



# ICP Connections

News for our clients, families and community

Dear Friends and Families,

As I write this letter, my heart is hopeful that you and your families are secure and in good health as we all adjust our lives in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. As of this writing, the ICP staff and our incredible volunteers are continuing to provide critical medical rides for clients, make regular well-being calls to check in, and provide grocery shopping and delivery so clients do not have to go out to shop. We're also offering to shop for anyone age 75 or older in our community who has no other means to safely get food and household supplies. The staff and I are working from home per Governor Pritzker's directive, and we are closely monitoring all CDC, state and local health guidelines and continually adjusting our services to ensure the safety of our clients, volunteers, staff and community. Please see page 2 for further details regarding our COVID-19 response.



I debated whether to publish this newsletter, but looking through the content I felt that now, more than ever, we could all stand to keep connected and share in some uplifting news. I hope you find some joy in reading the kind words from our clients, messages of thanks to partners who've shared in supporting our community, and the profiles highlighting four of our kind-hearted volunteers.

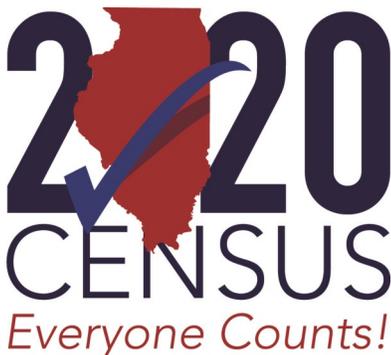
ICP will celebrate our 20th anniversary this year, and I'd like to express our deep appreciation for the businesses, organizations, donors and community members who have supported us over the years. I know many of these same folks are struggling amid this crisis, and I encourage you to please join me in supporting them however you can.

I wish you all the best for a healthy and happy Spring. Thank you for being a part of our ICP family.

*Janet Garreau*

Janet Garreau, Executive Director

## Have you completed your 2020 Census? It's not too late!



You should have received a form in the mail that allows you to complete the census online or over the phone. You may fill it out online even without the form. Completing the Census online at [www.my2020Census.gov](http://www.my2020Census.gov) or by phone (1-844-330-2020) is quick, easy and secure.

**Because census data is used for many purposes, including allocating federal and state resources, it's more important than ever to complete the census.**

Please complete your census today and be counted!

## IMPORTANT CHANGES AT ICP IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

**We continue to make changes to our services and operations according to the Illinois shelter-in-place mandate and CDC and local health organization recommendations regarding COVID-19. Given the quickly changing nature of this situation, we recommend you follow us on Facebook or visit our website for the latest updates.**

As of March 2020, the following changes have been put in place:

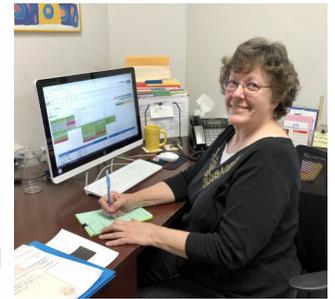
- Our staff is working from home and will continue to answer office calls and emails.
- We are limiting ride services to essential medical rides only at this time and contacting clients to cancel/reschedule non-essential rides.
- We are calling each client the day of their scheduled ride to ask how they are feeling, ask that they wash their hands before getting into their driver's car, and reminding them to call their physician if they feel ill.
- We will shop and deliver groceries for our clients and for anyone age 75 or older in our community—they do not need to be an ICP client. If you or someone you know could use this service, call our office at 708-354-9328.
- Any volunteer driver who is not comfortable driving a client is under no obligation. We are happy to find another driver if needed.
- All volunteers are requested to wash hands regularly, sanitize their vehicles and hands while on the road, and stay home if they feel ill or have any reason to believe they have come in contact with someone who is ill or has COVID-19.
- We are calling our clients regularly to check on their health and well-being.

**Thank you for your patience and please call our main number at 708-354-9328 with any questions or concerns and we will get back to you as soon as possible.**

## Staff Announcements

### Welcome our new Office Manager, Peggy Patino!

Peggy Patino, our former Volunteer Coordinator, will now serve as ICP's Office Manager. Peggy has outstanding organization skills, amazing attention and accuracy with detailed tasks, and is one of the kindest people we know! We're grateful to have her here and have no doubt she will keep our office in tip top shape!



