



Driving Independence for Older Adults

Volume 19 Issue 1

Spring 2019

Dear Friends and Families,

All of us at ICP want you to know the pleasure we receive in making sure the older adults we serve get driven around town safely. Our caring volunteer drivers take great pride in ensuring every ride is safe and secure. We hope you are satisfied with our service and feeling the love!

With Mother's Day and Father's Day right around the corner, we are grateful to work with our care partner families to help aging parents maintain independence. Whether it's getting to a medical appointment on time, making a weekly grocery trip or visiting the hair salon to keep feeling their best, we are so happy to help. We realize children and caretakers are not always nearby or available and we feel so privileged to bridge the gap in helping our care partners get where they need to go safely and stay connected.

As you read this newsletter, please be sure to see page 4 for details on our home-bound delivery service in partnership with five local libraries. Read about this year's Above & Beyond Volunteer recipients for more on some of the amazing volunteers who ensure your rides. And please note who places advertisements in our newsletter—these are trusted business partners who we endorse to provide great service to you.

May is Older Americans Month, and you'll read inside how we've teamed up with Aging Care Connections to honor some incredible local volunteers and to offer programs throughout the month of May on a variety of topics from herb gardening to finding your oomph!

Finally, as you know, ICP is privately funded and relies on donations. Please consider the many ways you can help like AmazonSmile (where your regular Amazon shopping can support ICP at no cost to you), a legacy gift, or a Mother's Day or Father's Day honor donation to show your backing of our programs. Further details are included in this newsletter. All donations truly make a difference in the lives of the older adults in our community!

Thank you for being a part of our ICP family, and enjoy this glorious Spring!

Janet Garreau
Executive Director



SAVE THE DATE!

**Please join us for ICP's 17th annual fall benefit,
Takin' It to the Streets!**

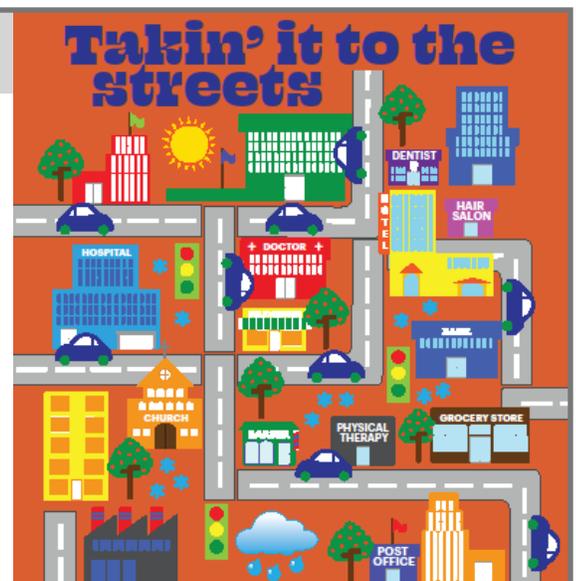
Friday, October 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Capri Banquets - 6240 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525

live music • heavy appetizers • beer and wine
cash bar for liquor • silent auction • paddle raise

interfaithcommunitypartners@gmail.com • 708-354-9328

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Volunteer Spotlight: Amy Watkins



Nicknamed “flower child” by her mother, Amy Watkins played with and arranged flowers even as a small child. This childhood hobby blossomed into a life-long passion, and today Amy generously shares her talents by coordinating the ICP petal pushers program.

“Flowers are my life,” says Amy. “At ICP I can share my love of flowers with others. I’m also a conservationist at heart and love how this program reuses and recycles flowers and vases that might otherwise be tossed. There is so much joy and positivity in every part of the process. As these beautiful plants pass from arrangers to delivery people, staff, and recipients, they make so many people smile along the way.”

In addition to flowers, Amy loves to travel and spend time with her husband Craig, daughter Ellie and great dane, Greta. She also volunteers at St. Francis food pantry, LGP Garden Club and The Conservation Foundation, and has a home-based floral business, Tiny Bouquets, where she creates arrangements for showers, parties and other events.

Thank you, Amy, for sharing your time and talents with ICP!

Our heartfelt thanks to....

Compassion United Methodist Church in Brookfield WHAM group for donating succulents, ornaments and cards.

St. Francis Xavier, St. John of the Cross, Grace Lutheran La Grange, St. John's Lutheran, St. Cletus, and First United Methodist Church of La Grange for their youth groups creating hand-made cards for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Valentine's Day.

Erik Sanders and his Boy Scout Troop for donating wreaths and swags that were given to our clients at Christmastime.

Petal Pusher volunteers making deliveries: **Halle & Timmy McCormick, Jack Schaeffer, Linda Tomko.**

First Congregational Church of Western Springs for the donation of vases for Petal Pushers.

The amazing women of “100 Women Who Give a Damn” for including ICP as one of three finalist charities at this year’s annual event held April 10th. We appreciate the invitation to share our mission and be a part of this heartwarming experience!



Thank You
for your Kindness

Welcome New Volunteers!

