



*Neighborhood Program staff are on hand to connect residents to IOCP programs or other community services and to help address challenges that may create a risk to housing.*

## **BUILDING CONNECTIONS, OFFERING SUPPORT**

IOCP's Neighborhood Program celebrates 30 years of community partnership

"The only thing more popular might be an ice cream truck."

That's how **Neighborhood Program** Manager James Kambiri describes the scene when children at IOCP program sites catch a glimpse of his staff arriving, their faces lighting up with excitement.

Neighborhood Program brings IOCP's integrated services directly to affordable housing communities – currently nine across Plymouth and Medina – meeting them right where they live by placing staff on-site.

This year, the program celebrates 30 years of being offered to local families and individuals, and over that time, it has evolved in response to our community's changing needs.

"Early on, there was a heavy focus on youth activities facilitated by

Neighborhood Program staff," James explains. "We still offer that type of support depending on the needs of the community, and the kids love it. But we also know that equipping families for ongoing stability really comes from one-on-one work with parents and caregivers," he adds.

The program has also shifted its attention to getting kids access to the same community-based activities as their higher-income peers through scholarships.

Now, James touts one of the program's greatest strengths as its ability to serve not just children but the whole household, to break down barriers like transportation, childcare, and scheduling challenges that might prevent people from accessing IOCP's services.

Along with creating vital relationships with city government and school district staff, James says building partnerships with property owners and managers has been critical. "We're an add-on, an amenity, to these neighborhoods, and the property managers and owners have been amazing," he says.

James emphasizes that what makes Neighborhood Program truly special is that, while it currently serves only affordable housing communities, participation is entirely voluntary. Residents can access the services without any connection to their lease agreements or income verification requirements.

"And who doesn't need that today? Who couldn't use that kind of support and guidance?" James reflects.

# Full Circle of Giving: Your Resale Select Donations Transform Lives

Those Nike sneakers your son outgrew in what seemed like days. The sweater that's not quite your color. Kitchen gadgets that never made it out of the drawer.

When your family is ready to part with these items, they can find new purpose at our Resale Select thrift store – where 100% of net proceeds support IOCP's essential services and programs.

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED

Thanks to generous donations and dedicated volunteers, Resale Select generates funds that directly power our community programs and services.

Beyond fundraising, the store serves as the backbone of IOCP's Clothing Program, providing clients with opportunities to receive no- or low-cost wardrobe staples like shoes, shirts, pants, and new undergarments and socks.

Last year, the store provided clothing for more than 300 households and distributed over 1,200 winter coats to families prepping for cold temperatures. There are also opportunities to receive clothing for newborns and professional attire for adults returning to work.

With an additional 2,500 square feet dedicated to furniture, bedding, decor, toys, and kitchenware,



*What might seem like a simple closet clean out to you could be the fresh start another family needs! Learn more at [iocp.org/resale](http://iocp.org/resale).*

Resale Select also helps transform empty spaces into welcoming homes.

"We had a client who came in to get clothing and household goods for her and her son's first apartment," recalls Store Manager Sonja Carr. "She told us, 'You didn't just set me up for an apartment. You set me up for a home.'"

This powerful testimony underscores our commitment to providing quality items that offer clients both practical support and dignity during challenging times.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Shop with us Monday-Thursday (10 a.m. -7 p.m.) or Friday-Saturday (10 a.m.-5 p.m.) or drop off gently-used items at our Donation Door on Monday, Wednesday or Friday (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Your donations and purchases create a beautiful cycle of giving that strengthens our entire community. What might seem like a simple closet clean out to you could be the fresh start another family needs!

Find more information about the store at [iocp.org/resale](http://iocp.org/resale).



## DID YOU KNOW...? August is Make-a-Will Month

August is designated as **National Make-a-Will Month** – a yearly reminder to make a will or ensure your existing estate plan reflects your current preferences in how to protect the people that are most important to you.

An estate plan is also a smart way to shape your legacy and support the causes and organizations you love, like IOCP. If you'd like to learn more about how to make a gift directly from your will, or explore other planned gift options, please contact **Jodi Trost**, Development Director, at [jtrost@iocp.org](mailto:jtrost@iocp.org) or **(763) 489-7512**.

# WE ARE PARTNERS – IN CREATING BETTER FUTURES



Kevin Ward  
Executive Director

Interfaith Friend,

In our cover article, **Neighborhood Program** Manager James Kambiri calls out the importance of community partnerships in making on-site support available to multi-family housing communities across our service area.

Community partners have been the cornerstone of IOCP since the very beginning – they're not just in our name, they're essential to our impact.

These essential collaborators share our vision for a vibrant community where everyone counts.

## Together, we're building a foundation for long-term community prosperity.

Even after years in this work, I'm still inspired to see how our cross-sector partners step up to make it all happen, in an effort to meet the evolving needs of families in our community.

*Because of our partners*, we've expanded programs to fill gaps in access to critical services – including mental health support, childcare scholarships, and more.

*Because of our partners*, families starting over have received clothing, household essentials, and nourishing food that helps stretch tight budgets.

*Because of our partners*, we've brought our staff and programs directly to households where transportation or scheduling makes access difficult.

When you support IOCP, you become one of these partners.

## You are a part of the work, building a vital support system that helps families meet basic needs and take steps toward stability.

You create better futures for our neighbors – more than 5,300 served last year – and that is the best kind of partnership there is.

Sincerely,



**Kevin Ward**  
Executive Director

P.S. Every partner matters, and that includes you, whether you're a donor, a volunteer, or someone who spreads the word about our work. Together, we're proving that community partnership isn't just our name – *it's our strength*.

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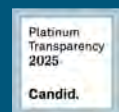
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Wayzata since 1979.*

*Thank you for your  
continued support.*



## GET INVOLVED: PLANT A GIVING GARDEN

Looking for a meaningful way to use the extra produce from your seasonal garden? Need a fun, impactful summer activity for the kids? Consider planting a **“Giving Garden.”** Your home-grown summer staples – tomatoes, melons, peppers, cucumbers, and carrots – are greatly needed and appreciated by guests of IOCP’s food shelf, *which experienced a 15% increase in households served last year.*

### DONATION DETAILS

Produce should be cleaned prior to drop-off and packed in bags or boxes. Garden goodies – and any other food shelf and clothing & household goods donations – can be dropped off during our regular donation door hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 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.

*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 [iocp.org/our-financial-promise](http://iocp.org/our-financial-promise).*

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