



# ICP Connections

News for our clients, families and community

Dear Friends and Families,

As I write this letter on a sunny morning, I am hopeful that we are moving toward brighter skies in terms of the pandemic that has challenged us in so many ways over the past year. With more people being vaccinated—including many of our clients, volunteers, and staff—and warmer temperatures on the horizon, I feel energized and optimistic about what lies ahead and hope that you do as well.



It has been such a blessing to continue serving clients and finding new ways to keep older adults connected in this time of heightened need and increased isolation. We've heard from so many clients appreciative of our outreach programs like the Project Warmth soup and blanket delivery, Project Love valentine cards and treats, pen pal program, Petal Pushers birthday bouquets, and the welcome return of our library homebound deliveries. We recently started working with local villages to secure vaccine appointments for clients as well. I applaud the dedication and adaptability of our volunteers and the ingenuity of our staff to keep our clients connected while keeping them safe.

As always, we could not provide these services, including medical appointment transportation and grocery delivery, without the generous support of our client families, donors, and business sponsors. Thank you for your continued support of ICP and please keep us in mind in your future giving—you really are a lifeline to the older adults we serve.

Finally, to our clients and families, remember that your friends at ICP are here for you! Please call our office if we can assist you with something. In addition to our services, we have a wide network of resources and are happy to help however we can.

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

Janet Garreau, Executive Director

## Remembering our beloved friend and advocate



It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of our beloved friend and past Board President, Ken Kostal. Ken championed the ICP mission since 2011 as both volunteer and Board member, but more than anything he warmed our hearts with his kind nature and selfless spirit. We will miss him dearly and are forever grateful to have had his guidance and friendship.

# Our Heartfelt Thanks to...

**Liz Van Lenten of Smothers Group with Compass** for sponsoring our Project Love valentine treat bags for clients, with delicious treats thanks to **Krispies!**



**Barnsdale Road School PTO, teachers, and students** for the Cards of Kindness valentines to share with our older adult clients!



**Sharon Flaim and Bob Behar** for sponsoring Project Elf, where older adult clients received breakfast from Mary's Morning Mix-up and a cozy lap blanket on Christmas Eve morning. Thank you to the **volunteers** who made the lovely blankets!



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



**Fornaro Law** for their generous donation of \$500 in LGBA gift certificates to help fund our Project Warmth soup and blanket outreach program! ICP worked with **The Elm** restaurant and Chef Eddie to create a chicken with wild rice soup and beef barley soup to deliver to clients on National Homemade Soup Day Feb 4th. We were able to do a second soup delivery in March as well!



**Youth from St. John of the Cross** who shoveled for one of our clients all month in February!

**R. Kent Schneider Foundation** for a \$2,500 grant to support our programs and services and for recognizing ICP as a "nonprofit organization that makes a meaningful contribution to the people of local communities."



*Thank you for including ICP and older adults in your 2020 holiday giving!*



We are thrilled to share that **\$11,177** was gifted to ICP in December! These funds are essential to keeping our volunteer drivers on the road safely transporting clients, delivering groceries and prescriptions, and keeping our many outreach programs going to alleviate isolation and keep older adults connected during the pandemic. Your generous support is a true lifeline for older adults in the community!

## Making a Difference 2020 Impact Report

In a year of unprecedented challenges, ICP was able to continue serving older adults and add services like grocery delivery to help keep them safe. Thank you to our supporters, partners and amazing volunteers for making it all possible!

### 2020 service stats:

- 2,133 rides and services provided!
- 14,429 miles driven!
- 1,025 friendly phone calls!
- 1,995 volunteer hours!
- 162 active volunteers!
- 306 active clients!

### But the numbers are only part of the story...

What isn't reflected in the stats, but is equally important, are the countless sighs of relief, reassurances, smiles from behind masks, friendly conversations, fun surprises, and human connections that assured our clients they were cared for and supported. It is truly a blessing to have kept our mission going strong throughout the pandemic.

## Celebrate Mom or Dad with a gift in their honor to ICP!

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



Making a gift in honor of mom, dad, grandma, or another special older adult is a beautiful way to celebrate the people you treasure while caring for others for many years to come. When you donate in honor of one of our clients, we will happily mail them a letter letting them know a donation was made in their honor.

