

Prevent Hunger

Feeding Families, Fueling Hope

Kelly first came to Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners for emergency financial assistance after becoming a one-income household. She needed help fast to maintain her excellent credit score. For her, a good credit score meant options – and hope for Kelly and her six-year-old son.

What she experienced next fueled her future. Interfaith Outreach offered holistic services to address Kelly's immediate crisis with short-term financial help, but also put food on her table that night.

Kelly recalls with a smile, "The Food Shelf has fresh items – food I want to feed my son. I was so happy to find organic and healthy choices!"

Interfaith Outreach staff recognized a bright spark of ambition in Kelly. During future meetings, she completed career assessments and exploration tools where she rediscovered her love of science and her confidence. Kelly is now on track to complete a two-year nursing degree in 2018.

Kelly says, "Instead of wondering how I will pay one of my bills or have money for my son's field trip or birthday, I have a new

perspective. I now have a plan that gives us better options when I graduate."

Kelly stays focused on financial stability. "I can't wait to build up my funds so I don't have to be scared. I dream of moving from our apartment to a house in a great neighborhood for my son."



Kelly (right) and staff member Randa (left), walked through holistic Interfaith Outreach services including food, family support and employment

“ Instead of wondering how I will pay one of my bills or have money for my son's field trip or birthday, I have a new perspective. I now have a plan... ”



Prevent Hunger campaign goal:
\$150,000 and 100,000 pounds
by March 31

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Prevent Hunger – feeding families, fueling hope
- A visual tour of the Food Shelf
- Income gap – why the math “just doesn't work” for some local families

Ensuring access to food...and more

It's hard to imagine until you've been there how bewildering, how unthinkable it is to not be able to feed your family. The two most familiar crises that bring families to Interfaith Outreach for the first time are the need for food or rent assistance.

Among the underlying causes are unemployment, underemployment, unresolved health issues, family breakup, or fixed incomes that aren't keeping up with rising costs of living.

Not long ago a working mother of four described her often "between payday" pattern of spending her lunch break in her car. She didn't want co-workers to know she didn't have a lunch to bring or couldn't afford to buy one that day. And, unlike other

moms returning home from work, her worry wasn't so much about what to prepare for dinner...but how to prepare her kids for another "slim pickings" popcorn or peanut butter dinner.

The Prevent Hunger campaign not only ensures access to healthy food for struggling families like hers - and seniors and others on fixed incomes - but supports holistic family support services including the opportunity to upgrade skills and secure jobs that increase income.

This is what this community is so good at - staying with folks when life gets hard - in all the ways that matter. Coming together to provide a hand up, fresh hope and a path to new and better futures.



*LaDonna Hoy,
Executive Director, Interfaith
Outreach & Community Partners*

Remembering, with or without the experience of being hungry for more than a day, how unthinkable it is for any family, anyone who calls our community home, to be hungry or worried about how to care for their family. Let's do this! Again!

IGNITE THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER MARCH 1-31

If there's one thing we've learned in the past 38 years, it's that fighting hunger involves far more than food. Interfaith Outreach addresses the immediate need and then holistically prevents hunger and fosters family success. Last year, your Prevent Hunger donation provided:

