



ICP Connections

News for our clients, families and community



Dear Friends and Families,

I hope you're enjoying the first signs of spring! I love living in a seasonal location, where each spring I feel the natural energy pick up as the hours of daylight grow, the birds start chirping, and those very first flowers and buds start to bloom. Nature has a way of guiding us into what's ahead, and I couldn't be more excited about what's ahead for ICP and for our clients, client families, and friends!

Our staff is hard at work carrying out our 2023 strategic plan, fresh off our recent staff retreat where we gathered to reflect on the previous year and further explore the important and creative ways we can serve older adults in the community. This meeting also yielded our 2023 word of the year, *connections*. I guess this newsletter was ahead of the game since it goes by the same name!

The word connections is such an important guidepost for the ICP mission, which is to maximize the independence and well-being of older adults by *enabling connections with others in their community*. It's why we don't simply call our organization a ride service—the ICP mission is so much more than transportation! Everything we do is inspired by the goal of providing meaningful connection to older adults and the greater community. And there are so many opportunities for all of us to connect! What's more, intergenerational connection holds gifts for all of us by expanding our perspectives and learning from those with the wisdom of experience and from those just starting to put their stamp on the world.

I wish for you the blessing of connections in your life and hope you'll join ICP and the community to connect in ways that are meaningful to you. That might be a friendly conversation with our drivers or phone call volunteers, taking a drive to enjoy a farmers market or summer concert, or participating in our events, which you'll learn more about in this newsletter. Always know your friends at ICP are here and have many resources to help you expand connections and the enjoyment that comes from taking the leap to open yourself to new friendships and associations. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us!

As we march onward into spring, I also want to express deep appreciation for those who make this connection building possible – our generous volunteers, our hardworking staff and board, our partner organizations and supporters, and our greater community. I continue to be in awe of the beautiful and generous ways people come together to support the care and consideration of our older adult friends and neighbors.

Thank you for being a part of the ICP family. Enjoy the blooms and sunshine!

Janet Garreau

Janet Garreau, Executive Director



**ICP
2022
IMPACT**

**3,608
TOTAL RIDES**

**27,337
MILES DRIVEN**

**110
NEW CLIENTS**

**49
NEW
VOLUNTEERS**

**COUNTLESS
CONNECTIONS**



Meet the Spring Chickens!

...as they are lovingly referred to by the volunteers and staff who can't get enough of these charming ICP clients and long-time friends!



How did you learn about ICP and what are your thoughts on our services?

We have a friend whose husband was an ICP client and referred us. Your volunteer drivers are wonderful. We both feel comfortable and safe with them!

What did you do for transportation before you found ICP?

We have a friend who would drive us, but she moved recently and has other obligations and can no longer drive us with any regularity.

ICP provides you rides to First Congregational Church of La Grange on Saturdays for lunch – tell us about these special outings.

We enjoy this mostly for socialization and companionship, but the food is very good! It is all handmade and if someone needs or wants to take some home, they have containers to do so. We love to invite our ICP drivers to join us for lunch, and a few have taken us up on that!

What do you do for fun?

Rosemary: I am legally blind but have glasses that allow me to watch some TV. I enjoy time with my dog, Taco, who is an American Eskimo I adopted when he was 2.

Gloria: I like to read, though my eyesight is a little “on the shelf.”

What did you do professionally?

Gloria: I worked for the CFTC in the Sears Tower for 22 years.

Rosemary: I worked at Chicago Title & Trust as their Escrow Officer for 20+ years.

How long have you been friends?

The Spring Chickens don't quite align when recalling the exact number of years they have been friends, but it is somewhere between 50 and 60...and counting!

Fun Fact:

Both Rosemary and Gloria have birthdays in May! Happy (early) Birthday, Spring Chickens!



Rosemary (left) and Gloria (right), photographed with ICP volunteer Mary Ann



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR FALL BENEFIT:
SEPTEMBER 29, 2023!**

We're already gearing up for our biggest fundraiser of the year and hope you will be a part of it! We've got a fun backyard game theme planned, along with music, dinner, beer and wine, a silent auction, and more! We would love our clients and families to attend—watch for your invite this summer!

**WE ARE IN NEED OF AUCTION ITEMS!
CAN YOU HELP?**



Our silent auction is a HUGE part of our benefit fundraising! Do you have a great auction item you could donate to our benefit? Maybe you have connections to organizations or individuals who might donate an amazing item or experience for a great cause? Examples include getaways at lake houses, Chicago sports tickets, concert or event tickets, experiences at restaurants (a dinner for 8 or whiskey tasting for 6, etc.), as well as connections to liquor or jewelry donations. If you can help, please contact our office at 708-354-9328! Thank you!