Molly Benz	Letta Kochalis
Kathy Biga	Regina MacAskill
David Bryant	Diana Pascarella
Jay Copp	Claudia Pascual
Sheila Emmett	Judy Popernik
Anna Gocal	Jack Schaeffer
Jerry Good	Roger Skerrett
Georgann Grecco	Martha Strawbridge
Nancy Hernandez	Greg Vichick
Dennis Kelly	Marcia Wallace
Caroline Klos	Suzi Wirtz

Shop at AmazonSmile and Support ICP!

AmazonSmile is an easy, automatic way to support ICP at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products is donated to the charity of your choice.

To get started, visit smile.amazon.com, and select Interfaith Community Partners as your charity.

Thank you for your support!

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2019 Above & Beyond Volunteer Awards

Andy Gore

Andy learned about ICP through the Western Springs Library while exploring ways to volunteer and make a difference in his own community. It looked like a great fit, and he's been kindly sharing his time to drive and assist ICP care partners for the past year.



According to Andy, "The best thing about volunteering at ICP is meeting the people!" He says he especially enjoys the continuing education he receives during his rides.

Andy is a retired CPA and tax lawyer and has served as president of the Chicago chapter of the Tax Executives Institute, and on the boards of St. John of the Cross school and the Thomas Ford Memorial Library. His other volunteering includes tutoring students at Arrupe College for three years as part of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps.

Andy and his wife, Ann, have lived in Western Springs for 38 years and have two daughters who both live in the East Bay Area of California. In addition to volunteering and family time, Andy enjoys golfing, gardening and reading about Antarctic exploration.

Thank you for sharing your time with ICP, Andy. You definitely found a way to make a difference in your community!

Pat Koziol

Pat first heard about ICP in May 2016 through the St. Cletus church bulletin, and knew right away she wanted to become a volunteer. She's graciously shared her time, kindness and conversation with our care partners ever since.

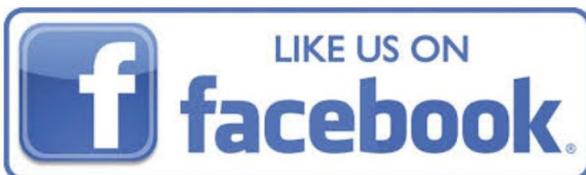


Pat says she volunteers with ICP because, "I wanted to do something in the community that could be seen and where I would know right away that a difference is being made. Driving and interacting with people who need companionship and assistance has been even more rewarding than I expected. I've probably served 75-80 people and I've kept notes, so I know how many children they have and if their spouse has passed away. The people I've met and the things told to me, they're all in my heart. They make me who I am."

Pat is a retired CPS teacher where she taught 6th, 7th and 8th grades in Little Village. She's also volunteered at Cat Nap and BEDS Plus Care, and took a training course to serve on the domestic abuse hotline through St. Cletus.

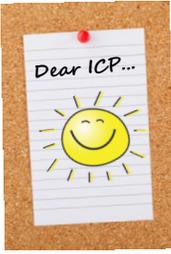
When she's not volunteering, Pat enjoys singing in the St. Cletus choir and spending time with her three children and their families, as well as her two cats, Willow and Autumn.

Thank you, Pat! We know you're in the heart of the care partners you serve!



"Like" us on Facebook to keep up with the latest ICP news and events, plus fun photos of our volunteers in action!

Kind Words from our Care Partners



Thank you for the flowers we received recently and the birthday wishes. –SD

Thanks to all the drivers and office help for all you do for seniors. It is greatly appreciated and I want to say thank you again. -DW

I would be remiss during this holiday season if I did not give thanks for the wonderful staff. You Are Wonderful!! Keep up the good work you do every day. -TJ

Thank you for caring. I am doing well and appreciate all the trips you make for me. Your drivers are all wonderful and respectful. Thank you all. -CM

Thank you so much for the wonderful help you give to seniors. The rides provided are great. -RH

Thank you for everything that you have been doing for us in the past year. We really appreciate it very much. Keep up the good work in 2019 and may everyone at Interfaith have a wonderful holiday season and a joyous 2019. -GP



In May, ICP and Aging Care Connections will celebrate local older adults who are **GEMS**—volunteers **Going the Extra Mile**. This year we honor Bob & Ginny Grecco and Helen McMahon. Each of these faithful volunteers has served our clients in monumental ways and we are thrilled to recognize their kindness and contributions at a luncheon at La Grange Country Club on May 1st.



2019 GEMS Bob Grecco, Ginny Grecco and Helen McMahon

For special Older Americans Month programs like herb gardening and finding your oomph!, check out what's available at www.AgingCareConnections.org or call 708-354-9328.



SERVICE SPOTLIGHT: Library Home Bound Delivery

What is library home bound delivery?

Interfaith Community Partners is working with local libraries to provide library materials to older adults who cannot get to the library. We currently partner with libraries in Brookfield, Hodgkins, La Grange, La Grange Park, and Western Springs.

How does it work?

Every two weeks, ICP volunteers deliver books and other library materials to your door. After two weeks, a volunteer will pick up the materials to be returned to the library and drop off a new batch. Materials can include books, movies/DVDs, CDs and magazines.

How do I sign up?

Contact your local library to register and mention ICP. You will need a valid library card.



