



Interfaith Outreach™
Igniting the power of community

JANUARY - MARCH
 2020



Cody and Interfaith Employment Services Manager, Natalie Bullinger, worked together to find job training resources and secure career-focused employment.

At Interfaith, Cody found hope

“Interfaith gave me a reason to live. Here I found the resources and tools I needed, even in my darkest places. They were nonjudgmental. They all made me feel like I was somebody. Here, I felt hope.”

Cody was born in Minnesota. He worked for years as a social worker at a domestic violence shelter until the unthinkable happened. He was brutally assaulted by five men, resulting in a traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. Cody spent six weeks recovering from the physical impact of the assault, and his struggle to get his life back on track led to self-

medicating with alcohol.

Cody's Interfaith Outreach case manager caringly called him out. He tells us, “She said, ‘Cody, you need to go get help. You need to go to rehab. We want to help you, but that needs to come first.’ She held me accountable for my actions. I had to get clean.”

Interfaith then became Cody's

lifeline. He used the food shelf, he accessed rent assistance in months his budget was tight to avoid homelessness, and he worked hard at recovery.

Cody worked with Natalie Bullinger, Employment Services Manager, to explore career options and register for an innovative training program. “Natalie saw that my past jobs made me a fit for a human services position. I enrolled in a nine-month Project for Pride in Living (PPL) training program. I graduated in June of 2019. From day one, I committed to mastering this.”

Cody worked hard and completed the training. Today Cody is working full time for Hennepin County and part time for UPS. He's on the path to his chosen career and hard-won recovery and stability. “I just celebrated my second year of sobriety. I've had no relapses. I don't plan to.”

As Cody's journey reminds us, preventing hunger begins with a dependable source of income to meet a family's financial need. The Prevent Hunger campaign supports our food shelf and provides employment and holistic support services to bring hope to our neighbors.



**2020 Prevent Hunger Campaign
 Goal: \$200,000 and 100,000 pounds
 of food and goods by March 31**

Stretching budgets, building capacity



LaDonna Hoy,
Executive Director, Interfaith
Outreach & Community Partners

What brings most people to Interfaith for the first time is a need for help with the basics like keeping food on the table or a roof overhead. For those whose incomes are not keeping up with increased costs of living, and/or for people in situational crises, our food shelf is an invaluable supplementary food source. With your help and the help of this caring community, nearly 1 million pounds of food

and household items helped 1,231 families stretch lean budgets and/or prevent hunger last year. How amazing is that? **THANK YOU!**

For hardworking families, beyond a need for help with the basics, are complex issues that keep them stuck in chronic economic hardship—underemployment being one of them. The growing gap between real incomes and increased costs of living, low-wage jobs that offer limited hours and/or benefits, and a skills gap for people competing in an ever-changing job market, require comprehensive approaches to close that gap. This has been and continues to be a stubborn trend, and finding quality jobs is a burden that disproportionately falls on workers of color, women and younger workers.

The Prevent Hunger campaign not only supports Interfaith’s Food Shelf but our Employment Services

program, and Family Support Services. Employment Services staff, case managers, volunteers, employment partners, and the food shelf team work with clients to address the basics, as well as employment and other family support issues. Employment services include but are not limited to help with assessment of work history, interests, job coaching, and development or upgrade of marketable skills that set people on a path to jobs that pay a living wage and benefits that can sustain a family.

Your support for the Prevent Hunger campaign prevents hunger, stretches lean food budgets, and builds capacity for helping hardworking people get and stay on the path to quality jobs and strong futures. From all of them and from all of us a heartfelt THANK YOU!

Preventing hunger through quality jobs

Despite low unemployment rates, too many open jobs pay less than a family-sustaining wage. In Interfaith Outreach’s Employment Services program, our goal is to support individuals to find employment that meets their financial needs. In Minnesota, a single adult with one child would need to work full time and earn \$26.45/hour to support their family.*

The 2020 minimum wage increase to \$10/hour leaves a substantial gap for workers, particularly those with low skills, minimal English or a lack of credentials. In fact, the Aspen Institute notes “two-thirds of job growth projected to 2026 is in occupations that typically pay less than a family-sustaining wage.”

In Cody’s case (front cover story), finding employment that met his needs meant connecting him to job training for higher wages in a field that provided two other key components — benefits eligibility and a predictable schedule — adding to his increased stability.



