



ICP Connections

News for our clients, families and community

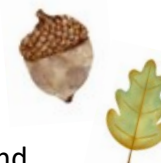


Dear Friends and Families,

It's cozy season! I hope this letter finds you snuggled up on the couch or sitting near a sunny window at this beautiful time of year. I'm grateful for the way crisp weather, changing leaves, cozy blankets, and a good bowl of chili (recipe in this newsletter!) encourage me to slow down a bit and count my blessings.

At the top of my gratitude list are the people in my life, including my ICP family and our beloved clients! How lucky I am to have the privilege of building meaningful connections and bringing helpful and compassionate support to the amazing older adults right here in the community I love. And I know this sentiment extends to our incredible staff and volunteers, who often share with me the ways their hearts are made full by connections with our older adult clients.

I am also deeply grateful for the tremendous generosity and support of our local community, who made our Fall Benefit a record-breaking success raising \$75,550! Our benefit sponsors, donors, attendees, and volunteers once again stood up to prioritize the care and consideration of the many older adults who rely on ICP for safe, accompanied transportation and life-enhancing outreach services.



Even with this great news, we must continue securing funding to keep up with the growing need for ICP services. I hope you will please consider making a holiday gift to ICP this season. There are many ways to give and absolutely any amount is appreciated. Please see page five for our many giving options.

Your holiday gift to ICP not only lends support and peace of mind to the older adults and families ICP serves, but sends ripples of goodwill throughout our community. When a community comes together to support its older members, it fosters a sense of unity and shared responsibility which in turn leads to a stronger, more cohesive society where members look out for one another.

Your gift provides great relief to our client families as well, who often juggle multiple responsibilities including caring for their older relatives. Knowing that a trustworthy non-profit organization is providing rides for their loved ones can alleviate some of the logistical challenges and stress associated with caregiving.

I'll close out this letter with a reminder that ICP is here for you. While cozy, fall and winter can also be isolating. Please reach out to us if you could benefit from a friendly phone call, Sunday drive, or uplifting connection. Need assistance putting out a few holiday decorations? We can help with that, too!

Thank you for being a part of the ICP family! I hope you find comforting routines and cozy connections that fill your heart all season long.

 Janet Garreau, Executive Director

Brrrr...it's getting cold out there! Inside this newsletter you'll find important information about our holiday hours, winter weather policy, holiday decorating assistance, snow removal resources, and more! Stay cozy, ICP friends!



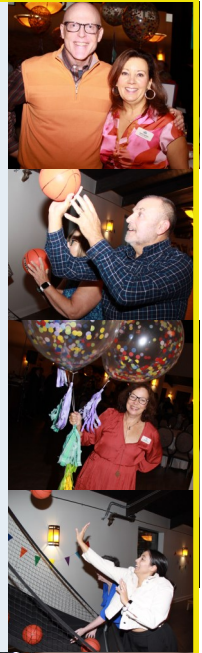
ICP Fall Benefit Raises \$75K to Support Older Adults!



We are thrilled to share with you that our 21st annual fall benefit *Game On!* raised a record-breaking \$75,550!

Requests for ICP services continue to grow and these funds will help secure our ability to continue bringing safe, accompanied transportation, life-enhancing outreach services, and a true sense of connection to local older adults! Together we're strengthening our community's commitment to care for one another!

There are many hearts and hands that made this achievement possible. We are deeply grateful to all who sponsored, attended, donated, bid in our auction, and supported this event!



Brian Davis of Home Helpers Home Care was our masterful master of ceremonies!

103-year-old client speaker Val stole every heart in the room!

Terri Fischer shined as our volunteer speaker!



Sponsor Joan Smothers shared the many reasons she chooses to support small, local nonprofits like ICP who make a big impact in the community.



Executive Director Janet Garreau kicked off the fun and games with a warm welcome!

Ginny Grecco and EJ Tumpach guided staff and volunteers as our 2023 Fall Benefit Committee Co-Chairs!

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Ways to Stay Connected over the Winter Season!