Client News + Updates



**PLEASE SCHEDULE RIDES
5 DAYS AHEAD SO WE MAY
FULFILL YOUR REQUESTS**

Please schedule rides at least 5 days in advance to help us meet all ride requests. Once you have a need, give us a call right away—you can schedule as soon as you make your appointment, even if it's months away! Thank you!



SPRING & SUMMER OUTINGS

Would you like to visit a local farmers market or village summer concert? Or perhaps enjoy a one-hour drive just to get some sunshine and see the seasonal foliage? Call our office to book a ride! Weekdays only, please. **Medical and essential care appointments take priority over leisure rides when we are short on drivers. Thank you for your understanding!*

LIBRARY DELIVERY SERVICES



Did you know ICP partners with local libraries to provide library materials to older adults who cannot get to the library?

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.

We currently work with libraries in Brookfield, Hodgkins, La Grange, La Grange Park, North Riverside, Western Springs, Westmont, and with Indian Prairie Public Library, which serves Darien, Willowbrook and parts of Burr Ridge.

To sign up, contact your local library to register! All you need is a valid library card.



**Questions? Just give us a call!
708-354-9328**

Kind Words from ICP Clients



Thank you to the office staff & drivers for helping me get to my medical appointments. I appreciate all you do!

You are my angels! I would have a hard time keeping appointments without your help. Thanks so much. God Bless!

Thank you so much for all your help for Seniors. The volunteers are great, especially the drivers who are always on time, thoughtful, helpful, courteous and caring.

Meeting you when you provided transportation for my appointment was a wonderful experience. It was my pleasure and good fortune to talk with you. Thank you for your kindness, conversation and generosity.

Many thanks for everything you do for all of us seniors.

Your generosity is truly magical. Without your organization, I don't know how we would be able to get to our doctor appointments and shopping. You are all angels from above.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I have no family member living here. Interfaith is wonderful.

This card is to let you know how happy I was to receive the most beautiful mum plant. I love the colors and I love to look at it. The ray of sunshine it brings into my life is wonderful. Thank you for thinking of me.

Thank you for all you do for our mom.



Support ICP at the Run for the Roses 5K in La Grange Park on Mother's Day morning!

- Mother's Day, May 14th at 8am -

Bring Mom out to watch and cheer on the runners at this fun community event! We will give ICP t-shirts to all clients who are brought to the event by their family or friends! Please call the office to let us know you'll be there so we have a shirt for you!

For more info or to register to run, walk, or volunteer, visit lagrangeparkchamber.org or find the Chamber on Facebook!

Thank you to the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce for designating ICP to receive half of the event proceeds!





Honoring Mom & Dad

As we look ahead to Mother's Day and Father's Day, please consider making a donation to ICP in honor of mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, or another special person in your life. Making a gift in their honor is a beautiful way to celebrate the people you treasure while caring for others for many years to come.

We treat our older adult clients just like our own mothers and fathers—we drive them safely to medical and other life-enhancing appointments, wait for them, and assist them in any way we can. We share in friendly conversation and truly care how they are doing.

And we never turn down a client who is not able to donate. Instead, we rely on the generosity of our donor community to support the safe transportation and outreach services ICP brings to older adults in the 22 communities we serve.

TO MAKE A DONATION:

Please visit our website at 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.

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!

Thank You!

WHY I SUPPORT ICP!

HEAR FROM SOME OF THE AWESOME PEOPLE MAKING OUR MISSION POSSIBLE

We support ICP because we feel it is a very unique, sensible, loving charity. It is very heart-warming to see multiple communities come together to help those in need! - Mike & Carol, 1st-time Fall Benefit Attendees (photo from our 2022 Oktoberfest Fall Benefit)



ICP was a godsend in helping my mother, since I have not been in the best position in health. My mother was 90 years old, had signs of dementia and became difficult to speak with or help her. ICP

kindly took her to PT appointments and the drivers were very kind. I, myself, will be needing some drivers in the near future. This is such a wonderful community of people who devote themselves to helping the elderly and afflicted. I am grateful to this community of service.

- Karen, daughter of an ICP client

We support ICP because they assure that older adults stay connected and can be active in their community despite no longer being able to drive. ICP also provides outreach programs that assure older adults feel valued, respected, and cared for.



- Mark & Linda, ICP donors

Our Heartfelt Thanks to...

All who included ICP in their holiday and year-end giving! Your generosity yielded \$13,700, exceeding our goal by \$4,000!

First Congregational Church of Western Springs for including ICP in your Gifts of Hope alternative holiday market and raising \$1,100 for ICP!