### Welcome our new Thursday Office Assistant, Amy Watkins!

Amy Watkins, our current volunteer Petal Pusher Coordinator, has joined the ICP staff as our Thursday Office Assistant! We are thrilled to have Amy's help scheduling rides and tackling the many administrative tasks required to keep ICP running smoothly behind the scenes!



## Well-Being Checks

ICP's trained staff is making well-being calls to check in on our clients and other older adults in the community. We're reaching out to see how they are doing, offer our grocery delivery services and share other resources in the community for food and services.

If you would like to add someone to our well-being check list, please contact our office at 708-354-9328 or email [jgarreauicp@gmail.com](mailto:jgarreauicp@gmail.com).

And let's all be sure to keep in touch with our older adult family, friends and neighbors in these challenging times!

*We're in this together!*



## Kind Words from our Clients

"Thank you for your blessed ministry. It is such an encouraging and freeing gift to those of us who can no longer drive. Thank you for the extra touches - getting cards, flowers on birthday and visitors."

"Interfaith has been a life saver for me. My husband is unable to drive because of his legs. I don't drive. Again, I thank you!"

"What a wonderful Valentine treat! On Sunday, two lovely grade school aged girls delivered a bag filled with delicious cookies to me. They came out on a cold, wet Sunday with smiles and excitement! Thank you for this kindness!"

"Regarding my ride to Hinsdale Dental, I couldn't have been more appreciative of my driver. We hit it off so well that I wouldn't mind having her as a friend. Thank you so much for make the ride the highlight of my day today!"

"I appreciate the frequent rides the volunteers give me to places I couldn't get to because I am not driving anymore."

## Event Updates

### 20th Anniversary Celebration Cancelled

Like all of you, we are making changes to our schedule to comply with all COVID-19 related directives and to protect the community. With this in mind, **we have cancelled our 20th Anniversary Celebration originally scheduled for June 4th.** While this is unfortunate, we hope to find some creative ways to celebrate this special milestone. We will keep you informed if we are able to reschedule!

### Save the Date for...

#### ICP's 18th Annual Fall Benefit!

**Friday, October 2, 2020**

Carriage Greens Country Club in Darien  
Stay tuned for more details!

## Our Heartfelt Thanks to...

A big thank you to the **Westchester Mariano's** for working with Bloom N Toss to contribute past-date flowers for ICP's Petal Pushers program! ICP volunteers turn the donated flowers into beautiful bouquets for our older adult clients to enjoy!



Valentine's Day brought a great opportunity to bring some smiles to our clients! With the help of volunteers from **La Grange Neighbors and Newcomers, local scout troops, and community volunteers**, 87 ICP clients received a surprise of home-baked cookies! We also partnered with local **church youth groups** to create and mail Valentines to another 300 clients!



Thank you, **Steak+Vine**, for choosing ICP to partner with for the Sip & Support Cocktail event during La Grange Restaurant Week!

Thank you to everyone who supported our **\$20 on 2/20/2020 fundraiser!** Through your generosity we raised **\$1,660** to support older adults!



*When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." - Fred Rogers*

## THANK YOU

**to our amazing ICP volunteers and to ALL the helpers out there.**



**You are making a difference.**





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Michael Yu

Since January 2018, Michael Yu has spent nearly every other Saturday faithfully delivering library materials to older adults in La Grange Park. Thanks to his dedication, the LGP homebound library delivery program has grown from 25 to 60 people!

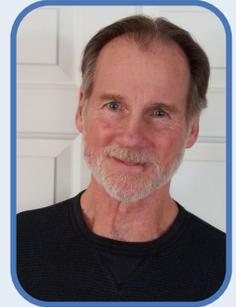
Michael first learned about ICP from a posting for volunteers on the parish website of St. John of the Cross, where he attends and went to school. At the time, Michael was considering going to medical school with a focus in geriatric medicine. He recognized that older adults face unique medical, social and family challenges and sometimes feel left behind, and he knew he wanted to help. After speaking to Executive Director Janet Garreau, he knew volunteering at ICP was one way he could help older adults right away.

“The smiles on our clients’ faces when I deliver their library materials is very gratifying,” says Michael. “I feel I’ve brightened their day when I see such excitement and gratitude to have new books and materials to read.”

Michael also enjoys the friendships he’s formed with local librarians, who appreciate what he does for seniors in the community.

