Volume 21, Issue 3 - Fall 2021

Interfaith Community Partners
Driving Independence for Older Adults

# ICP Connections

## News for our clients, families and community

Dear Friends and Families,

Brrrrr! I don't know about you, but the cold temperatures really snuck up on me! Even so, I am enjoying the shift to the cozy comforts of this season and hope you are, too. I appreciate that fall and winter somehow always allow us to catch our breath a bit and reflect.

As I think about the past year, what keeps coming to mind is the unique power of human connection. In our work at ICP, we have long witnessed the incredible benefits of human connection and how vitally important it is to reach out and engage older adults in our community. This became even more evident throughout the pandemic. Our relationships and links to one another really are the foundation of care. This genuine connection is present in the fun and heartwarming conversations our volunteer drivers have with our clients, in the gifts local children and organizations create together to brighten our clients' days, in the friendly phone calls we make to check in on older adults, and—most recently—in coming together in person again at our Fall Benefit while donning masks and showing our vaccination cards as a way to further care for one another.

As you settle into the season, I invite you to pause and look around at all the ways humans are connecting and supporting one another. It may not look like pre-pandemic life just yet, but people in all walks of life are finding creative ways to maintain that essential human connection. And please know that we are always here for you—if you are struggling to connect this winter, please give our office a call and we will do all we can to help!

Finally, if you are able, please consider including ICP in your year-end giving. Your support is a critical link to keeping older adults connected. Any amount is appreciated, and we've outlined several giving options in this newsletter.

Thank you for being a part of the ICP family. I hope your season and holidays are filled with joy and connection!

Janet Garreau

Janet Garreau, Executive Director

## BOARD NEWS

Our Board of Directors just voted on a new strategic plan for the next three years to establish long-term viability of ICP and to expand the services and region serving the needs of clients.
We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our talented Board, and look forward to their continued guidance in implementing this plan!

## WINTER WEATHER POLICY

Winter can be a difficult time on the roads, and the safety of our clients and drivers is our #1 concern! When temperatures drop to dangerous levels or we experience (or anticipate) blizzard-type weather conditions, we will cancel rides, notify drivers and clients, and assist with rescheduling. If you have questions or need to reschedule, contact our office at 708-354-9328. Thank you and stay safe out there!

# Celebrating the happy and successful return of our Annual Fall Benefit!

**We are deeply grateful to all who supported and attended our Fall Benefit on October 1st!**

This year's benefit raised a record-breaking **$60,164** to bring safe transportation and outreach services to older adults who rely on ICP! Our generous community also helped set a record **27 sponsors** this year, who together contributed **$28,000**!!

AND we got to be back together in person again! It was a true joy to gather with **185 fully vaccinated guests** laughing, dancing, enjoying one another's company, and making a lasting difference in the lives of older adults! Thank you for your continued care and support! We can't wait to do it again next fall!

# A special thank you to the following donors and supporters:

**Lake Shore Drive Level:**
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Catherine's Community Closet

**Michigan Avenue Level:**
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**Dessert Sponsor:**
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**La Grange Road Level:**
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Keller Williams – Eileen Kenah
Ascension Living Bethlehem Woods Village
Meadowbrook LaGrange

**Wolf Road Level:**
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Touching Hearts at Home, DG

**Ogden Avenue Level:**
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Pure Vibe Dance Company
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Linda & Bill Wettstein
Edward & Diane Zanghi

# Our Heartfelt Thanks to…

**La Grange District 102 students and families,** who came together on October 11th to make hundreds of sweet care projects to spread some cheer to ICP clients this fall and winter! Projects included Halloween pumpkins, fall bookmarks, fall leaf suncatchers, and winter hot cocoa and ornament goody bags. We've begun making deliveries and our clients are delighted to receive these surprises:

*"I received the beautiful autumn present--what a unique idea with the leaves and embroidery hoop! Thank you so much!"*

*"I loved my fall bag--I already drank the cider, I love that!"*

**The La Grange Business Association, La Grange Farmers Market, and the community members / customers** who stopped by our September 16 "Make & Give" flower event. Visitors were invited to make an arrangement to give away using flowers donated by **Mariano's Westchester and Western Springs Floral Departments** via the **Bloom 'n Toss** organization. We appreciate the opportunity to give back to the community that gives so much to ICP, and to spread joy with rescued flowers!

**All who walked with us and cheered us on at the La Grange Pet Parade on Sept. 18th! And all of the wonderful organizations, businesses, and citizens that keep this fun event going strong year after year!** We were especially thrilled to include ICP clients in the parade, some of whom have participated in this event since they were children!