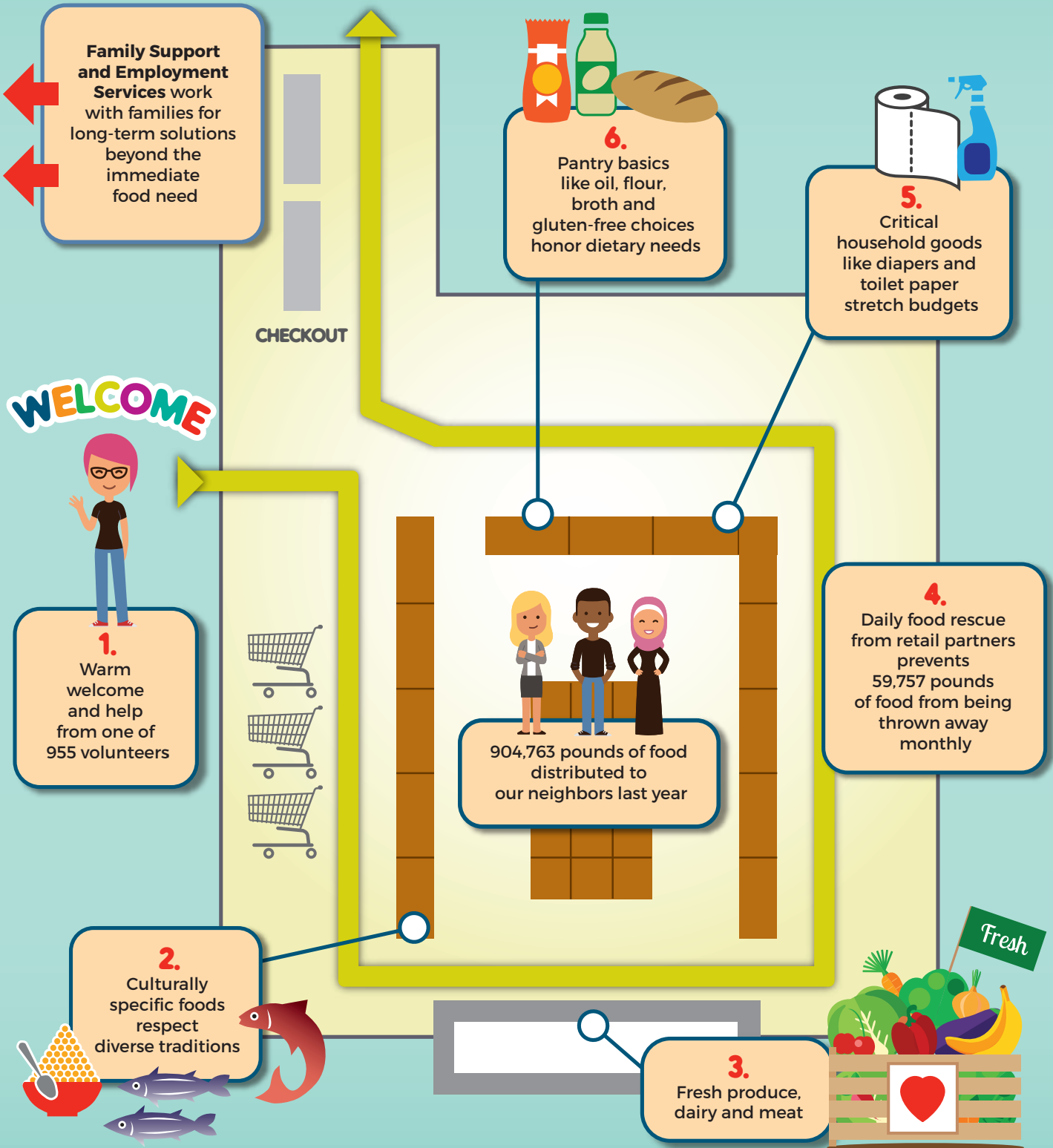
- **Food for the table** - 4,485 individuals received both emergency and sustaining relief from the Food Shelf.
- **Family Support** - 1,821 households met with Interfaith staff for care and resources.
- **Employment** - 263 job seekers received employment help including computer classes, resume writing, interview coaching and more.

The Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners Prevent Hunger campaign is part of the larger Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC).

**BECOME A PREVENT HUNGER CHAMPION!
HELP US RAISE \$150,000 AND 100,000 POUNDS
FROM MARCH 1-31.**

INTERFAITH OUTREACH FOOD SHELF A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO PREVENTING HUNGER

1,532,571 meals served last year!



Want to donate or volunteer?
Contact Liz at lerstad-hicks@iocp.org or 763.489.7506

Thank you, Prevent Hunger Champions

We could never do the important work of preventing and fighting hunger alone. Together we are helping our neighbors, friends, families – and ultimately our community – thrive. Thank you!



Retail Partners like Cub Foods Plymouth (Vicksburg Lane)

Cub Foods Plymouth (Vicksburg Lane) has been a vital retail partner with Interfaith Outreach since 2012. This store's weekly food rescue donations totaled 229,884 pounds last year. Thank you to Cub Foods and our other amazing retail partners for providing our families with consistent, diverse and healthy food!



Individual donors like Cheri Schmidt

Cheri Schmidt is a rock star weekly volunteer in the Food Shelf. Beyond giving her time, she also generously donates to the Prevent Hunger campaign – and appreciates Interfaith Outreach's ability (through partnerships) to leverage every \$1 she gives for \$9 of food. Cheri's mantra is, "We all do better when we all do better." Thanks, Cheri!



Corporations like General Mills, Meals Division

General Mills Meal Division employees volunteer in the Food Shelf, coordinate a holiday donation drive and raise money through events like chili cook-offs. They also have a stellar peer recognition program that results in a monetary donation to Interfaith Outreach each quarter. Big thanks to General Mills Meals Division for making a tangible difference in our community!

