



# ICP Connections

News for our clients, families and community

Dear Friends and Families,

I always find it comforting to feel fall start to take hold, with the crisp air, cozy sweaters, and pumpkin-spiced *everything!* I hope you, too, are enjoying these signs of autumn. Fall also brings special emphasis on pausing to count our blessings and express thanks. I feel boundless gratitude for the clients and families we have the privilege to serve, the generous volunteers who enthusiastically share their time with our clients, our dedicated staff and Board members, and an endlessly supportive community. These are all much-needed reminders that the kindness and generosity of humanity is alive and well even against a backdrop that may feel discouraging at times.



As we enter another season of this unusual year, let's all keep in mind that colder temperatures and shorter days can mean increased isolation for our older friends. Please know ICP has been here supporting older adults through the pandemic and will continue to do so. In addition to providing safe transportation to medical appointments and grocery shopping, we are keeping older adults safe and socially connected through well-being calls, library material delivery, special flower and card surprises, and more. We're also creating a fun new client Pen Pal program—stay tuned for more details soon!

All of these life-enhancing services would not be possible without the help of our generous donors and business sponsors. While we had to cancel our traditional Fall Benefit, our August "non-event" fundraiser was successful in raising more than \$50,000, all of which is going directly to support the ICP mission! Your continued support is the best possible way to celebrate ICP's 20th anniversary, and I hope you will include ICP in your holiday giving this season. With your help we can continue maximizing the independence of older adults for another 20 years and beyond!

For our clients and families, I'd like to share one last thought on keeping connected. Social connection is so vital to health and well-being, so please do not hesitate to reach out to your friends here at ICP if you or your loved one need assistance or will be alone over the holidays. In addition to our services, we have a wonderful network of resources to draw from and will help however we can.

Thank you so much for being part of our ICP community. Enjoy your pumpkin-spiced treats and have a wonderful holiday season!

*Janet Garreau*

Janet Garreau, Executive Director



## Have you seen our 20th Anniversary video?



Clients and families, please take a moment to watch our very special 20th anniversary video, which captures the importance of the ICP mission as told by our founders, director, volunteers, supporters and beloved older adult clients. Thank you for being a part of this great 20 year journey!



To watch, visit our website at [www.interfaithcommunitypartners.com](http://www.interfaithcommunitypartners.com) and you will find a link to the video on our homepage.

**STAY  HOME TO KEEP US ON THE ROAD**  
**Thank you!**

Thank you to all who supported our playful but very important Non-Event fundraiser in August! Because YOU chose to “stay at home to keep us on the road,” we were able to raise **\$51,384** to support older adults! These funds will go directly to supporting the ICP mission, including continuing to serve older adults through the pandemic. We are so grateful for your generosity!

**A huge thank you to the following sponsors who so generously supported this event!**

- Independence-4-Seniors
- Catherine's Community Closet
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- Joan Smothers, Smothers Group with Compass

**Staff Updates**

**Welcome our new Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Frank!**

Karen began volunteering with ICP during the pandemic, delivering groceries to clients and community members, and in July joined the ICP staff as one of our Volunteer Coordinators. We are thrilled to have Karen's help scheduling rides and tackling the many administrative tasks required to keep ICP running smoothly behind the scenes!



**Our Heartfelt Thanks to...**

**Mariano’s Westchester and Bloom ‘n Toss** for donating flowers for our Petal Pushers bouquets!



Artist **Kimberly Arndt and the Flaim, Behar, and Urbashich family** for sponsoring our La Grange Rolls With It summer art cart!

The cart sold for \$300, which was donated to ICP to support our mission and clients!



**Liz Van Lenten of Smothers/Compass Realty and Steven Langworthy of Edward Jones in Brookfield** for sponsoring our National Ice Cream Day event! 50 ICP clients received pints of **Tate's Old Fashioned Ice Cream** (thank you, Tate's!), delivered by our volunteers!





## Every gift makes a difference right here in your community!

Please consider supporting ICP with your holiday giving this season. Gifts of any amount are greatly appreciated and go toward providing medical transportation, grocery delivery, library materials and additional services to keep older adults safe and connected throughout the winter season and the pandemic. There are so many ways to give! Thank you!

### HONOR A SPECIAL PERSON

Making a gift in honor of mom, dad, grandma or another special older adult pays tribute to your loved one and cares for others in their honor.

### LEGACY AND PLANNED GIFTS

Legacy and planned gifts are a beautiful way to celebrate significant life events by caring for others for many years to come. Contact our office for full details.

### RECURRING GIFTS

Contributing a monthly recurring gift allows you to support older adults throughout the year. Recurring gifts are helpful in allowing ICP to depend on regular funds.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Does your employer offer a matching fund program for non-profit donations? Employer matching gifts are a great way to make your gift go further!

