



# Spring 2022

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

## Your Donations to ICA Go Even Further During our March Campaign

Did you know that March is historically the time of year when food shelves endure their lowest periods of inventory? Now entering its 41st year, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign was first started as an effort to restock local food shelves during tough times. **Fast forward a few decades and the campaign has grown into the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state.**

This March Campaign, we hope you'll consider joining ICA, along with your family, school, neighborhood, business, congregation, and community organization to help raise funds and collect food for our neighbors facing food insecurity.



*What makes this campaign unique, is that every dollar donated to ICA during March will be proportionally matched, so your donation will go even further! We need your help to meet our goal of raising \$150,000 and 150,000 pounds of food this March. Here's how you can get involved:*

### Donate funds



Remember that all funds donated this month will be proportionally matched, so your gift will go even further. Additionally, with ICA's buying power, we can buy more food for the same dollar.

### Donate food



We encourage you to take a glance at our updated current needs list at [icafoodshelf.org/current-needs](http://icafoodshelf.org/current-needs). Please bring donations to 11588 K-Tel Drive, Minnetonka during open donation hours.

### Host a fund drive



Gather your co-workers, congregants, classmates, friends, and neighbors to raise money to help our neighbors. Every \$20 donated to ICA will yield 20 meals for people experiencing food insecurity in our community. Donate at [icafoodshelf.org/march-donation](http://icafoodshelf.org/march-donation).

### Host a food drive



Food drives are a great way to raise awareness of the need in our community! Visit [icafoodshelf.org/food-drive-spotlight](http://icafoodshelf.org/food-drive-spotlight) for inspiration and ideas on how to organize your very own food drive for ICA.

Have questions? Please contact Maggie Cool at (952) 279-0292 or [maggie@icafoodshelf.org](mailto:maggie@icafoodshelf.org)

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### ICA'S IMPACT: October - December 2021

**Distributed 273,290 pounds of food,**  
equivalent to **160,758 meals**



Met with **28 job seekers**  
a total of **148 times**

**Served an estimated 1,281 households** (3,362 neighbors)  
across all services





**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dan Narr

The food I received through the ICA Market was a blessing. An ICA case manager was also able to connect me to other community resources that I didn't know about. Now, my kids can receive winter gear and are safe in the cold. Thank you for everything!  
- A recent ICA client

As ICA Food Shelf and the surrounding community continue to navigate the various challenges associated with the coronavirus pandemic, **our focus remains on redefining access and adapting to the changing needs of our neighbors.**



ICA has an updated annual report! Scan above to view.

ICA's new strategic plan is dedication to community outreach and growth in ways we never thought possible. **Together, we are working to break down barriers and make access to our services easier.**

One of the ways in which we're redefining access is through home deliveries. This service is intended to benefit seniors and other homebound neighbors who are unable to visit our central food shelf location on K-Tel Drive. **In just the past fiscal year, our home deliveries increased by 30%.** Building on that momentum, we recently were gifted an additional delivery van from our Rotary Club partners (see below), with the expectation that home deliveries will continue to expand.

Another strategic effort to ease the burden on families and ensure the needs of their children are met is a planned expansion into the local school districts. **Since opening the first-ever ICA Market and Resource Center at Gatewood Elementary last October, we recently launched another school-based market and resource center at Alice Smith Elementary School and a pantry at Hopkins High School.** The goal is to eliminate transportation barriers for families to access our food and case management resources.

Of course, none of these new, exciting initiatives would be possible without your continued support. We rely on the generosity of our supporters to meet the ever-changing needs of our neighbors. **Now, more than ever, a gift to ICA will help members of our community find long-term stability.**



In late October 2021, local Rotarians raised the funds for ICA to purchase another delivery vehicle. This van is instrumental for the growth of our home deliveries.



After launching the first ICA Market and Resource Center at Gatewood Elementary (pictured above), another center has opened at Alice Smith Elementary School. We're planning on opening additional school-based market and resource centers in 2022.