GRANTS September - November 2016

Otto Bremer Trust
General Operating Support

Target Foundation
General Operating Support for Housing

Wayzata Rotary Club
Neighborhood Program van

Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
Project Success

Lake Community Bank
Sleep Out

Edina Realty Foundation
Sleep Out

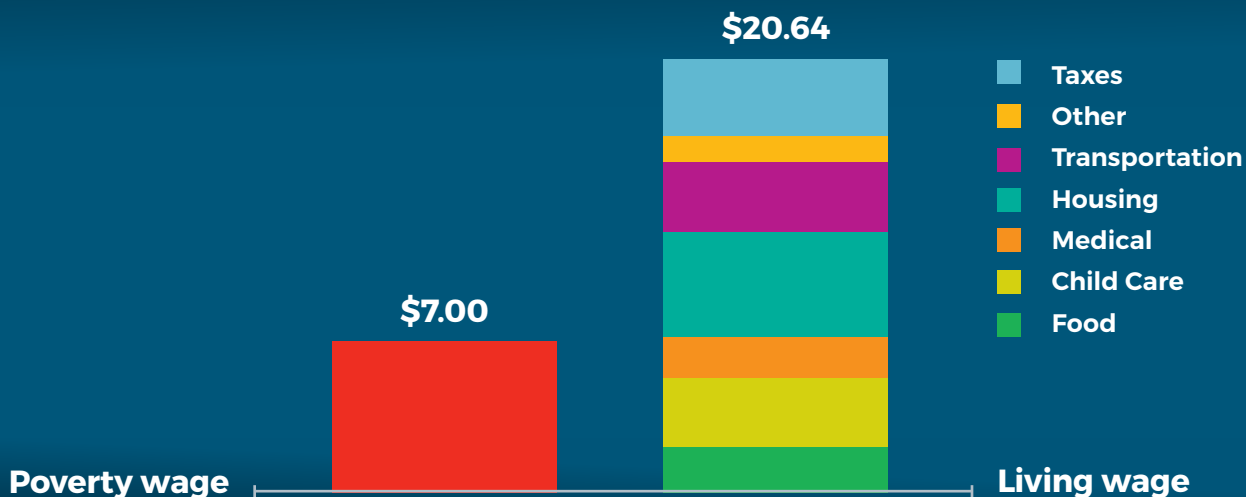
Village Automotive Group (Village Gives Back)
Great Expectations

MEMORIALS September - November 2016

Kathleen Anderson / Ann Argento / Shirley Berthiaume / Marge Blaser / Clifford Bohmbach / Sarah Bowman
Fern Clauson / Jan Colbert / Barney Cores / Renu Dani / Sidney Drumheller / Greg Dubay / John S. Erickson
Geraldine Gammell / Joseph Glenn / Tom Glynn / Shirley Harder / Anne Hennen / Lon Hitch / Kenneth Iverson
Nancy Landholt / Robert Landholt / William Lovell Haggart / Delores Molitor / Lawrence "Larry" Monicatti
J. Roland "Rollie" Pavek / Jackson Rains / Terry Reilly / Virginia Scholbrock / Louise M. Smith / Dale Spencer
Mary Torness / Nancy Wallace / Suzanne Walsh / William "Bill" Williams

For some local families, the math just doesn't work

For a two-person household in Hennepin County, the gap between an entry level wage and the cost of living is about \$13/hour



Modified from MIT Living Wage Calculator

Families come to us:

- after **experiencing a crisis** such as a medical issue, job loss or major unexpected car repair.
- employed but **struggling in low paying jobs** so their budgets just don't work.
- **living on fixed income** such as social security.
- a growing number (409 last year) are experiencing **homelessness**, surviving every day living in unstable or temporary conditions.

No matter what brings a family to our doors, nearly every family arrives lacking access to enough food for an active, healthy life. As housing, child care, transportation and medical bills mount, the leftover budget for food dwindles.

But you can help close the gap! Over the course of last year, you provided 1,532,571 meals to local families and kids. We can do this, together!

Did You Know?

The Department of Health and Human Services defines housing as affordable when rent/mortgage cost no more than 30% of household income. It is not unusual for Interfaith Outreach families to spend up to 70% of their income on housing.

Become our friend or follower on Facebook or Twitter to connect with us and hear about the ways our community takes a stand against poverty.



Together, we did it!

For 21 years, we've witnessed stories of hope rekindled by this loving community – especially through the Sleep Out. On behalf of the **2,184 families** we will be able to help next year, thank you for your “all-in” support of the 2016 Sleep Out campaign!

Together we provided hope and help to change the lives of over **6,500 children, adults and seniors** in our community! Heartfelt thanks to all the kids, schools, businesses, bankers, scouts, corporations, foundations, faith communities, volunteers, board, staff, donors, sleeper-outers, fireside disciples and Sleep Out superheroes. We did it!



Spread Your Wings Gala

presented by Polaris

Saturday, April 22, 2017

U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis

Help us go the *extra yard* in our fight against the escalating poverty in our community. The new U.S. Bank Stadium will be the dazzling backdrop for the 2017 Spread Your Wings Gala with more than 400 community leaders and supporters in attendance. The evening begins with a social hour, bidding opportunities on “Exciting Experiences,” dinner, a live auction and a personal story from an Interfaith Outreach program participant. Sponsorships still available!

Proceeds will support local families and individuals with emergency and strengthening services. Register at iocp.ejoinme.org/SpreadYourWings.

MISSION – To engage the heart and will of the community to respond to emergency needs and create opportunities for all to thrive.

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

Newsletters are also available online at www.iocp.org/get-updates. To be removed from the mailing list, please email communications@iocp.org.



Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

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

SERVING THE CITIES OF HAMEL, LONG LAKE, MEDICINE LAKE, MEDINA, MINNETONKA BEACH, ORONO, PLYMOUTH & WAYZATA

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners and the Interfaith Outreach Endowment Fund, which solely benefits Interfaith Outreach, are registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Gifts to either organization are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

