

SuperShelf: Client voices, healthier choices

Interfaith's food shelf is an important resource for the 2,000 families we work with each year. Using the SuperShelf model, which focuses on welcoming environments and healthy food, the space was transformed in fall 2021.

During the multi-year SuperShelf planning process, Interfaith invited all current clients to co-create their new food shelf. Nine clients were selected to be on the SuperShelf Advisory Group – including participants of various ages, household sizes and ethnicities.

This diverse perspective was a key part of the transformation process. The collective feedback resulted in:

- New shelves, wall art and lighting to create a brighter, more welcoming feel
- Increased variety and quantity of healthy and culturally-specific foods, such as fresh produce and Halal meats
- At-home delivery options for clients who are unable to visit the food shelf, with a focus on serving senior citizens and persons with disabilities
- Translation technology that allows easy interaction between staff or volunteers and food shelf visitors

Thank you to our Advisory Group, program participants, the University of Minnesota, volunteers, donors, staff and all who helped make the transformation possible!



A volunteer stocks fresh produce in the SuperShelf, which provides a grocery-store-like experience to food shelf guests.

THANK YOU for nourishing neighbors

Last year you helped our food shelf:

- Serve **3,552** individuals – **40%** of whom were children
- Distribute **590,325** pounds of food and household goods
- Provide home deliveries to **50** seniors or homebound individuals
- Stay open and operational thanks to **333** volunteers



Together, we do what must be done

Dear friends,

As I begin my second year at Interfaith, I am even more enthusiastic than I was on my first day. This organization is the right organization at the right time to achieve the right results.

And what an important time it is.

Increased poverty, high housing and child care costs, and low-paying jobs are making it difficult for people in our community to feed their families. More than half the families we work with are at or below the federal poverty level – that's \$26,500/year for a family of four! Too many of our neighbors are facing impossible decisions like whether to pay the heating bill or buy groceries.

That's why, from March 1 – April 15, we'll be fighting local food insecurity with an effort called Prevent Hunger. We invite you to take action by giving dollars, giving goods or giving time. We will take action by walking alongside those in need of food, job training and holistic family support.

Together, we do what must be done because no one in our community should feel the pangs of hunger. Ever.

Your Executive Director,
Kevin Ward



*"No one in our community should feel the pangs of hunger. Ever."
Kevin Ward, Executive Director*

Give at iocp.org/preventhunger



Growing forward with you

A ROADMAP FOR OUR SHARED WORK

Interfaith's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan takes effect on April 1, 2022. The timing couldn't be better. So much in and around our community has changed – requiring new strategies and new responses. Our mission is ultimately to work together to reduce suffering in our community.

OUR VALUES

Collaboration:

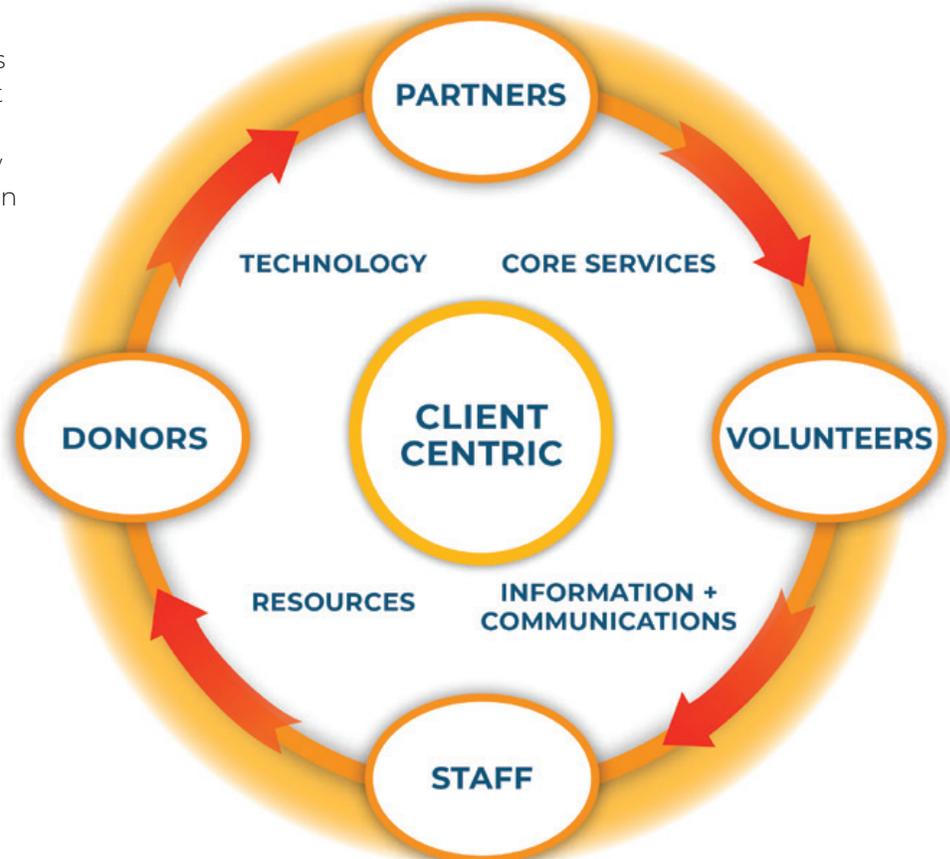
Nurturing mutually beneficial relationships