The Employment Services Team
(L to R) Natalie Bullinger, Fio Haire
and Sammie Sibley

The Interfaith Employment Services team is looking to partner with local employers.

Talk with us about your job opportunities that provide (or can lead to) family-sustaining wages. We especially want to talk to you if you are a west metro employer. Call **763-489-7500** or email Interfaith Employment Services Manager, Natalie Bullinger, at nbullinger@iocp.org for more information.

*(sources: MIT living wage calculator)



Sara Fitzgerald, food shelf volunteer, is passionate about stacking the shelves so nutrient-dense foods are easily found.

SuperShelf grant and volunteer passion reinforce healthy choice

The food we source matters. The way we stack the shelves matters. The way we create a grocery store experience matters. And, the deep care and concern of our 900 food shelf volunteers matters.

One of those amazing food shelf volunteers is Sara Fitzgerald. Sara cares about the experience of food shelf shoppers because she herself has special food needs.

Sara knows food placement on shelves matters. “The other volunteers can usually tell I’ve been here even if they haven’t seen me, because I walk around [organizing] the food shelf and especially focus on the healthy stuff. I want people with special food needs like gluten-free to have access to that without having to really search for it. And, I like to see everything displayed so that people can see all the options without having to dig. My goal is to make the food shelf feel like a grocery store shopping experience.”

Sara adds, “Nutrient-dense food is expensive. I believe that everybody should have the opportunity to eat healthy food ... regardless of income.”

Interfaith Outreach clients have a strong desire to eat healthy and often need the food shelf to help achieve these goals. Based on client feedback, Interfaith Outreach applied for a SuperShelf grant in 2018, which will bring about a major transformation to our food shelf with help from the U of M Extension and other partners.

The Interfaith Outreach staff, volunteers and clients will work together with the SuperShelf team to create a food shelf experience that makes the healthiest choices easy choices, encouraging healthy diets while respecting client autonomy and choice. The new and improved Interfaith Outreach food shelf will launch summer 2020.

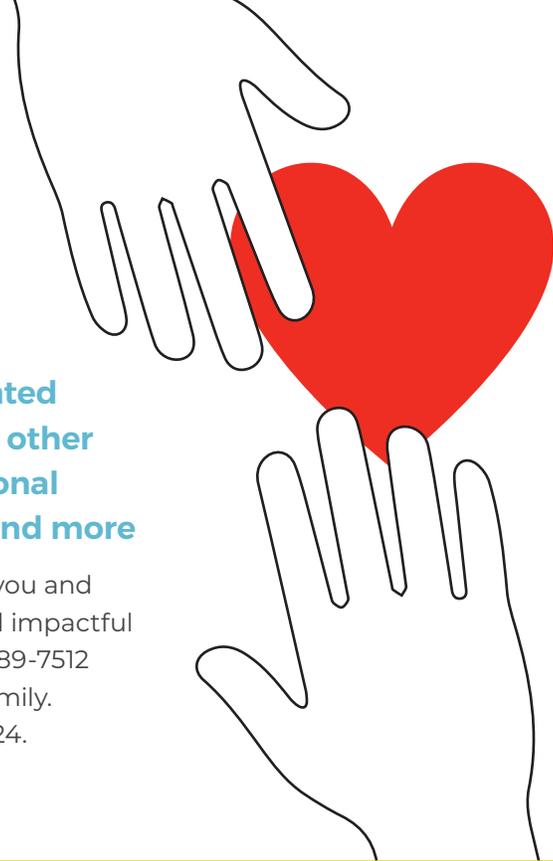
dignified
respecting
supportive
hope
comfort choice
strength
understanding

Interfaith Outreach provides a dignified experience to all who engage with our **food shelf**. The food shelf is structured to allow families to choose food that best meets their needs. Volunteers who assist families are supportive and respectful of each individual who walks through our doors. First-time food shelf participants often arrive feeling nervousness and shame, but those emotions leave quickly — sometimes even through tears of relief and appreciation. The help they receive, and the dignified and empowering way the help is provided, offers hope, comfort and strength to families during difficult times.

