



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

MARCH CAMPAIGN: GET INVOLVED TODAY!

We need your help to raise \$150,000 and collect 150,000 pounds of food this month!



It's March and that means it's the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign! This is so important to ICA—it's one of our biggest months for food and fund drives. We rely on the food and funds collected to get us through the next few months of operations. We also receive additional matched funds from Minnesota FoodShare based on how much we raise. The more we raise, the more we receive. Here's how you can get involved:



Host a food drive: at your workplace, school, congregation, or community organization. We've created lots of resources to help you plan a successful food drive. Find those items at icafoodshelf.org/toolkit.



Host a fund drive: Raising funds for ICA is a great team-building feel-good activity. We've collected ideas and best practices from past fund drives. Check them out at icafoodshelf.org/toolkit. ICA can purchase up to ten times the amount of food with your dollars.



Attend Empty Bowls: Truly one of the best days of the year, Empty Bowls brings together our entire community to raise funds for those in need and celebrate local schools and arts. Join us on Tuesday, March 13 between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. at Hopkins Center for the Arts. For more details, please see page 4 or visit hopkinsemptymbowls.org.



Donate now: Please consider making a gift to ICA this month! Visit icafoodshelf.org/donate to donate securely online, or send a check with the enclosed envelope. Every dollar makes a difference, and ICA uses your dollars well! We were recently recognized as a **Four Star Charity** by *Charity Navigator*, and we **Meet Standards** as recognized by the *Charities Review Council*.

FOOD DRIVE HERE

Help us raise \$150,000 & 150,000 pounds of food for neighbors in our community!

Donate here or at icafoodshelf.org

Our neighbors in need work so hard to provide good lives for their children and families, and we are proud to provide help where it's needed. **Last year, ICA helped 2,142 local families through food services, homelessness prevention, and employment assistance.**

In This Issue

- March Campaign: 1
- Peg's Post: 2
- Community Partners: 2
- Food Drive Toolkit: 3
- Home Delivery Changes: 3
- Empty Bowls: 4
- Upcoming Events: 4

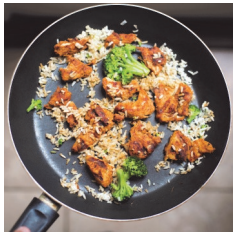


PEG'S POST

Bridging the Gap, Helping Neighbors in Need

Sometimes, a nonprofit's goal is to someday go out of business. Cancer cured, arts funded, and homelessness ended. But for ICA and many social service organizations, closing our doors is not a realistic dream. Our community needs ICA to be a consistent presence in our neighborhoods, helping those in need, because so many hardships are unforeseen.

A local senior on a fixed income, with unexpected medical bills, can no longer afford groceries. A mom with cancer is out of work for treatment, and can't get by without ICA's help. Grandparents find themselves unexpectedly caring for their grandchildren without resources to do so. We don't



see these hardships going away. Unexpected twists and turns in life happen. And ICA must continue to be here working every day to fill in the gaps.

We provide the support to ensure that neighbors in our community don't go hungry. We often say that each of us is only one or two unforeseen life events away from needing to use ICA ourselves. We must be here to help those who need it.



Your gifts of funds, food, and time make the difference to neighbors when they need us. Because of your contributions, we are able to ensure that parents can feed their children, that seniors can eat and buy medicine, and that paying unexpected bills doesn't mean going hungry. Your gifts provide food, but more importantly, your gifts provide help and hope, and bridge the gap for those in need.

Thank you for your support!

Peg Keenan

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to the many groups and businesses who've held food & fund drives for ICA in the past few months! Here are a few:



Spartan Nash's awesome volunteers sorting non-perishable food.



This wonderful food drive from Omnitrac employees collected 361 pounds!



The Glenn Minnetonka raised \$1,100 for ICA this December!



SRF Consulting raised an amazing \$6,494 and 369 pounds in their December drive!



Fantastic volunteers from Adath Jeshurun packed food for our turkey giveaway.

FOOD & FUND DRIVE TOOLKIT

Make Your Food & Fund Drive a Success!

