ICA Your Local FOODSHELF™

Autumn 2017 Newsletter

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

Alerus Mortgage presents

THE great TASTE

Thursday, October 5 | 5:00 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center

Tickets

Table Sponsor: $1200 Eight guests receive Wine & Dine ticket + VIP seating during presentation + opportunity for recognition

Wine & Dine: $150 Taste Reception + limo service to a local restaurant for multi-course meal + wine

Taste: $65 Taste Reception (including appetizers + wine & beer + dessert)

Tickets available at icafoodshelf.org/taste or call 952.938.0729

Presented by Alerus Mortgage
Sponsored by Hopkins Honda, Marks Group Wealth Management, and Minikahda Mini Storage

Join us for an evening under the stars filled with great tastes, superb sips, & delightful amusements

Taste Reception

Tastings from local restaurants, complimentary wine & beer, raffle, and celebration of ICA. Presentation and live auction emceed by KARE 11's Belinda Jensen.

Featuring Tastes from 318 Cafe, BLVD, Crossroads Delicatessen, Famous Dave's, Finnegan's, Kowalski's, LTD Brewing Co., and Unmapped Brewing.

Destination Dining

Limo service to a surprise restaurant for specially-prepared, multi-course fine dining experiences.

Participating dinner restaurants include 6Smith, Bacio, Birch's on the Lake, BLVD, Coalition, District, Jake O'Connor's, Jimmy's, Lafayette Club, Kona Grill Eden Prairie, Kona Grill Ridgedale, Maynard's, NineTwentyFive, Redstone, and Spasso.

In This Issue

- The Great Taste: 1
- Client Survey Results: 2
- Thrivent Choice: 2
- Mobile Food Shelf: 2
- School Programs: 3
- Holiday Meal Program: 3
- Upcoming Events: 4

PEG'S POST

Thank you for your support!

This summer, we conducted a client survey. We asked a total of 19 questions so that we could identify areas in which we are performing well, and pinpoint the areas in which we could make changes to better serve our clients.

Here are some highlights from that survey:

- 96% of respondents indicated that they were Very or Somewhat Satisfied with FOOD QUALITY
- 97% of respondents indicated that they were Very or Somewhat Satisfied with FOOD CHOICE
- 98% of respondents indicated that they were Very or Somewhat Satisfied with the EXPERIENCE of getting food
- 99.7% of respondents indicated that staff and volunteers at the food shelf treat them with respect on all or most visits
- 33% of respondents indicated that they worry at least once per month where their next meal will come from
- Clients' main suggestion was that we provide more meat and fish when they visit.

I was encouraged by many of these results. As a community that supports one another, we have much to celebrate here. However, it saddens me that *33% of clients surveyed indicated that they worry at least once a month about where their next meal will come from.* That tells me that even with the services that we provide and the help that we give, some of our clients are still experiencing serious uncertainty about one of life's most basic needs. Hunger is real in our community. And it is something that we can address.

Thank you so much for all you do in addressing hunger for our neighbors and making this community a wonderful place to live.

With your ongoing help, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need, ensuring that none of us goes to bed hungry.

Thank you,

Peg Keenan

THRIVENT CHOICE

Making a Meaningful Impact

Choice Dollars® directions can help support ICA Food Shelf.

Think of the impact you—along with other eligible Thrivent members—can make by directing Choice Dollars to ICA. The outreach funding we receive from Thrivent Financial through this program helps us feed neighbors in our community.

Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Thank you!

MOBILE FOOD SHELF: A NEW MODEL

Bringing fresh fruits and veggies to local families in need

ICA is trying a new Mobile Food Shelf model at an apartment complex near Minnetonka High School.

Different from our current prepackaged Mobile Food Shelf model, the purpose of the new model is to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as bring our Mobile clients more choice in their food.