2018 Business Partner of the Year

We proudly recognize Mike & Joan O'Brien, owners of Independence4Seniors, as our 2018 Business Partner of the Year.

Mike and Joan have supported ICP for many years through generous donations and by embracing our mission of serving older adults in our community. We honor and celebrate the amazing contributions they've made over the years and look forward to continuing this special business partnership.



Executive Director Janet Gurreau with 2018 Business Partner of the Year recipients Mike and Joan O'Brien of Independence4Seniors

Board Member News

Thank you and best wishes to Aileen Pendleton!



A huge thank you to Aileen Pendleton, past Executive Director and Board Member, for her many years of service to Interfaith Community Partners. Aileen's guidance and compassion will be greatly missed on the

Board as she steps down to make time for her growing career.

We are so grateful for Aileen's service and wish her the best!

So Many Ways to Support ICP!

Honor Mom and Dad!

Consider honoring a parent this Mother's or Father's Day with a donation in their name to Interfaith Community Partners!



We partner with so many families to assist with weekday rides for their moms and dads while weekends are covered by their children. It is our privilege to keep your parents safe with our compassionate and kind volunteer drivers.



To make a gift, send a check to our PO Box or donate online at interfaithcommunitypartners.org.

Legacy Giving

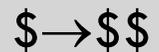
Significant life events may be celebrated through contributions to ICP. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of others for many years to come through legacy giving to Interfaith Community Partners.



To make a legacy gift, name ICP as a beneficiary to one of your investment accounts, such as an IRA, 403B or insurance policy. Ask your accountant for details.

Matching Gifts

Does your company offer matching funds when you donate to nonprofit organizations? This is a wonderful way to support ICP and the older adult clients we serve on a daily basis.



THANK YOU for considering a gift to ICP! If you have any questions regarding giving or have ideas for other ways to support the mission of ICP through your financial stewardship, please contact Janet Garreau at 708-354-9328.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking to spend a few hours making a real impact in your local community?

The loss of a driver's license, reduced mobility or a medical setback are just some of the events that can turn an older adult's life upside down. But with a little assistance they can continue to live life to the fullest. That's where our wonderful volunteers come in!

An hour or two of your time can help someone get to a medical appointment on time, pick up a much-needed prescription, shop for groceries, or simply keep connected by having someone to talk with. As an Interfaith Community Partners volunteer, you'll quickly see how a little bit of time can make a big difference in the life of someone right here in your own community.

We'll train you and work around your schedule to ensure your volunteer time works for your life.

Our volunteer opportunities include:

Volunteer Drivers

We are always in need of friendly volunteer drivers as we grow our number of clients. Please spread the word to people you know who may be interested in driving our clients around town.

Petal Pushers

If you love flowers and brightening the day of older adults, we are in need of people to deliver flowers once a month to our care partners. This could be a nice Saturday ministry for families or teens. Deliveries can be made after school on the first Thursday or Friday of the month, or on the first Saturday morning each month.

Visiting Volunteers/Well-Being Phone Calls

Another way we support the older adults in our community is through monthly visits and weekly well-being calls. If you're a nurturer by nature or love to chat, you would be perfect to help us check on and keep connected with our care partners.

Please call our office at 708-354-9328 to volunteer or to learn more about volunteer opportunities and training. If you have another way you would like to volunteer to support our mission, please let us know!

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

—Anne Frank



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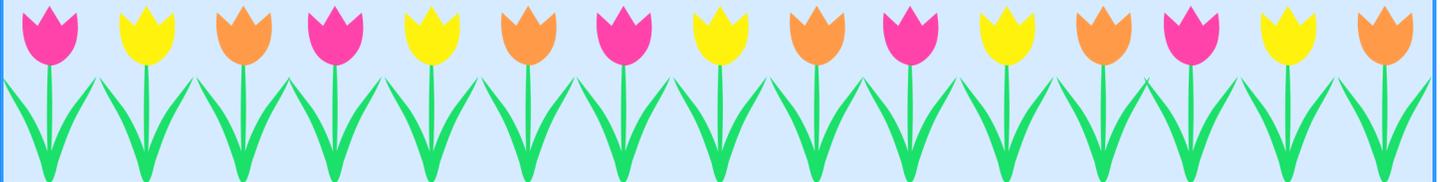
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Enjoy the spring season!





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SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for ICP's annual
benefit Friday, October 4th!

Details inside...

OUR MISSION

The mission of Interfaith Community Partners is to maximize the independence and well-being of older adults by enabling connections with others in their community.

OUR SERVICES

Our core service is providing older adults with safe, accompanied transportation to medical appointments, therapies and life-enhancing errands including the grocery store, bank, hairdresser and church. We also provide home visits and phone calls to check in on older adults, deliver their library materials, and brighten their days however we can.

COMMUNITIES SERVED

Broadview (NEW) - Brookfield - Burr Ridge - Countryside - Hinsdale - Hodgkins - Indian Head Park - La Grange - La Grange Park - Lyons - McCook - North Riverside - Oak Brook - Westchester - Western Springs - Willow Springs

COMING SOON: Clarendon Hills - Darien - Downers Grove - Westmont - Willowbrook