We tend to huddle up at home when the cold weather hits, which can often feel cozy but also sometimes lonely. Check out these ideas for keeping connected:

1. Check local libraries, churches, village halls and park districts for activities and holiday events. Many offer free programs specifically designed for older adults!
2. Sign up for ICP friendly phone calls to have one of our kind volunteers check in with you from time to time.
3. Missing family or friends that live far from you? Plan weekly phone or video calls! You can even bake together over video or play 20 questions on the phone.
4. Check out the free Aging Well Neighborhood classes offered by Aging Care Connections of La Grange. Learn more at www.agingcareconnections.com or by calling their office at 708-354-1323.
5. Apply for ICP library delivery services through your local library. Our volunteers will deliver and return your library materials so you'll always have a good book or movie to snuggle up with this winter!
6. Have friends nearby? Host a simple coffee and holiday sweets get together to play cards and catch up. Or kick it up and do a cookie and/or tea exchange!

Client News + Updates

HOLIDAY HOURS & JANUARY RIDES

The ICP office will be closed and we will not be providing rides or returning phone calls on the following days so that our hardworking volunteers and staff can relax and enjoy the holidays!

- **November 23rd through November 26th**
- **December 21st through January 2nd**

Please schedule your early January rides BEFORE December 20th as no one will be answering calls or scheduling rides during office closures. The first day of rides in 2024 will be January 3rd.

PLEASE PROVIDE PHYSICIAN INFO AND ADDRESS WHEN SCHEDULING

When scheduling a ride to a medical appointment, please have the physician name, phone number and exact address. We can only enter rides into our system when we have the complete address. Thank you!

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

As always, please kindly cancel your ride if you are feeling ill. Just call the office and we will be happy to help you reschedule for a later date!

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

In the event of dangerously low temperatures or blizzard-type weather conditions, we will cancel rides, notify drivers and clients, and assist with rescheduling. If you have questions or need to reschedule, please contact the office.

HOLIDAY DECORATING ASSISTANCE

Need help putting up your holiday decorations? Our elves may be able to help—give us a call!

SNOW REMOVAL

Need snow removal this winter? We have referrals in the office—give us a call!



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



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!

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.

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.

STOCK & BOND GIFTS*

ICP can accept donations of appreciated shares of stocks, mutual funds, ETFs, or bonds as a way to enhance your giving.

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.

MATCHING GIFTS

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

RETIREMENT DISTRIBUTION*

Did you know you may be eligible to transfer all or part of your IRA required minimum distribution to ICP, without reporting it as income tax?

**Contact our office for more information; we suggest consulting with your tax advisor as well.*

HOW 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. Thank you!

Your gift to ICP makes a real and lasting difference to the older adults we serve!

"Thank you for your willingness to fill a real need for transportation for seniors, a growing demographic that sometimes gets overlooked in our complicated life situations. You have taken the burden and added anxiety of the lack of reliable transportation off my shoulders."

"Thank you all for the wonderful support the past 3 months. I worked hard to reduce my neuropathy and I am now able to renew driving."

"We are truly so blessed by all of you & your generosity from your heart to do the work you do. We don't know what we would do without you."

Your donation helps older adults in 22 local communities!

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

ICP Giving Circle to launch in 2024!

All donors who give \$500+ in 2023 will be among the first honorees of our new ICP Giving Circle donor recognition program! Full details will be announced in 2024!



Our Heartfelt Thanks to...

Community friends who visited the ICP beer tent at La Grange Endless Summerfest and the volunteers who helped serve, including ICP volunteers and Project Team Cuisine volunteers and cooks from St. John of the Cross! All tips went to support ICP's mission!



All who bid on the friendship benches at the La Grange West End Art Festival! Our bench raised \$175 for ICP and older adults! Thanks again to the LGBA, Kimberly Arndt for donating her time and materials to paint our bench, and to our generous sponsor, Sharon Flaim, Founder, Catherine's Community Closet!



ICP friend and communications consultant Lisa Bucaro and her daughter for organizing a "make & give" flower event for their neighborhood! La Grange friends and neighbors created bouquets from rescued flowers to help spread the word about ICP while also spreading some cheer to older adults in the community. Thank you also to Mariano's Westchester for donating the flowers!