When Michael isn’t delivering library materials, he’s usually working at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, where he transcribes doctors’ notes. He plans to apply to medical schools later this year, with interests in geriatrics and cardiology. The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree—Michael’s father is a retired surgeon, his mother a retired nurse, and his sister is studying to be a doctor! Michael’s other interests include art, graphic design and producing music.

Whatever Michael pursues, we have no doubt he will be of great service to others with his kind heart and generous spirit. Thank you, Michael, for your dedication to ICP and our clients. We can’t wait to see what lies ahead for you!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Greg Vichick

Greg Vichick first learned about ICP when he met our Executive Director, Janet, at a Gifts of Hope event at the First Congregational Church of Western Springs. He soon signed on as a volunteer driver and we’re so glad he’s here! Since January 2019, Greg has provided 48 client trips equaling 316 miles and 46 hours!

“I enjoy driving and love meeting new people, learning from them and sharing stories together,” says Greg.

Greg was especially devoted to a client who has since passed away. The client had no family and many physical challenges. Greg drove him to medical appointments, picked up his prescriptions, helped with his banking and brought him magazines. Greg also took him grocery shopping and, when the client could no longer go to the store, Greg did the shopping for him. What a beautiful example of kindness and respectful care of older adults!

Greg also volunteers for Project CURE (a nonprofit that collects and packs overstocked medical supplies for shipment to disaster relief areas and third world countries), makes soup weekly for distribution at a church in Humboldt Park and for BEDS in La Grange, and volunteers with his wife, Wendy, collecting Styrofoam for recycling in Western Springs.

“Wendy and I are so fortunate to do fun stuff like this in our retirement,” Greg says. “We both feel truly blessed to spend our time this way.”

When not volunteering, Greg and Wendy spend time with their two lovely daughters, three amazing grandchildren, beloved dog Hannah and two grand-dogs. Pup Hannah volunteers too, as part of the Read to the Dogs program at Thomas Ford Memorial Library! Greg and Wendy, a Master Gardener, also started A Little Yard Help, a landscape company that helps older adults continue taking pride in their yards.

Thank you, Greg, for your time with ICP and for showing such extraordinary care and compassion for others.



**Like us on Facebook** to keep up with the latest ICP news and events!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT **Sandy Pechous**

Sandy Pechous seems to be everywhere at ICP! She generously volunteers her time to arrange flowers with our Petal Pushers team, provide office assistance, help coordinate our Fall Benefit, and more. Since becoming a volunteer in May 2018, Sandy has given 177 hours of her time supporting ICP’s mission and services, completing 79 separate volunteer activities!

Sandy first learned about ICP through a Petal Pushers volunteer appeal in the SJC bulletin. She jumped on board and, to our delight, has been doing all she can to support ICP ever since! Sandy says, “Volunteering at ICP keeps me out of trouble! I’ve always loved helping other people, and I really enjoy arranging flowers and working alongside fellow volunteers and the office staff.”

The ICP staff can always depend on Sandy—she excels tackling tedious and detailed jobs with perfect accuracy and timeliness! She is extremely reliable and often offers her assistance outside of her usual Friday volunteer shift to help the staff complete special projects. What’s more, we’re always grateful for her cheerful spirit in the office!

Before retiring, Sandy worked as an Independent Consultant Dietitian for more than 50 years. This experience gave her a lifelong love of food, baking and experimenting with recipes. She enjoys cooking and baking for her husband, sons and grandsons, who look forward to her Thanksgiving pumpkin and pecan pies and her Christmas cheesecake and brownies! Everyone in the family knows delicious treats await when Grandma Sandy is there!

When she’s not volunteering or in the kitchen whipping up recipes, Sandy spends her time visiting friends, doing needlepoint and doting over her two amazing grandsons.

Sandy, you are such a genuine, kind and giving person! Thank you for sharing your time and talents in support of ICP and our clients!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT **Ben Boyd**



Ben Boyd first learned about ICP when a friend invited Ben and his wife, Barbara, to the 2015 ICP fundraiser. While at the fundraiser, the executive director encouraged Ben to be a volunteer driver. To our delight, he signed up the next week! Since then, Ben has driven 300 client trips equaling 2,144 miles and 269 volunteer hours!

“I find it more than worthwhile to serve our clients,” says Ben, who started volunteering as a way to keep active after retirement. “I really enjoy hearing clients’ stories and sharing their lives.”

