Interfaith Outreach

SUMMER
2026



"Wanting You to Win in Real Life"

As an IOCP client, Jacqueline had come to the building to meet with staff plenty of times. But this time was different. This was a *pinning ceremony*.

Jacqueline had just completed her nursing program, but her cohort's pinning ceremony was cancelled. Knowing she was disappointed, Natalie and Ruth from our Employment Services team held one for her.

Ruth placed the pin on Jacqueline, who was fully outfitted in her crisp white nursing uniform and surrounded by her closest family members.

"I cried," Jacqueline admits. "And the thing is, I'd rather have Ruth pin me."

She's been working with Ruth and Natalie from the Employment Services team as part of a long-term program for people ready to pursue higher education to increase their income.

But Jacqueline's road to this moment goes back even farther: She experienced homelessness as a child and again as a young mother.

"That was a driving force – never to go back to that again."

Now, she's in what she describes as “a full circle moment that is also a beginning.”

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Uptown Brass performs for an audience at Wayzata Community Church.

Concerts for a Cause

IOCP is grateful to be the beneficiary of CircleRock's Concerts for Community series, featuring ensembles from the Minnesota Orchestra performing at Wayzata Community Church.

The first concert took place in May and drew more than 200 neighbors. Around $2,500 was raised for local families — all through a free-will donation at the door.

Two more performances at Wayzata Community Church are planned for October 2026 and May 2027. Visit ***circlerockconcerts.com/events*** for more details.

August is National 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.

Planned giving, or a charitable bequest, is a way to include a beneficiary such as IOCP in your future plans. Most often, this is done by naming the beneficiary in your will, retirement account, or life insurance policy. It's a thoughtful, flexible way to support the community you care about – without affecting your finances right now.

If you'd like to learn more about how to make a gift directly from your will or other planned gift options, visit ***iocp.org/planned-giving***.

Already included IOCP in your plans? Email ***give@iocp.org*** so we can thank you and welcome you into a special community of legacy supporters.

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Just weeks after the ceremony, she's starting a new job as a pediatric nurse. She shares that she's most excited about putting what she's learned into action.

Jacqueline reflects on what – or who – in her IOCP experience has made the biggest impact on her life. She credits rent assistance with allowing her to keep up with studying and be present with her kids. Support from Ruth and Natalie, such as resume help and career exploration guidance, was also integral to her success.

"They're always gonna be a part of my journey," she assures, adding that she even plans to put photos from the ceremony in her scrapbook. "I don't think they realized how motivating it was to have people on your team who are wanting you to win in real life."

And win she did. For Jacqueline, the pin on her chest represents more than a credential. It's proof that the little girl who once had no home now has a career, a future, and a team that believed in her.



CEO Kevin Ward and members of the IOCP team joined Jacqueline's celebration.

Know someone who could use support finding a better paying job? IOCP's employment services help community members facing barriers to stable, living wage work. Learn more at ***iocp.org/services***.

More Neighbors. More Need. More Community.


Kevin Ward
President & CEO

Last fiscal year brought more neighbors, more need, and more proof of what community can do.

The number of households that turned to IOCP for support increased by 23% last year; this followed several years of steady growth. Rising costs for housing, food, childcare, transportation, and other essentials placed increasing pressure on households already working hard to stay stable. More neighbors sought assistance simply to meet basic needs and maintain a sense of security for their families.

Because of supporters like you, IOCP was able to respond.

We expanded our capacity across programs and services to meet growing demand. From increased food shelf visits and access to free clothing, to emergency financial assistance and employment support, our team continued to adapt quickly and compassionately as needs evolved.

You'll read Jackie's story on the front page of this newsletter—a neighbor who faced homelessness twice and is now beginning her career as a pediatric nurse. Her story is one of thousands, and it belongs to you as much as it does to her.

The need in our community shows no signs of slowing, and neither do we. With your continued partnership, IOCP will keep building the capacity, programs, and relationships that turn moments of crisis into moments like Jackie's.

Sincerely,



Kevin Ward
President & CEO

P.S. Jackie's story isn't the only reason we're celebrating this summer. Resale Select has been recognized with a Best of Twin Cities bronze award for the second consecutive year, and IOCP has earned Top Workplace honors for the fourth consecutive year.

This community keeps showing up, and so do we! We couldn't do it without your support.

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

Thank you for your continued support.







Interfaith Outreach

1605 County Road 101 N, Plymouth, MN 55447

GET INVOLVED: SUMMER FOOD DRIVES

Summer is the hardest season for our food shelf. Donation volume drops, even as our community's need stays steady. Last year, IOCP distributed *more than 1 million pounds of food and goods* directly to neighbors facing food insecurity, and donor support is what makes that possible year-round.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Hosting a food drive is one of the most impactful things your group can do, and a good place to start is our "most-needed" list. The list is updated regularly based on current inventory, client requests, or what might be scarce or expensive for us to source through our food partner network.

Beyond supporting neighbors facing food insecurity, hosting a food drive offers your family or group a meaningful way to build teamwork, strengthen community connections, and create real impact together.

Interested in hosting a food drive? Find more information at: iocp.org/most-needed-donations.



Food drive drop-off from Vision of Glory Church.

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.

WEBSITE iocp.org **PHONE** 763-489-7500 **EMAIL** info@iocp.org

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.