



CELEBRATING OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

We often measure volunteer impact in terms of the number of hours or clients served, but in many cases the impact made by Interfaith volunteers is *immeasurable*.

To celebrate **Volunteer Appreciation Month** and **National Volunteer Week** (April 20-26), we are honoring members of our community who donate their time and talent to support Interfaith's mission by recognizing how volunteers create a sense of belonging for clients. Here is what our staff had to say.

BRIDGING THE GAP

"Volunteers help bridge the gap between resources and people in need. Whether it's through hands-on support, offering their expertise, or simply offering their time, volunteers allow us to extend our reach and better serve neighbors in need."

CHANGING ROLES

"Several of our food shelf shoppers have become volunteers as they were looking for work. It's very inspiring to see people we serve immediately turn back around and serve others."

LEARNING LANGUAGES, GIVING HUGS

"Our food shelf volunteers remember from week to week what is happening in our guests' lives and get excited to learn more. Many of our volunteers take the time to learn words in different languages, look through family pictures, celebrate births and family accomplishments and listen intently to client hardship stories as well. Hugs and patience are given freely."

BOOSTING CONFIDENCE

"Our volunteers have done some career coaching to help Employment Services clients see their experience and skills through the eyes of a hiring manager. It's amazing to see what this external validation can do for the confidence of those who are feeling discouraged or believing they don't have anything to offer an employer."

Volunteers are at the heart of how Interfaith Outreach fulfills its mission. *Thank you to the more than 1,300 volunteers who served in FY25!*

Interested in joining our volunteer network?
Learn more at iocp.org/volunteer.

A Family Value Becomes a Family Legacy

“Breaking the cycle of poverty was very important to (my parents),” Amy LeJeune Krane explains.

Amy’s parents, Jean and Larry LeJeune, were Wayzata residents and local philanthropists. Each had numerous causes that were near and dear to their heart; among Jean’s chosen charities was Interfaith Outreach.

She showed her dedication to Interfaith over a span of nearly 30 years by making financial gifts, attending events, and volunteering at the food shelf into her early 80s, even through her battle with lung cancer.

“It was really important to her,” Amy assures. “It was a priority.”

Jean’s dedication was also apparent at home, where philanthropy was a LeJeune family value.

“Our parents gave us a strong foundation for the importance of family, as well as always giving back,” Amy shares.

Among the many life lessons the couple passed along to their five children over the years, Amy recalls a few key takeaways related to kindness and compassion.

“(They) spoke about giving those in need a ‘hand up,’ not a ‘hand out.’ They taught us that you don’t do something kind or give generously and expect anything in return. Do the gesture from the goodness of your heart and let that be enough.”

Amy adds that her parents wanted to “give families tools to support and get back up on their feet and raise children in the best environment possible.”



Jean LeJeune was a dedicated Interfaith supporter for nearly three decades.

Both Jean and Larry passed away in 2021, but their generosity and compassion live on in our community with the establishment of the LeJeune Food Shelf Endowment Fund.

The legacy gift is both sentimental and intentional: An homage to Jean’s service in our food shelf and something that is sure to advance Interfaith’s mission for years to come.

“We know this is an offering of IOCP that’s not going to go away. The need is never going to go away,” Amy reflects.

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EMBRACING GROWTH AND CHANGE - A NEW YEAR AT INTERFAITH OUTREACH



Kevin Ward
Executive Director

Interfaith Friend,

With the start of our new fiscal year on April 1, we are filled with gratitude for your support. Your generosity has been the driving force behind lives changed, families supported, and a stronger community. This season of growth and renewal mirrors the promises of spring itself, bringing both change and opportunity.

April also brings National Volunteer Week – a time to celebrate the incredible individuals who give their time and energy to our mission. While we

are grateful for our volunteers every day, this week is a special opportunity to recognize their invaluable contributions. To all who generously share their time at Interfaith Outreach: Thank you!

As we look ahead, we are excited to build upon our successes and take bold steps toward even greater impact.

To guide our growth and ensure we continue meeting the evolving needs of our community, we recently completed the analysis of our second annual Client Survey. A clear theme emerged: *Our clients have big dreams, but obstacles – like debt, transportation barriers, and a lack of accessible information – make it difficult to achieve them.*

We are responding with plans to build a financial education offering, ways to simplify the public benefits application process, collect data on the childcare needs of school-aged children, and so much more.

Like our clients, our team at Interfaith Outreach has big dreams for this organization. And like them, we also face challenges.

That's why, after thoughtful consideration of how we can respond to the community's growing demand for basic needs and new areas of support, *we have set our FY26 fundraising goal at \$7,500,000.*

It's an ambitious goal, but with your continued partnership, we know it's possible. When we embrace growth and change as an organization, we become better at helping our clients do the same.

And in doing so, we build a stronger community together.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin D. Ward". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Kevin Ward
Executive Director

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Wayzata since 1979.*

*Thank you for your
continued support.*



GET INVOLVED: SUMMER FOOD DRIVES

Our community's need for food is steady: Each month, Interfaith's food shelf distributes an average of 68,800 pounds of food and goods to more than 500 households. However, between May and August, the food shelf sees some of its lowest donation totals.

We invite groups – summer camps and programs, sports or corporate teams, neighborhood associations or community groups – to host food drives this summer to help fill our seasonal “Grocery Gap.”

Food drives are an easy way to make an impact in our community and to foster team-building – regardless of the ages or the type of your group. Larger-scale donations of non-perishable items also help our food shelf reserve funds to purchase fresh items, like meat, dairy, and produce, which are typically more expensive.

Learn about hosting a food drive at iocp.org/donations/food-drives or view our list of most-needed items at iocp.org/most-needed-donations. *No time to coordinate a food drive?* Your individual food donations are always needed and appreciated. Drop-off hours are Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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.

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