It is our privilege 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.

Thank you for your continued support!

TO DONATE: Please visit our website at [www.interfaithcommunitypartners.org](http://www.interfaithcommunitypartners.org), call our office at 708-354-9328, or mail check donations to the P.O. Box listed on the back of this newsletter. Thank you!

## KIND WORDS FROM OUR CLIENTS—THEY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

"I want to thank you for all the wonderful things you do for seniors besides providing rides. I am one of your clients, and the things you have done for me have meant the world to me....flowers for my birthday, birthday presents, the handmade blanket, the soup I will get today, the high school pen pal. I live alone and have no family here and your thoughtfulness has made me feel a lot less lonely. I deeply appreciate everything you do. Thank you so much." - Patricia

"I was pleasantly surprised by your birthday gift of a sprig of flowers and a card of good wishes. They brightened our apartment and my day. You must be thoughtful people. Thank you!" - Roger

"The Valentine's treats were such a surprise--I have never received a gift like that! And the soup was so delicious, just like my mother used to make when I was a little girl. Thank you!" - Dolores



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Leigh Hall

Leigh Hall signed on as an ICP volunteer after learning about us through her church, First Presbyterian Church of La-Grange, which is also the loca-

tion of the ICP office. Several members of the congregation are long-time ICP volunteers and eagerly told Leigh about our mission and volunteer opportunities. Since joining us in October 2019, Leigh has driven clients to appointments and most recently has focused on shopping for and delivering groceries and prescriptions to our older adult clients during the pandemic. She has happily fulfilled 38 much-needed trips, equaling 222 miles and 28 hours of her time.

Leigh was drawn to ICP because of our local mission, flexibility, and the dedication of our staff and fellow volunteers. “I had some extra time with only one of our children still at home, and I was looking for a way to make more of a direct impact in our local community,” says Leigh. “Volunteering for ICP is so easy, it's not like volunteering at all! It's just like helping out a neighbor or a friend—you're happy to do it! It's very interesting to meet new people, and everyone is always so grateful. I find it very rewarding on a personal level.”

Leigh's compassion and enthusiasm in helping our clients is a true blessing to ICP. She grocery shopped for our clients seven times in October alone! And her dedication to helping those who need it most extends to other organizations as well—Leigh also volunteers with the 2nd Baptist Church Food Pantry and Westchester Food Pantry, and has given her time to drive transition students from LTHS to their afternoon jobs. What a model for lending a hand to strengthen your own community!

When she's not volunteering, you can find Leigh walking her dog, Juno, spending time with her husband, Jon, and catching up with their four children—one in graduate school, two in undergrad, and one at Lyons Township High School.

Thank you, Leigh, for being so helpful and kind and for all you do to support our community!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Alice Walter



Alice Walter found her way to ICP while tracking down treasure! Upon her retirement, Alice decided to join a La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce treasure

hunt, where participants were challenged to find and explore local businesses and organizations and, upon completing the challenge, were entered into a drawing to win an iPad. One of the locations to discover was ICP, where Alice met Volunteer Coordinator Eileen Uzarski and learned about ICP's mission and volunteer opportunities.

In the end, Alice won the treasure hunt drawing and made a decision to extend her good fortune to others by becoming an ICP volunteer driver! Since signing on in August 2019, Alice has kindly shared 91 hours of her time to drive our clients 819 miles across 20 trips.

“Without the structure of working full-time, volunteering provided me with a purpose, and I was better able to make the transition into retirement,” says Alice. “I have met so many interesting and wonderful people and have expanded my knowledge of the area. Volunteering at ICP has been a win-win experience for me—I not only won an iPad, but also discovered a winning way to volunteer and expand my world.”

Alice says she appreciates ICP's flexible volunteering system, where she can pick the drives and times that fit into her schedule. She often accommodates last-minute rides. “Alice is so kind and caring, I can only imagine how comfortable and reassured she makes our clients feel when she is with them,” says Volunteer Coordinator Eileen Uzarski. “Her kindness knows no bounds, including holidays!”

When she's not behind the wheel driving ICP clients, Alice enjoys sharing time with family, reading (she's a member of 3 book groups!), attending Silver Sneakers at the Y, taking long walks, and observing the birds and squirrels at her feeder.