### STOCK & BOND GIFTS

ICP can accept donations of appreciated shares of stocks, mutual funds, ETFs, or bonds as a way to enhance your giving. Contact our office for full details.

### SHOP AMAZONSMILE

Donate to ICP every time you shop—at no cost to you! To get started, simply visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Interfaith Community Partners as your charity!

**TO DONATE:** Please visit our website at [www.interfaithcommunitypartners.com](http://www.interfaithcommunitypartners.com), call our office at 708-354-9328, or mail check donations to the P.O. Box listed on the back of this newsletter. You may wish to consult your tax advisor for legacy and planned giving. Thank you!!

## OUR OLDER ADULT CLIENTS & FAMILIES APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

"Thank you for providing drivers to help my mom keep her independence!"

"Thank you so much for all you do for seniors. Covid-19 has made it difficult arranging doctor appointments. Your help is appreciated!"

"I am so enjoying the beautiful birthday bouquet; the flowers made my heart sing! You are so great with the doctor rides and all that you do! God Bless to all."

"Thank you so very much for assisting my aunt. I cannot thank you enough. Please find enclosed a check so others can have the same services your group has kindly offered her."



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Pat Sheneman

Pat Sheneman first heard about ICP through both her church bulletin and the LaGrange Highland's Women's Club, which selected ICP as their Charity of the Year in 2018. In September 2019, Pat became an ICP Petal Pusher volunteer and has since created countless floral bouquets to the delight of the lucky older adults who have received them!

"Pat brings creativity, enthusiasm and a true *joie de vivre* to Petal Pushers," says Petal Pushers Coordinator Amy Watkins. "She makes lovely floral arrangements and never leaves without asking how else she can help."

Pat enjoys learning from others and looking for ways to improve her floral designs. "I learned to arrange flowers with the encouragement of the Petal Pushers group," says Pat. "I've found that I love arranging bouquets for clients' birthdays. It brings me so much happiness knowing we are bringing a bit of joy to others by delivering them beautiful flowers!"

Pat also helps spread the word about ICP via social media posts and in-person connections. She is a true ICP ambassador!

In addition to ICP, Pat has volunteered for many years through St. John of the Cross Parish, helping with their Women's Club Annual Garage Sale and Vacation Bible School and serving as a Catechist in the Youth Catechesis Program for over 20 years. "It was a privilege to share my faith with young students over the years," says Pat.

When she's not volunteering, Pat enjoys spending time with her husband, Tom, and their adult daughter, Amy. Some of Pat's most cherished memories are of family vacations to Mexico, Arizona, Florida and California and neighboring states. Pat's interests include exploring nature through our parks and gardens, traveling, dancing, and meeting new people. With a background in art, she also enjoys viewing new art exhibits at the Art Institute and other museums as well as visiting local art and craft fairs.

Thank you, Pat, for sharing your time and joyful energy with ICP!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Brad Promisel



Brad Promisel learned about ICP this past summer when searching for local volunteer opportunities. Brad retired last year as the principal of Field Park Elementary School in Western Springs and was looking for ways to give back to the community in his retirement. Feeling a connection to our mission, he signed on as a volunteer driver in June and has already provided 42 trips for our clients, driving 199 miles and generously sharing 35 hours of his time!

Brad says he enjoys helping older adults and is glad to help keep them connected. "It's incredible how something as simple as a ride gives older adults full access to community services," says Brad.

ICP's flexible volunteer hours and self-scheduling capabilities also work great for Brad. "I really like the ability to manage my own schedule and determine when I'm able to help," he says. "The ride scheduling website is amazing!"

Brad says he's glad to have found a volunteer role where he can help during the pandemic. Before the pandemic, he was sponsoring chess clubs at three schools and a youth center and, unfortunately, the school programs have been put on hold.

When Brad is not driving ICP clients or teaching chess, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Carol, a biology teacher at LTHS set to retire next year. Brad likes reading science fiction and history, watching sports, and keeping active—he does weekly Pilates and weight training, and has played racquetball for 40 years! He also enjoys catching up with his son David and wife Samantha who live in Glendale Heights, and his daughter Christy and husband Andrey who live in Munich, Germany. "My wife and I hope that sometime in the next couple of years we'll have a grandchild to help take care of!" says Brad. (Hint hint!)

Thank you, Brad, for so generously sharing your retirement and kindness with ICP clients!