The **LGBA, GP Italiano owners Joe and Emily Dellacroce**, and the patrons who participated in **Sip & Support** as part of La Grange Restaurant Week—GP Italiano donated a portion of their signature cocktail proceeds to ICP, gifting \$325 to support older adults!



ICP staff with GP Italiano owners Joe and Emily Dellacroce

Catherine Dugan LaBelle of Baird & Warner for sponsoring **Project Love!** Catherine's generosity allowed us to purchase delicious chocolates from Lilett' Candies in La Grange to deliver as Valentine surprises for 60 ICP clients! Thanks also to our young friends at **St. John of the Cross Parish** for making valentines to accompany our deliveries!

Dear friends at ICP,
Thank you for your delightful Valentine's Day wishes! It was a pleasant surprise. I hope you all have a wonderful Valentine's Day. It's a good day to remember you, too, because I appreciate your labors of love! -ICP client



Fornaro Law for sponsoring **Project Warmth!**

With this support, ICP was able to partner with **The Elm** to deliver 40 quarts of their scrumptious chicken and wild rice soup to very appreciative older adults in our community!

Bloom 'n Toss and Mariano's for donating rescued flowers so our Petal Pushers volunteers can create cheerful bouquets for ICP clients!



LaGrange Park Antique Mall and all who attended their ICP fundraiser cocktail party Feb 23rd, raising \$2,800 for ICP! Special thanks to **Nancy Lisowski** and **Sharon Flaim** for coordinating the evening and providing drinks and appetizers!



Board & Staff News

We are pleased to announce our 2023 Executive Board and members and are grateful for their continued commitment and leadership:

Mary Pat Flaherty, President

Kathleen King, Vice President

Julianne Rizzo, Secretary

Andy Gore, Treasurer

Mardel Graffy, Member

Bob Grecco, Member

Michelle Mahoney, Member

Thank you to Plymouth Place for kindly hosting ICP's staff retreat January 13th, where we gathered for a morning of reflection, education, and idea sharing to strengthen staff relationships as well as explore new concepts for ICP clients and volunteers.



Welcome New Volunteers!

Bob Behar, Chloe Borkowicz, Jill Borkowicz, Susan Breen, Sheila Dillon, Kathy Hoekstra, Ruth Hornacek, Jeff Jeffries, Gloria Leischner, Michelle Mahoney, Mariann Orr, Mike Prather, Chris Ritter, Gloria Sanchez, Sheri Sauer, Catherine Spurlin, Kathy Stefanik, Jim Walls

Meet Our Volunteers!

Alice Walter, Volunteer Driver

Why do you choose to volunteer with ICP?

I enjoy helping our older adult clients and I meet a lot of interesting and nice people as I drive. Plus, volunteering has provided my days with structure and purpose in my retirement. It's also opened my eyes to the needs of older adults. Right now I'm looking into library home delivery options, like audiobooks, for a client who is going blind.



What do you do when you're not volunteering?

Working out at the YMCA with the Silver Sneakers, reading and enjoying discussions with my three book clubs, and the never-ending task of cleaning out my house and reducing clutter!

Any words of wisdom you try to live by?

Try to live in the now and take things one step at a time.

Alex Zuck, Petal Pusher/Office Volunteer

Why do you choose to volunteer with ICP?

After my daughter was born, I was looking to get more involved with my community. I soon met Amy Watkins, who taught me all about the Petal Pushers program for delivering flowers to housebound older adults. I knew I had found a very special group of people working toward the shared goal of making the world a little brighter through their service!



What do you do when you're not volunteering?

I stay busy caring for my two young kids and I enjoy working with local organizations like Go Green La Grange and the Community Park District of La Grange Park to promote community growth through education and outreach. I also enjoy gardening and working on puzzles.

Any words of wisdom you try to live by?

I try to start each day by asking God to put me where I am needed that day. After that, I let the day take me where it will.

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I am so happy to support the work of Interfaith Community Partners and their fantastic work helping seniors throughout our local communities.

If you are thinking about downsizing, I can help!



Shannon Kutchek, Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES)
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708.955.3683
shannon.kutchek@compass.com



Thank you!



Interfaith Community Partners



The ICP staff felt appreciated (and a little bit silly), thanks to the ICP Board Members who provided a delicious lunch on Employee Appreciation Day!







The Countryside St. Patrick's Day Parade was extra fun thanks to our friends at Ascension Living Bethlehem Woods Village!



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Eileen Uzarski

Amy Watkins



Welcome to our SPRING newsletter!

- Client service updates and reminders
- Amazing clients, volunteers, and supporters
- Fun upcoming events
- Kind words of appreciation from clients
- Community businesses supporting ICP and older adults

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 - Riverside - Westchester - Western Springs - Westmont - Willowbrook - Willow Springs