At each delivery, we load the ICA truck with whatever fresh fruits and veggies are in season that week, as well as a selection of pantry items. Many of the produce items are grown locally, and in neighbors' gardens. We are so happy to share this summer bounty with our neighbors!

Make a Difference with ICA This Autumn!

BACK TO SCHOOL

ICA's Snack Bin and Weekend Bag Programs

As kids and families head back to school, we're excited to relaunch our school programs: Snack Bins and Weekend Bags!

Snack Bins: We provide our local schools with plastic bins filled with kid-friendly snacks. Each bin contains about 30 pounds of snacks including granola bars, fruit cups, and crackers. School counselors and teachers are invited to pick up a bin and share the snacks with hungry kids. Students who don't receive breakfast at home or don't have a lunch are able to drop by the office and get a snack, so that their growing bodies and brains have the energy they need to learn.

Weekend Bags: Weekend Bags are designed to provide additional food to students in need during the weekend when school breakfast and lunches are not available. The food is packed by ICA volunteers into a plastic bag and is small enough to fit into a student's backpack. A key part of this program is that we also include info about ICA to encourage the household to come in and get food for the whole family, including fresh produce, dairy, and meats.

Here's how you can help:

⇒ **Donate Funds*** to support these programs. Last year, ICA provided nearly $40,000 worth of snacks to Minnetonka and Hopkins schools.

⇒ **Host a Food Drive** to collect the foods we need to run these programs. We especially need granola bars, individual oatmeal packets, macaroni and cheese, ready-to-eat soups, and canned fruit.

* Donating funds is the most efficient way to support ICA. With our access to discounted foods and programs, we're able to stretch a dollar further! Donate online at icafoodshelf.org/donate.

HOLIDAY MEALS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

ICA's Turkey & Holiday Meal Program Returns!

Though it's technically still summer, planning is already underway at ICA for our annual Turkey & Holiday Meal Program!

Each November, ICA hosts a special day where we provide turkeys and all the holiday meal trimmings to our clients. It is truly one of the best days all year as we serve hundreds of our neighbors. Held the week prior to Thanksgiving, we provide turkeys, fresh veggies, and other holiday food items.

The cost to provide this program is approximately $15,000 and we need your help! **Your gift of just $17 will provide the food for a holiday meal to a family in need.** Please consider making an extra gift today to help us spread the holiday cheer this coming season.

$17 Provides a complete holiday meal for a local family in need

Event Calendar: Autumn 2017

ICA Bazaar! | Saturday, September 23 | 8 a.m.—2 p.m.

Join us for our semi-annual warehouse sale! We have lots of new retail merchandise, including furniture, rugs, small housewares, toys, and more! All items are sold 70-80% off retail: think 'EVERYTHING-MUST-GO'! Volunteers needed; sign up online.

The Great Taste | Thursday, October 5 | 5 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center. Tickets now available! Purchase yours at icafoodshelf.org/taste. See front page for more information about this wonderful event!

Turkey & Holiday Meal Program | Thursday, November 16

Provide holiday food for a family in need this Thanksgiving and holiday season. $17 will help provide a holiday meal for a family in need. Volunteers needed to help raise funds. Email events@icafoodshelf.org for more info.

"From the Heart" Variety Show | Saturday, November 18

Sponsored by the Lake Minnetonka Excelsior Rotary Club, this event showcases local talent, while benefiting ICA. Admission to the event is a non-perishable food or monetary donation. Held at Excelsior Elementary School.

Walk to End Hunger | Thanksgiving morning | Thursday, November 23

Join ICA for this family-friendly 5K fun walk on Thanksgiving morning in the Mall of America. This fun event is a great way to start your holiday off right — giving back before you give thanks! Sign up to walk with ICA at walktoendhunger.org.

ICA Day at Maynard's | Monday, November 27

Join us at Maynard's the Monday after Thanksgiving for a break from turkey leftovers! 100% of the proceeds that day go to ICA Food Shelf!

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.

Wallace | Carlson PRINTING EST. 1931

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