Community Education founded our local Empty Bowls fundraiser to raise money for ICA Food Shelf and ResourceWest.

Our fundraising goal this year is **\$80,000** – to reach a 19-year total of over **\$1.1 million!**



EMPTY BOWLS
E V E N T

Join us and help us fill the Empty Bowls in our community!

- Enjoy a simple meal of soup and bread donated by local restaurants
- Choose a free handmade bowl donated by local students and artists
- Bid on fine art in the silent auction
- Enjoy great music and entertainment

SPOTLIGHT: ICA'S CASE MANAGERS

Offering hope, fulfilling our mission

ICA's case managers Jessie Billiet and Pat Gau are at the heart of ICA's services. Pat and Jessie meet with almost every client and have contact with many of our volunteers. They are often the first face of ICA, the first to work with a client, and the first person to whom clients entrust their story.

ICA's case managers help in three primary ways:

1. Navigate the food shelf and ICA's services.
2. Provide referrals to other agencies.
3. Work with clients to prevent homelessness.

Food Shelf Navigation

Seeking assistance for the first time can be overwhelming. Jessie and Pat hear from clients every week: "I never thought I'd be here." At a client's first appointment, Pat or Jessie will meet with them to review paperwork, walk through using the food shelf and ICA services, and also help to ensure that clients are taking advantage of other area services.

In 2016, ICA case managers provided

1,456 referrals

to SNAP, Energy Assistance, Hennepin county services, and other resources.



The food shelf is often clients' first point of entry to any kind of help.

Pat and Jessie build relationships with clients and offer a safe space for discussing difficult issues.

Referrals

When clients are new, many don't know what services are available to help them. Our case managers discuss eligibility for programs including SNAP, Energy Assistance, financial counseling, and other local agencies that provide assistance.

Homelessness Prevention

Homelessness Prevention helps clients by providing financial assistance for a utility bill or a month of rent, without which, they would lose their housing. This service is a huge benefit to clients, but actually impacts all of us. Keeping people in their homes keeps our community stable—kids stay in their schools, neighbors stay in our neighborhoods, and community members stay in our community. A strong community benefits us all.

Homelessness Prevention by the numbers (2016)

194 services
173 households
518 individuals

66%
households with children

\$94,606
in assistance provided

CHANGES AT THE SHELF

Updating our procedure for shopping with clients

We recently made some changes to the way clients shop at the food shelf. When we first opened our K-Tel location, clients shopped one-on-one with a volunteer.

In January, we tested a new shopping model: rather

than shopping one-on-one, volunteers are stationed throughout the store to help clients (much like zone defense, rather than man-to-man!).

The new model worked so well that earlier this month we expanded the pilot to all shifts.

We are always looking for ways to better serve our clients and maintain their dignity as they use ICA's services.

Event Calendar: March–May 2017



Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign | March 1 – 31

- Donate funds or food
- Food drives: various schools, congregations, and businesses. Schedule yours today! 952.938.0729
- For more, visit icafoodshelf.org and click on *Events*.



March Concert for ICA | Saturday, March 4 | 4 p.m.

Faith Presbyterian Church, 12007 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka

A fundraiser for the March Campaign, this concert will feature the Minneapolis Commodores, Plymouth Rockers, and the Faith Church Choir. Everyone welcome; freewill offering.



Empty Bowls | Tuesday, March 7 | 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Hopkins Center for the Arts | 1111 Mainstreet

The 19th annual Empty Bowls event features soup and bread, free bowls from local artists and students, and live music. Proceeds go to ICA Food Shelf and



Postal Food Drive | Saturday, May 13

Save the date! More information about the 25th annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive will be coming soon. Volunteer with us and plan to donate food at your mailbox.



2017 Great Taste | Thursday, October 5, 2017

Minnetonka Community Center

Save the date for the 2017 Great Taste!

Thank you for supporting ICA at the 2016 Great Taste! We had a wonderful evening and raised **\$99,000** for ICA services and programs!



ICA recently received a grant from the Kopp Family Foundation, to be used for our Homelessness Prevention program.

Thank you to Kopp Family Foundation for your generous support!



Administrative office: 12990 St. Davids Road · Minnetonka, MN 55305
Food and client services: 11588 K-Tel Drive · Minnetonka, MN 55343
952.938.0729 · www.icafoodshelf.org



Serving Minnetonka, Hopkins, Excelsior, Woodland, Deephaven, Greenwood & Shorewood since 1971.



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