Our goal is to have **50 food & fund drives** throughout the community this March. To help you plan a successful food or fund drive, we have put together some new resources! Visit icafoodshelf.org/toolkit to find best practices, strategies, current needs, posters, logos, and more to ensure you have a great food drive.

Have ideas, questions, comments, or suggestions? Contact Kristin at kristin@icafoodshelf.org or 952.279.0280. Thank you for your help!



Groveland Elementary collected **3,936 pounds of food** during their March Food Drive in 2017!

View **ICA's Food & Fund Drive Toolkit** at icafoodshelf.org/toolkit

HOME DELIVERY

Bringing the Client Choice Model to our Home Delivery Program

We are excited to report that we are transitioning our Home Delivery program to ICA's Client Choice Model. Prior to February, volunteers used Emergency Bags as the basis for all Home Delivery orders. Emergency Bags are pre-packed bags of food filled with a variety of non-perishable items. Volunteers also added additional perishable items to the order, often guessing what clients might want and need.

With this amazing change to the program, we are now inviting Home Delivery clients to fill out an extensive master list, detailing the foods that they need, want, like, and dislike. Now when volunteers fill the order, they use the master list to select foods. As always, food orders are filled with what is available. But with these changes, Home Delivery clients should be getting more food that they can and will eat, and hopefully no food that they cannot eat. Upon hearing about the changes, one client responded, "Oh, my goodness! Can you guys get any more wonderful?!"

We are so happy to improve the Home Delivery service for our clients. We've already received great feedback about the new system, and look forward to continuing to improve our programs.

Home Delivery Program

ICA's Home Delivery program is available for those who are homebound due to some form of disability.

Clients are approved for the service by ICA's case managers on a case-by-case basis.



Client Choice Model

The Client Choice Model allows clients to choose their own food when visiting the food shelf.

Much like shopping at a traditional grocery store, clients are able to choose the foods that their family will eat and that they know how to prepare.

ICA has been using the Client Choice model since 2014 when we opened our K-Tel location.

In 2017, ICA's Home Delivery program provided **384 home deliveries** to **100** individuals.

EMPTY BOWLS

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 | 11 a.m.—7 p.m.

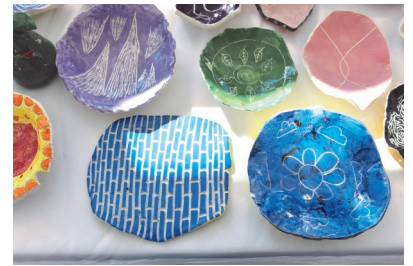
Please join us at the Hopkins Center for the Arts (1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins) for one of the best days of the year!

Empty Bowls is a celebration of everything that makes our community great: great neighbors, great schools, great local arts, great food, and great community. Please come out and help us raise money to help local neighbors in need.

Your freewill donation will support ICA Food Shelf and ResourceWest. Here's what to expect at this delicious fundraiser:

- A simple meal of soup and bread, donated by local restaurants.
- A complimentary ceramic bowl handmade by local students and artists.
- Live music from local musicians.
- Silent auction featuring fine art from local artists.
- Neighbors, community, and friends, both new and old!
- Everyone is invited; all are welcome!

Interested in volunteering, sponsoring the event, or in-kind donations? Need more info? Please visit hopkinsemptymbowls.org.



Event Calendar: March–May 2018



Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

March 1–31

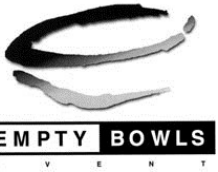
Plan your food drive or donate today. See front page for more details.



Faith Church March

Concert Sunday, March 4 | 4 p.m.

Faith Presbyterian Church
12007 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka
Minneapolis Commodores & Plymouth Rockers to perform. Please bring canned food or freewill offering.



Empty Bowls

Tuesday, March 13 | 11 am—7 pm

Hopkins Center for the Arts

1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins

Learn more at hopkinsemptymbowls.org



Letter Carriers' Food Drive

Saturday, May 12

Donate food at your mailbox! Learn more and sign up to volunteer at icafoodshelf.org/postal



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



ICA is a 501(c)3 organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law