After many hours as a volunteer driver, Ben looked to expand his role at ICP and currently serves as Vice President on the ICP Board of Directors and as the ICP 20th anniversary committee chairperson.

“I love being a part of outreach efforts in the community,” he says.

When Ben isn’t driving clients and tackling his other ICP duties, he’s busy spending time with Barbara and their beautiful family—4 grown children and 10 grandchildren from ages one to 14! Cooking is a passion for Ben, and he loves to prepare meals for the family. He also enjoys reading and his role as a Eucharist Minister and reader at church.

Thank you, Ben, for your kind heart and ongoing service to ICP and our clients!

## **WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!**

**Jonathan Asperger**

**Elizabeth Covey**

**Janet Flores**

**Bridget Manning**

**Jeff Moe**

**Mark Moriarty**

**Julianne Rizzo**

**Susan Rusk**

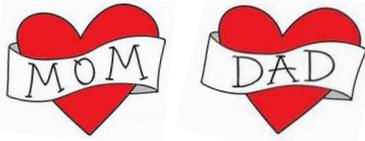
**Patricia Sheneman**

**Karen Skerrett**

**Kristyn Thielen**

**David Vanderberg**

## Honor Mom and Dad!



**Please consider honoring someone special this Mother's Day or Father's Day with a donation in their name to Interfaith Community Partners!**

We feel privileged to assist so many families with safe, accompanied rides for their moms and dads when family or friends can't be there due to competing work and family obligations. It takes a village in all stages of life and ICP is here to help!

To make a gift in honor of your mom, dad or another special person, please donate online at [www.interfaithcommunitypartners.org](http://www.interfaithcommunitypartners.org) or send a check to Interfaith Community Partners, P.O. Box 310, La Grange, IL 60525.

**Thank you for your support!**

## Volunteers Needed!

Do you or someone you know want to join us as an **ICP volunteer driver**? We train you and offer very flexible volunteer schedules! To learn more visit our website at [www.interfaithcommunitypartners.org](http://www.interfaithcommunitypartners.org).

**\*\*\*We have a special need for volunteers to shop and deliver groceries to older adults during the coronavirus outbreak.** To volunteer, please call our office at 708-354-9328.

## How to Stay Informed of ICP News

Given the rapidly changing nature of things surrounding the COVID-19 situation, please follow us on **Facebook** and check the **ICP website** for the latest ICP news and updates.

## Board Member News

**Welcome new ICP Board member, Julianne Rizzo!**

Julianne Rizzo is a Certified Senior Advisor and owner of Oasis Senior Advisors of Southwest Chicago, which assists families in navigating senior living options. Julianne has over two decades of healthcare experience as a Registered Nurse and earned her MBA in Healthcare Management from Western Governors University. She has worked in non-profits her entire professional career and volunteers for the Alzheimer's foundation, Cubs charity, and Chicago food depository. Julianne is a lifelong resident of Westchester and an avid Cubs fan. We are grateful for the insights and guidance Julianne is sure to bring to the ICP Board!



**THANK YOU to the following retiring board members for their service!**

**Bob Weiler** served as our board treasurer for the past four years and in other capacities on our board since 2013. Bob will continue as a volunteer driver!

**Ann-Marie Hickey** completed her 3-year term and was helpful throughout this year in governance tasks.

**Bethany O'Brien** completed her 1-year term, during which she assisted in updating our by-laws.

**The ICP Board of Directors met recently for our 2020 Board Retreat, where the team collaborated and strategized on how to further the ICP mission.**



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Janet Garreau

Staff  
Peggy Patino  
Eileen Tumpach  
Eileen Uzarski  
Amy Watkins



## WELCOME TO OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER!

- Important changes in response to COVID-19
- 2020 Census information
- Profiles on four kind-hearted volunteers
- Board member and staff announcements
- ...and much more!

## 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. 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. Through our Petal Pushers program, volunteers and local garden clubs re-purpose donated flowers into bouquets for clients and business partners.

## COMMUNITIES SERVED

Broadview - Brookfield - Burr Ridge - Clarendon Hills - Countryside - Darien - Downers Grove - Hinsdale - Hodgkins - Indian Head Park - La Grange - La Grange Park - Lyons - McCook - North Riverside - Oak Brook - Summit - Westchester - Western Springs - Westmont - Willowbrook - Willow Springs