

GET INVOLVED: CORPORATE GROUPS



Are you looking for a rewarding workplace volunteer event that works with your organization's corporate social responsibility goals – and your team's schedule? IOCP has one-time and ongoing volunteer opportunities for groups in our food shelf (ideal for groups of 3-5), which serves more than 700 households a month, and our Resale Select thrift store (ideal for groups of 5-50), where purchases help support our programs and services.

Corporate volunteers love the unique, interactive opportunity to give back to the local community – *and that they receive a 30% Resale Select discount on the day of their shift!* Scan the QR code or visit iocp.org/corporate-groups to learn more.



OUR MISSION To strengthen our community by meeting basic needs and equipping individuals and families for ongoing stability.

OUR 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 (IOCP) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization soliciting tax-deductible contributions for the mission of IOCP. Financial and other information about IOCP's purpose, programs, and activities can be obtained by visiting www.iocp.org/our-financial-promise.

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IOCP's food shelf served 1,036 households in FY24.

FOOD SHELF PROMOTES STABILITY AND SOLIDARITY

“Our food shelf is more than just a place to get groceries; it's a lifeline that strengthens our community by addressing food insecurity and fostering resilience,” says Wendy Geving, IOCP's Program Director.

Access to affordable, nutritious food is a challenge for neighbors who struggle to make ends meet. Economic downturns, unexpected medical expenses, and job losses can leave households unable to afford even the basics.

The IOCP food shelf steps in to fill this gap, preventing families from having to make tough financial choices between food, housing costs, and other living expenses.

“When families have consistent access to food, children perform better in school, and adults are more

likely to retain employment and have the security they need to focus on things like education, work, and personal growth,” Geving explains.

This support creates a ripple effect that extends beyond the recipients and their immediate basic needs, Geving adds, strengthening our community as a whole.

While the IOCP food shelf addresses immediate needs, other IOCP programs are here to equip families and individuals with ongoing stability, from providing help finding a living wage job to offering scholarships to quality childcare.

A SENSE OF SOLIDARITY

The food shelf, along with IOCP's Resale Select thrift store, also serves as a hub for community engagement, where volunteers,

donors, and recipients of our services come together to support one another. People are given the chance to respond – to the community's needs or their own.

“This sense of solidarity, of community, doesn't just alleviate hunger. It strengthens the social fabric, reminding everyone that no one should face hardship alone,” Geving says.

In February, we kick off our annual Prevent Hunger effort, which focuses on collecting food and raising funds for our food shelf, which received 10,795 visits from 1,036 households in FY24.

We invite you to respond in a way that is most meaningful to you. Learn more about food insecurity at iocp.org/prevent-hunger.

Become an IOCP Changemaker

Did you know just one year of \$10 monthly donations can cover four food shelf visits for a family? Or that 12 months of \$100 monthly donations can provide employment services that help a single parent land a stabilizing job?

Monthly giving to IOCP is a great way to increase your annual donation - and make a change in our community, all year long.

Now, we've made it easier for you to become a *Changemaker* – someone who generously provides monthly financial support to IOCP – by adding electronic wallet and direct debit payment options to our Monthly Giving donation form. Your gifts will conveniently be automatically deducted each month and documented on your year-end statements.

Monthly giving provides our organization with consistent information to help us make future budget decisions. It also keeps cash flow steady, which makes us better able to respond to client needs in times of uncertainty or emergency.

As a member of our Changemakers community of monthly donors, you'll also receive IOCP updates and invitations to our supporter events.

"Recurring donations help ensure we can consistently support our neighbors by delivering critical programs and resources," says Advancement Director Jodi Trost. "It's an easy way to join our mission or take your giving to the next level!"

Make your monthly gift – and your impact on our community – by signing up today at iocp.org/changemakers.



Above: Employees from the Cargill Monticello plant hold a sleep out in support of Interfaith's annual Sleep Out campaign, which raises awareness around housing insecurity in our community. The group's sleep out and fundraising also supported the efforts of two local teens. Read more on page 3.

Thank You for Supporting Sleep Out

Thank you to everyone who supported our 2024 Sleep Out, whether you attended our Community Connect Day event, shopped during Shop with a Purpose, donated money, or participated in a sleep out.

For 29 years, you've proven that we as a community have the heart and resources to meet our mission and to help everyone belong. And because of that, we are able to help prevent eviction or homelessness for hundreds of local households each year.

But just as important, your contributions make it possible for us to provide other types of support to neighbors facing hardship – from basics like food and clothing to strengthening services that break down barriers to quality childcare, living-wage jobs, reliable transportation and more.

As of late January, we have raised 86% of our annual \$7,109,850 fundraising goal of with our fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. While we have more work to do for a strong finish, we couldn't have gotten this far without generous community members like you!

Check Your Calendar – and Ours, Too!



From community conversations to special sales events, IOCP and its Resale Select thrift store offer a full calendar of days and ways to support our mission and our community.

Be sure to check out our events page at iocp.org/events to find out when, where and how you can join the fun!

The Continuum of Community Response



Kevin Ward
Executive Director

Interfaith friend,

You may have heard about Landon and Myles, the local teens who slept outside from November 4 to December 11 to honor their former fellow Scout and raise \$25,000 for the 2024 Sleep Out.

There are many things that made this effort unique: The homage to a former fellow Scout, the bitter-cold temperatures, the local news coverage, and the fact that these kids did it all during the flurry of winter holidays and school finals, too!

What also made it special, though, is how they garnered support from a diverse network that included troop families and friends, the Messiah Methodist faith community, and even a group of Cargill Monticello employees featured on page 2 of this newsletter.

The boys met their \$25,000 goal, which is enough to help IOCP provide rent assistance, and prevent eviction, for 13 households.

We talk a lot about the continuum of community need, but Landon and Myles' Sleep Out brilliantly showcased another continuum – one of community response.

It's a continuum that allows people in any role, from any background, to be involved: Students and teachers, parents and grandparents, employees, and neighbors.

But in this new year and beyond, be assured that your collective compassion and support of Interfaith continues to be so needed – and so appreciated.

Because in 2025, regardless of what changes and challenges we face as a community, Interfaith will be here to provide opportunities for our neighbors in times of need.

Your involvement and support will ensure we are successful.

Thank you for continuing to respond.

Kevin Ward
Executive Director

P.S. You're invited to respond during our 2025 Prevent Hunger effort, which will run February 24 through April 30. Our annual food and funds drive aims to make real, significant progress toward ending food insecurity – right here in our community. Learn more at iocp.org/prevent-hunger.

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Serving people living in Hamel, Long Lake, Medicine Lake, Medina, Minnetonka Beach, Orono, Plymouth and Wayzata since 1979.

Thank you for your continued support.