# Kind Words from ICP Clients

**These notes from ICP clients and their families show the important role ICP plays in the lives of older adults.** To our clients and families, please know our staff and volunteers LOVE the handwritten notes you send! Please keep them coming—they lift our spirits and warm our hearts!

*"I want to thank all the drivers at Interfaith who selflessly give their time to help those in need. Because of your services my mom was able to stay in her condo for at least three years longer than she would have without your service. There are four of us but three of us are out of town and still working. When Mom talked about the people at ICP, she referred to them as her friends. I have asked others to donate rather than send flowers. As the population continues to age, your services will be needed more than ever. I hope the donations in our mother's name will help."*

*"I want to thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers you brought me for my birthday. You are such a caring and thoughtful group that we are so lucky to have in our community. It was my 96th birthday, so I have had a lot of birthdays!"*

*"Thank you for all of the special treats! They have helped keep my spirits up during this pandemic!"*

*"I don't know what I would do without you! Thanks so much! God bless you all!*

*"Thank you for being our lifeline for our mother. It was kind of you to come for her visitation. We are hoping donations will continue in her remembrance."*

*"Thank you for the flowers you sent for my 97th birthday. I was pleasantly surprised. God bless you!"*

*"Thank you for your many acts of kindness to us older adults. Beautiful flowers arrived for my birthday followed by delicious ice cream on National Ice Cream Day a couple days later. Thank you for "being there" and for your cheerful, caring messages. And thank you for transport for my Covid vaccine!"*

# Client News + Updates

## HOLIDAY OFFICE & SERVICE CLOSURES

Please note that our 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. 25th** & **Friday Nov. 26th**

**December 18th - January 2nd** — The last day of rides will be Friday, Dec. 17th and rides will resume Monday, January 3, 2022.

## CLIENT SURVEY + NEW PROGRAMS!

Be sure to see the enclosed client survey for services you may like to take advantage of like Pet Therapy Visits, Sunday Drives, and Holiday Decorating in your home with your decorations!

## COVID-19 UPDATE

In line with state and local guidance, **masks are required for drivers and clients regardless of vaccination status.** We appreciate clients washing hands and putting on their masks before entering their driver's vehicle.

ICP will continue calling clients before rides with Covid screening questions and documenting vaccination status of clients and volunteers. Drivers will be called if a client is unvaccinated so additional precautions can be put in place as appropriate.

Please cancel your ride if you feel ill or have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19. Simply call us and we will reschedule!

If you test positive for COVID-19 and have had contact with ICP volunteers or staff, please call our office right away.

Thank you for your continued cooperation so we can keep the entire ICP community safe!

*These guidelines are subject to change based on state and local guidance. Call our office anytime with questions or concerns.*

'TIS THE Season OF Giving

# 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 transportation to medical appointments and life-enhancing errands, delivering library materials, and toward outreach services to alleviate isolation and keep older adults connected to their community. There are so many ways to give!

**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 and select Interfaith Community Partners as your charity!

**TO DONATE: Please visit our website at 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 clients are so grateful for your help!

Connect with ICP on Facebook and Instagram!

# Volunteer Opportunities

## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

Are you looking for a FUN, REWARDING, and VERY FLEXIBLE volunteer opportunity?

Become a volunteer driver for ICP to provide accompanied transportation for older adults who can no longer drive themselves. **Just a few hours a month is all it takes!** We'll train you and work around your busy schedule!

## LIBRARY DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED!

We're in need of **Indian Prairie Public Library** delivery drivers to deliver books and other library materials to older adults who cannot get to the library.

*To learn more or sign up, contact our volunteer coordinators, Eileen and Karen, at 708-354-9328 or coordinatoricp@gmail.com, or visit our volunteer webpage. Background check required.*

## Top 5 Reasons to Volunteer with ICP

#5- Make an immediate and local impact!

#4- Very flexible scheduling and commitment!

#3- Doing good = feeling good—our volunteers say they are the ones who benefit most from sharing their time with ICP and our clients!

#2- Use your talents and abilities for good—making conversation, nurturing others, creative talents like flower arranging and blanket making, event coordination—we have a role for you!

#1- Help foster a community that values its citizens at all ages and cares for those who need our help, for generations to come.

## Welcome New Volunteers!

Barbara Boyd
Matthew Dahl
Alex de Jesus
Maria Dellaportas
Don Eck
Kristina Geary
Terri Geppner
Jennifer Kelly
Maura Monohan
Kerry Quirin
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## Welcome to our FALL newsletter!

- Fall Benefit recap and results
- Holiday office hours and ride service closures
- Client survey featuring new outreach services
- ICP in the community
- Top reasons to volunteer with ICP...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