**CELEBRATING 24 YEARS**

**EMPTY BOWLS CELEBRATION**  
February 21, 2022 | LTD Brewing Co. | 5-7 p.m.

**ONLINE SILENT AUCTION**  
March 1 - 7 | [hopkinsemptypowls.org](http://hopkinsemptypowls.org)

First started in 1999, Empty Bowls is a celebration of a number of things that make our community special: caring neighbors, thriving schools, and talented local artists. **The 24th annual Empty Bowls Community Event and Fundraiser for ICA Food Shelf and ResourceWest is set to return Tuesday, March 1 through Monday, March 7.**

Empty Bowls 2022 will remain largely virtual, with an online community art silent auction open all week. In addition to the auction, other virtual components will include program updates from ICA and ResourceWest and a look back at previous Empty Bowls events. **New this year, a celebration of Empty Bowls happy hour is planned for Monday, February 21 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at LTD Brewing Co. in Hopkins. At the happy hour event, 20% of all proceeds go back to ICA and ResourceWest and all attendees will receive a handmade bowl!**



Due to a myriad of factors, our collaborative partnerships are asking us to step back and reimagine what comes next for this community celebration. 2022 will mark the final year of the Empty Bowls event as we know it today. "We treasure our relationship with this community, the Hopkins School District, and ResourceWest," explains ICA Executive Director Dan Narr. **"More than ever, together, we continue to work hard to fill any and all unmet needs. We are incredibly grateful to all who have made Empty Bowls a success for the past 24 years and look forward to future conversations about what a new community event might look like."**

We invite you to learn more about the event, donate, and join us by visiting [www.hopkinsemptypowls.org](http://www.hopkinsemptypowls.org)

## Caring Youth Awards

ICA is truly fortunate to have so many selfless middle and high schoolers donate their time and talent to our organization.



We are pleased to nominate the following students for Caring Youth Awards in 2022:

- **Kate Briesemeister**, *junior*, Minnetonka High School
- **Kate Erickson**: *junior*, Minnetonka High School
- **Nina Fontanella**: *junior*, Hopkins High School
- **Walker Liu**: *senior*, Minnetonka High School
- **Theo Liu**: *senior*, Blake High School
- **Aly Sinykin**: *junior*, Minnetonka High School
- **Dylan Sinykin**: *junior*, Minnetonka High School
- **Quinci Wheeler**: *senior*, Minnetonka High School

The Caring Youth Awards are sponsored by the cities of Minnetonka, Hopkins, and Golden Valley, the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts, and the Glen Lake Optimists.

## ICA Scholarships



Each spring, ICA awards two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors—one to a Hopkins student and one to a Minnetonka student.

This scholarship is funded by an ICA donor and is given to students who have volunteered with or supported ICA.

We are currently accepting applications from 2022 graduating seniors.

Hurry and get your application sent in before the April 30 deadline!

Additional information and application forms can be found on our website at [www.icafoodshelf.org/scholarship](http://www.icafoodshelf.org/scholarship).

# PSST... THE ICA SLEEP OUT IS BACK!



## MEET, JOHN!

The ICA Sleep Out was founded by former Food Logistics Manager and current ICA supporter, John Kokesh. Back in 2000, John decided he would tackle the growing housing instability issue and pledged to sleep-out during the whole month of November, giving all donations to our homelessness prevention fund.

**Fast forward to 2021, ICA helped 1,036 individuals in our community with rent and utility assistance; helping them avoid eviction and providing security and stability to our neighbors facing housing insecurity.** The need persists and as housing costs continue to rise and inflation persists, is only growing.

**In an effort to gather funds for ICA's homelessness prevention program and raise awareness, we're excited to announce the ICA Sleep Out is coming back in 2022 after a 14 year hiatus!** Gather your family, friends, youth group, coworkers, or teammates, and plan your sleep out for ICA in the month of April!



John Kokesh sleeping outside in 2001.

More information found here: [www.icafoodshelf.org/ica-sleep-out](http://www.icafoodshelf.org/ica-sleep-out) or contact Abbie Peterson at [abbie@icafoodshelf.org](mailto:abbie@icafoodshelf.org)

“ I want to be sure to thank you again for helping me out with rent payment this month. Your organization made an extremely humbling situation not quite so difficult. ”  
- A recent ICA client

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



**Jersey Mike's ICA Fundraiser**  
525 Blake Road N. | Hopkins  
Wednesday, February 23  
through Monday, February 28  
Enjoy a Jersey Mike's Sub and 50% of sales will be donated to ICA Food Shelf.



**March Round Ups for ICA**  
Tuesday, March 1 through  
Thursday, March 31  
ICA is fortunate to have the support of so many local businesses and shops. This March, make sure to round up your purchases at:



- Driskill's Downtown Market
- Lakewinds Food Co-op
- Tonkadale Greenhouse



**Ongoing**  
**Online Bazaar:** Browse a variety of items, from furniture, home goods, and more. Proceeds benefit ICA Food Shelf.  
[www.icafoodshelf.org/online-bazaar](http://www.icafoodshelf.org/online-bazaar)

**ICA FOOD SHELF** 952.938.0729 · [icafoodshelf.org](http://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.