Your gifts to the Prevent Hunger campaign support this experience iocp.org/preventhunger

For every \$1 donated to the Prevent Hunger campaign, Interfaith Outreach can source \$9 worth of food

7 ways to give that benefit you and Interfaith Outreach



Qualified Charitable Distribution • Gifts of Appreciated Stock • Beneficiary Designation of Life Insurance or other Financial Account • Gift of Real Estate • Gift of Personal Property • Bequest • Donor Advised Fund • Grants and more

There are a number of innovative giving strategies that benefit you and Interfaith Outreach. Gifts like these have been life-changing and impactful over the years. We encourage you to contact Jill Kohler at 763-489-7512 to discuss a transformational gift that's right for you and your family. Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners' Tax ID# is 36-3482724.

Go to iocp.org/assetgifts to learn more.



JOIN US
Drive Out Hunger event
Thursday, March 5
5-7 p.m.

Sears Imported Autos
13500 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka
A creative mixer with a philanthropic twist

GRANTS Sept. – Nov. 2019

B&H Way Foundation
Education & Youth

Edina Realty Foundation
Education & Youth

The Grainger Foundation
Employment

Otto Bremer Trust
General Operating

SandCastle Foundation
Housing & Neighborhoods

**The Richard M. Schulze
Family Foundation**
Housing & Neighborhoods

TCF Foundation
General Operating

**Wayzata Rotary
Charitable Foundation**
Housing & Neighborhoods

The CLA Foundation
Education & Youth

MEMORIALS Sept. – Nov. 2019

Dolores Adams / Luverne "Vern" Ahrndt / Kathleen Anderson / David Davenport / Ilene Edmondson / Steve Erickson / Jane Fish / Howard "Howie" Guest / Irene Hatcher / Nettie Lynch / James Michaelson / William "Bill" Munsell / Marvin Muyres / Bob Reed / Robert Ridley / Ruth Shannon / Mary Hill Smith / Jack Wegmann / Jean Wrobel

Preventing hunger through holistic services

FOOD

Food is Foundational: Nearly half of those who come to Interfaith Outreach for the first time need food. With the help of this generous community, we distributed 1 million pounds of food and household essentials last year. We are grateful for the generous donations from the community and partners such as:

- Second Harvest Heartland
- The Food Group
- Local grocery stores
- Local places of worship
- Local schools



EMPLOYMENT

Quality Jobs are Key: A powerful team of volunteers, businesses and staff helps adults secure and keep living wage jobs. Skill-building training and employment services are provided on site. Business partners include those in the following industries:

- Manufacturing
- Education
- Human services
- Construction

FAMILY SUPPORT

A Holistic Approach: A compassionate case management team helps families connect to the resources to resolve their immediate needs and create a plan for a stronger future.

HOW YOUR INVESTMENT PREVENTS HUNGER



For every \$1 donated to the Prevent Hunger campaign, Interfaith Outreach can source \$9 worth of food.

- \$100 can source \$900 worth of food or the equivalent of 455 meals
- \$451 provides an individual a year of support from a case manager to assess, create, and work on a plan to stabilize and thrive
- \$1,964 provides employment services for one person to land a quality job
- A gift of any amount will help feed families and fuel hope

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Donate dollars
in person, by check or online:
iocp.org/preventhunger



Donate food shelf items
Drop-off hours:
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Organize a food drive
with family, friends, co-workers,
a civic group or faith community
iocp.org/preventhunger2020

You did it! Thank you!



We are delighted to announce this amazing community has done it again — the Sleep Out campaign raised **\$2,698,912!** That this new-high record was set by the end of 2019 is nothing short of a “just-in-time miracle.” On behalf of all of us at Interfaith Outreach and the **2,000 local families** who will build new and stronger futures in 2020, **we thank you!**



Girls, Glamour & Giving

when women come together
powerful things happen

Thursday, April 16, 2020

6-9:30 p.m.

International Market Square in Minneapolis

Tickets: \$125 per person

For more information go to iocp.org/events



Volunteer Opportunities

It's a new year filled with new opportunities and more ways to get engaged and involved. Come meet the community engagement staff, Ashley and Liz (left to right), to learn how you can help make our programs and services come to life. Email getinvolved@iocp.org or call **763-489-7500** to learn more.

MISSION – To engage the heart and will of the community to respond to emergency needs and create opportunities for all to thrive.

VISION – To build a vibrant community where everyone counts and all sectors and systems work together for the good of all.



Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

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Subscribe to our e-newsletter at iocp.org



SERVING HAMEL, LONG LAKE, MEDICINE LAKE, MEDINA, MINNETONKA BEACH, ORONO, PLYMOUTH & WAYZATA

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