**March Food Share Month at ICA**

**Neil’s Story**

Neil came to the food shelf after a long career and a lifetime of self-sufficiency. Nearing retirement he was diagnosed with cancer and needed help. Because of his illness, his ability to work was significantly curtailed, reducing his income. Because of that he couldn’t keep up with all his bills. Neil came to ICA for help and thanks in part to your gifts, we have been able to provide Neil with the food he needs to make ends meet. And while that food support is critical, we also provided him with a listening ear and emotional support as he navigates his cancer treatment. Thank you for helping us care for neighbors like Neil!

**Record Numbers of Neighbors Need Help**

ICA is seeing record numbers of families visiting the food shelf. With over 1000 families visiting each month, our food stock is in constant need of being replenished. Traditionally the spring is a time when contributions of food and financial support begin to decline. In response ICA joins the hundreds of other food shelves in Minnesota to encourage contributions during March Food Share month. It’s the second most important time of the year for food and financial contributions.

**March Food Share Month Goals**

To ensure we can continue to provide for neighbors like Neil we need a significant community response. You can make a difference by helping ICA collect 200,000 lbs. of food and $300,000 during the month of March. You can bring your gifts of food to CHURCH anytime during the month of March. And you can make financial gifts through CHURCH or directly to ICA via their website. When you make a gift through ICA’s website be sure to indicate that you are a member of CHURCH.

**Food, Jobs and Housing**

It might also be helpful to know that ICA provides more than just food for our neighbors in need. We think of our services as encompassing: Food, Jobs, and Housing. In 2022 ICA helped more than 35 people find new employment. And we shared over $300,000 in rental support to help keep families in their apartment housing.

Thank you for ALL you do to help ICA care for those in our community who need a little extra support. Your gifts matter and are making a difference for the thousands of people like Neil who come seeking help. Thank you!!

Scott Searl

ICA Director of Philanthropy

scott@icafoodshelf.org

952-279-0280

[www.icafoodshelf.org/donate](http://www.icafoodshelf.org/donate)