*Making a difference!*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Kevin & Michelle Hennessy



Kevin and Michelle Hennessy are a kind-hearted couple with a true commitment to giving back to their community. Kevin and Michelle first learned about ICP in 2011 through members of their church. Michelle soon began assisting with the ICP newsletter and social media. After their recent retirements, both Kevin and Michelle signed on as ICP volunteer drivers this summer. While they've only been behind the ICP wheel a short time, together they have already contributed 41 trips, equaling 520 miles and 41 hours of service to ICP clients!

Michelle really connects to ICP's mission and the critical need older adults have for safe and reliable transportation, especially in bad weather and in the current pandemic. "My mother lived in St. Louis and I couldn't always be there to drive her to the doctor and other appointments, so I am volunteering with ICP to pay it forward," says Michelle. "I'm happy to do anything I can to help someone stay in a home they love and are comfortable in."

We **love** our volunteers!

Kevin was drawn to ICP based on our reputation, mission, and the opportunity to volunteer locally and provide direct assistance to those in need. "I felt it especially important to continue to help during the COVID pandemic," says Kevin. "ICP is a much-needed service for seniors who are essentially shut in and have few resources to get to time-sensitive medical appointments such as dialysis, dental care and physical therapy."

Supporting their community is clearly a priority for this special couple. In addition to ICP, Michelle and Kevin have given their time and energy to support Bernie's Book Bank, the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the Union League Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, CROP Walk, and many other nonprofit organizations.

When they're not volunteering, Michelle and Kevin are active in and hold leadership roles at their local church as well as the church they attend while spending winters in Marco Island, Florida. They both enjoy participating in church vocal and handbell choirs as well. The couple are blessed to share three wonderful adult children and one precious granddaughter.

Thank you, Kevin and Michelle, for sharing your time and kindness with ICP! You are true examples of paying it forward and supporting others in so many wonderful ways.

### Welcome New Volunteers!

Kathy Drew

Kathy Harris

Halle McCormick

Sheila Peters

Carolyn Ritten

Jeanne Rotert

### Clients: Do you like to write?



Would you like to write about your experience with ICP volunteers for a future newsletter and/or social media? Call the office for details!

### Volunteer Opportunities!



ICP is seeking volunteer drivers, Petal Pusher volunteers and pen pal program volunteers!

Do you know someone who may want to volunteer with us? Please help spread the word!

**We continue to train new volunteers via Zoom!**  
For more information about the fun, flexible and rewarding role of an ICP volunteer, please visit our website at [www.interfaithcommunitypartners.com](http://www.interfaithcommunitypartners.com)



**The ICP office will be closed and we will not be providing rides on the following days so that our hardworking volunteers and staff can relax and enjoy the holidays:**

**Thanksgiving Day Nov. 26th  
and Friday Nov. 27th**

**December 19th - January 3rd**

(last day of rides will be Friday, Dec. 18th and rides will resume Monday, January 4, 2021)

*We wish you a very happy holiday season and joyful New Year!*



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

## Happy 101ST Birthday to ICP client Susan!



ICP drove Susan to appointments and errands for several years, which Susan says was the only reason she was able to live on her own as she does not have family in the area. **"Being independent is the best way to stay young,"** she told us in a 2017 interview.

While we are not driving Susan these days, she enjoys ICP's other services including our card ministry, ice cream deliveries, and Petal Pusher flowers, which she is pictured with here.

Happy birthday, Susan! It's been our pleasure and privilege to know you and help you maintain your independence and community connection!

## So inspiring!

ICP Board Member and volunteer Julianne Rizzo keeps the volunteer spirit going strong through the pandemic! Julianne volunteers as a bedside nurse, provides lunches to front line healthcare workers, drives and grocery shops for older adults, and organized "Cards for Seniors" then delivered 1,400 cards to older adults unable to see family! "I was feeling helpless and I just want to be part of the solution!" says Julianne.



## COVID-19 SAFETY: Ensuring a safe ride for all

All clients should please adhere to the following safety procedures when taking a ride with ICP. Please note that at this time we continue to limit our ride services to medical appointments only. If you need grocery shopping or medication delivery services, please contact our office.

- If you test positive for COVID-19 and have had contact with ICP volunteers or staff, please call our office as soon as possible so we may inform those potentially exposed and apply proper quarantine protocols.
- Cancel your ride if you feel ill, have any COVID-related symptoms or have been exposed to someone who is ill or recently tested positive for COVID-19.
- Wash hands before entering a driver's vehicle.
- Wear a mask for the duration of your ride.
- Sit in the back seat for safe distancing.

All volunteers are directed 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 been exposed.

**Thank you for your patience and please call 708-354-9328 with any questions or concerns.**

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### WELCOME TO OUR FALL NEWSLETTER!

- Services and protocols in response to the pandemic
- Profiles on some of our amazing volunteers
- Holiday hours and other important client news
- How you can support older adults this holiday season
- ...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