Inclusion:

Celebrating differences because they matter

Integrity:

Keeping our word through our actions, transparency and honesty



You can help tackle the root causes of hunger in our community

The urgent need for food is what brings nearly 200 families each week to our food shelf. However, we know hunger is linked to poverty, underemployment and other challenges that put families in crisis. Long-term stability means we have to not only address the symptom, but attack hunger at its root causes.

That's why it takes food *and more* to prevent hunger.



It takes the right food and access to it.



It takes living wage jobs.



It takes holistic family support.

Your financial support allows us to provide a range of employment and family support services that set people on the path to new and hopeful futures – in an effort to *prevent* hunger before it begins.

Why donate funds to a food shelf?

When you give financially, we can stretch your dollars to fill our shelves with 3x more food than what you'd be able to buy at a grocery store.

What does “holistic family support” look like?

Job search support and employment training; assistance with medical and utility bills, unexpected car repairs and looming evictions all work together to prevent hunger.

What's a living wage?

In Hennepin County, both adults in a family of four would need to earn \$23.19/hour to cover typical expenses. However, minimum wage is \$10.33/hour. That big gap means many neighbors are struggling despite low unemployment rates.

It takes food *and more* to prevent hunger – it also takes a living wage



Mark Youngblood helps job seekers find living wage jobs.

During the past 24 months, Interfaith Outreach guests have experienced hardships more challenging than ever. Our employment staff and volunteers are here to journey with clients facing job loss, underemployment or the lack of a living wage.

Mark Youngblood, a key volunteer with our Employment Services team, tells us he dreams of great things for job seekers. “I really become energized to do whatever it takes to get clients employed as quickly as possible into fitting and rewarding positions from

which they can continue to grow their careers and provide for their families.”

Mark and the employment team provide 1:1 job coaching, computer and soft skills training, resume assistance, interview prep, and more to help folks land and maintain a family-sustaining job.

Thank you, Mark, and to all our volunteers who give precious time in support of the 2,000 families Interfaith Outreach works with each year. Our community is stronger because of you.

Volunteer with us

Interfaith needs volunteers like you to power our work!

Interested? Visit iocp.org/volunteer or email awyatt@iocp.org.

Shop then Drop on March 31



SHOP for most-needed items then **DROP** them off on March 31

Thursday, March 31, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Interfaith Outreach parking lot

Sponsored by Sears Imported Autos



MOST-NEEDED ITEMS:

Kids cereal, pasta sauce, paper towels, shampoo, canned fruit, diced tomatoes, toilet paper, dried fruit (banana chips, raisins, dates, etc.)



More at iocp.org/shophendrop

*Prevent Hunger is part of the
Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign,
a GMCC program.*



MEMORIALS Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021

June Alcaraz / Ronan Banavige / David Barker / Diane Bucksa / Sharyn Carlson / Anna Mary "Sam" Delaney
David Dovenberg / James Egenberger / Mark Fajteck / Charles Flaa / Joan Floren / Kip Elliott Frantz / Idy Garvis
Dot Gay / Michael Gregerson / Bettie Louise Hinton / Gloria Hoglund / Shedrick Holmes / Rebecca "Becky" Johnson
Mary Ellen Kochevar / Garry Leddy / Jean LeJeune / Larry LeJeune / Samantha Linman / Susan Martin
Joseph McCarthy / Ron McLeod / William "Bill" Munsell / Emily Olson / June Patrin / Muril Pederson / Ron Peterson
Terry Reilly / Esther Rupp / Mark Scheidhauer / Mary Claire Schultz / Howard Schwalbach, Jr. / Verne Sperry
Nadine Storms / Myron Swiggum / Prem Kumar Taneja / Mary MacPhail Taylor / Tanya Williams / David Woldt

GRANTS Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021

**Aqualia International
Foundation Ltd**

City of Plymouth HRA

Edina Realty Foundation

**Emergency Food & Shelter
Program**

Hamel Lions Club

**Hennepin County Housing,
Community Works & Transit**

Hunger Solutions Minnesota

Kopp Family Foundation

Lake Community Bank

Plymouth Covenant Church

**Richard M. Schulze Family
Foundation**

Thomas S. Kemp Foundation

**Wayzata Rotary Charitable
Foundation**

Wright Hennepin Electric Trust

MISSION – Strengthen our community by meeting basic needs and equipping individuals and families for ongoing success.

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



Sign up for emails at iocp.org/connect



Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

1605 County Road 101 N, Plymouth, MN 55447 763-489-7500 iocp.org

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