Thank you, Alice, for sharing your time to care for older adults. You may have completed the hunt, but no doubt ICP and our clients got the real treasure!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Liz Covey

Liz Covey joined ICP in January 2020 after seeing a flyer posted at First Congregational Church of LaGrange. She was looking for a new volunteer activity

since her children were grown and living out of state, and ICP's mission and flexible scheduling proved to be the perfect opportunity! Since joining us, Liz has driven clients to appointments, shopped and delivered groceries, and made many cozy and comforting fleece blankets for clients as part of our new Project Warmth program. She is always happy to lend her time and talents for ICP clients!

"Volunteering for ICP is great because you can set your own schedule and take rides or run errands at your discretion. I am a business owner, so flexibility is key," says Liz. "And I have met some really wonderful folks over the last year!"

Liz has always prioritized volunteer work in her life. When her sons were in school, she volunteered as often as she could as a room parent and helping with the library, art enrichment, LTHS Football Pride Club and other fun events. Her husband, Jim, shares her volunteer spirit, and served on the District 102 school board for 8 years, during which he was able to hand both of their boys their diplomas as they graduated from 8th grade.

"Volunteering is a great way to enrich your life and make new friends along the way!" says Liz.

When she's not volunteering, you can find Liz restoring architectural salvage pieces to sell, playing her oboe, bike riding, gardening, playing with her dogs, Rudy and Rigby, and riding her share board horse, Truman. Liz and Jim also enjoy catching up with their sons, Patrick and Robert, and their families, including three amazing granddaughters.

"This pandemic year has taught me that we should not expect much, but be grateful for everything that we have," says Liz.

We couldn't agree more and are truly grateful for Liz's service to ICP clients!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Eileen Rincon



Eileen Rincon is a shining example of the difference one can make by extending compassion to others. When she first learned about ICP in the St. Cle-tus church bulletin, Eileen immediately connected to our mission and started the process of becoming a volunteer driver.

"I think this is such a wonderful and important service to offer the elderly in our community," says Eileen. "I love working and being around older adults. They are such treasures. I was fortunate enough to have a cherished relationship with my grandmother well into my adult years, so I really feel that connection to our clients."

An ICP volunteer driver since July 2017, Eileen has generously provided 260 client trips, driven 1,305 miles, and given 170 hours of her time for ICP clients. "I've met so many wonderful people and really enjoy getting to know them and share life stories," says Eileen. "Providing these rides to clients is such an easy thing for me to do and the gratitude I receive from them is so rewarding. And the ICP staff and volunteers are all so kind."

The flexibility of volunteering at ICP works well for Eileen so she can schedule rides around her work schedule. Eileen, a nurse of 32 years, works part time at Rush Oak Park Hospital on the Covid-19 unit. Despite this demanding work, she drives for ICP nearly every week!

Eileen also volunteers with Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network, another cause close to her heart as her husband, Larry, is a transplant recipient.

When she is not caring for patients or volunteering, Eileen enjoys spending time with Larry and their two adult children, Rhiannon and Matt, and her rescue dog, Finley. Eileen's hobbies include reading and doing just about anything outdoors including hiking, cycling, and camping. She loves to travel and was thrilled to take a bucket list trip to Israel in 2019!

We are so grateful to have you as a volunteer, Eileen. Your commitment to the compassionate care of others is truly inspiring!

GreatNonprofits has honored ICP with a  
**2020 Top-Rated Nonprofit Award!**



Thank you to our clients, volunteers, donors, business sponsors and the many others who have supported our mission! Check out these testimonials posted to their website from our ICP community!

*"This is a great organization that contributes to the well-being of seniors in the community. The service and compassion provided is amazing."*

*"ICP has filled a vital niche in the community as a go-to source for transportation for seniors...they perform an outstanding service to our community."*

*"I manage an Independent Senior Apartment community... many of our residents utilize the services this amazing organization provides. Every person that is affiliated with this group is filled with kindness and generosity. Our little community is very grateful to have them!"*

*"I have been involved in ICP fundraising for over 18 years and it has been pure joy to help this wonderful non-profit... Their ministry to the seniors of our community is admirable."*

## Board News

**It is our privilege to announce  
 the ICP Board of Directors for 2021!**



**Ben Boyd**  
 President



**Mary Pat Flaherty**  
 Vice President



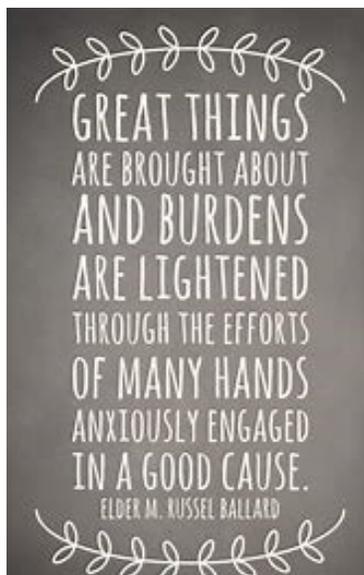
**Gaye Wagner**  
 Secretary



**Andy Gore**  
 Treasurer

**Welcome new Board member Kathleen King**

Kathleen has served ICP since 2002 as a volunteer, board president, committee member, grant writer, and now as a board member. She is an associate professor of education at North Central College in Naperville, and has served as principal, assistant principal, and curriculum director in K-12 schools. We are grateful for her long-standing support and guidance!



## Welcome New Volunteers!

- Frank Cosgrave
- Melanie Dawe
- Andrew Dockweiler
- Jennifer Van Donsel
- Susan Kunz
- Ann Lee
- Jessica McLean
- Gina Millette
- Cathy Pesavento
- Susan Pitts
- James Tvrdik
- Carry Zaras

## Volunteer Opportunities!

**ICP is seeking delivery drivers to bring special treats and flowers to clients**

If you can help fill these needs, please contact our volunteer coordinators, Eileen and Karen, at 708-354-9328 or [CoordinatorICP@gmail.com](mailto:CoordinatorICP@gmail.com).

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)



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

## COVID-19 UPDATES

### Ensuring a safe ride for all

#### HELP WITH VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS

ICP clients in need of assistance securing vaccine appointments or getting to/from vaccine appointments can call our office at 708-354-9328.

#### PLEASE OBSERVE ALL COVID PRECAUTIONS

We continue to take careful precautions including screening clients before rides, wearing masks on all rides and deliveries, sanitizing hands and vehicles, and observing state and local guidance.

Please observe the latest local guidance for travel quarantine.

If you test positive for COVID-19 and have had contact with ICP volunteers or staff, please call our office right away so we may apply proper quarantine protocols.

Please cancel your ride if you feel ill, have symptoms, or have been exposed to someone who is ill or recently tested positive for COVID-19.

**As more people become vaccinated, ICP will open rides to destinations other than medical appointments and grocery shopping.**

**Thank you and call our office at 708-354-9328 with any questions or concerns.**

## Meal Pick-Up Program

The Aging Care Connections Congregate Meals Program serves adults 60 and older with a nutritious lunchtime meal from Salerno's in Hodgkins for a \$2.50 suggested donation. They are currently providing contact-less meal pick up via drive through only, Monday - Friday, 11am - 1pm. Clients should call 708-354-0099 48 hours in advance to make a reservation.

## We want to hear from YOU!

What does ICP mean to you? What's your favorite ICP story/experience? Why do you support ICP?

We would LOVE to hear from you and share your experiences in a future newsletter or social media post! To reply, email [CoordinatorICP@gmail.com](mailto:CoordinatorICP@gmail.com) or call our office at 708-354-9328.

## Staff Updates

### Amy Watkins is taking on a new role as our Community Outreach Coordinator!

We are thrilled to have Amy's creative ideas driving this expanded role with responsibilities including our Petal Pusher program, special deliveries like Project Love and Warmth, setting up new outreach programs, all social media postings, and communications.



## THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS BUSINESSES WHO SPONSOR OUR NEWSLETTER!



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Eileen Uzarski  
Amy Watkins



### WELCOME TO OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER!

- Service and protocol updates related to the pandemic
- 2020 Impact Report
- Profiles of four dedicated volunteers
- A beautiful way to honor mom and dad
- ...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