Welcome New Volunteers!

- Suzanne Ankenbruck
- Kenny Bach
- Qynn Christenson
- Tom Culley
- Mary Gamauf
- Amy Hofstra
- Amy Kovarik
- Malanie Ortiz
- Tom Trelease
- Joan Walsh



LOVE ICP? DROP US A LINE!



Clients and families, our staff and volunteers LOVE the letters and notes you send! They lift our spirits and warm our hearts!

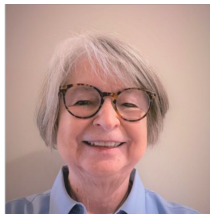
We'd love to hear your thoughts on ICP and our services, so please drop us a line! Mail to our office (address on the back of this newsletter) or email CoordinatorICP@gmail.com.

If you have a note for a specific staff member or volunteer, we'll be sure they get it!

Board News

Meet new Board member Doris Bryant!

Doris is a retired attorney, having spent most of her career at Allstate Insurance Company. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a B.A. in economics and an M.Ed. in math education. She's also a graduate of IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law. She and her husband David have lived in the La Grange community for over 40 years. They have five children and six grandchildren.



Doris has served on various boards of the First Congregational Church of La Grange and served two separate terms as moderator (president) of the Church Council. She was a founding member of the Saturday Meals Advisory Committee. Doris served as a board member of Plymouth Place Senior Living for nine years, including a two-year term as chair of the board. She is a volunteer driver for ICP and is deeply committed to its mission. We are so grateful to have her perspective and guidance!

Just look at the smiles a few flowers can bring! We had extra Petal Pushers flowers to share with Senior Living communities to do their own flower arranging!



Staff News

Welcome Kathy Stefanik, our newest Volunteer Coordinator!

Kathy cheerfully handles the phones and scheduling rides on Mondays.

How did you first learn about

ICP? I first learned about ICP from my dear friends, Bob and Ginny, at a fall benefit. I was hooked ever since!



What do you do for ICP? I happily answer the ICP phones to help clients with their ride and errand requests.

What part of ICP's mission speaks to you most? Client connections and interaction via the phone. It is so nice to greet clients one on one!

Tell us a bit about yourself. I am very mindful of my health. I am up early and at the gym! I love to read and will read a book a week. I keep a list of all my favorite reads. I have a daughter who lives in St. Louis and a son who lives in Chicago. I also, I have two beautiful grandsons, who I visit monthly.

Any life mottos or words you try and live by? Life spent helping others is a life filled with purpose. *We couldn't agree more, Kathy!*



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seniors throughout our local communities.

If you are thinking about downsizing, I can help!



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Cozy Up with a Batch of Papa's Texas Chili!

ICP volunteer driver and former Board president Ben Boyd took 1st Place at the La Grange Park Chamber Chili Cookoff with this winning recipe!



2 lbs. 1.5" thick round steak
1 lb. fresh pork sausage
1-28 oz. can Italian tomatoes
4 oz. jar of jalapeno peppers
(remove seeds)
1 T chili powder
1 T brown sugar
3 medium onions, diced (plus
more for serving)
4 cloves of garlic, diced
1 t oregano
1 t cumin
3 bay leaves
2 T olive oil
1 box elbow macaroni
Shredded cheddar

Trim fat from steak and cut into 1 inch squares.
Place in skillet and render the meat—remove rind
and fry steak cubes in rendered fat until browned
on all sides. Add pork sausage and cook until no
longer pink. Add chili powder and turn off skillet.

In another skillet heat olive oil and sauté onions,
garlic and jalapeno peppers until onions are car-
amelized. Place meat and vegetables in soup pot
and tomatoes, cumin, oregano, brown sugar and
bay leaves. Simmer for 4-5 hours. Remove from
heat and remove bay leaves.

Serve with elbow macaroni, cheese, diced jala-
penos and chopped onions. Can add beans on the
side (already cooked).





P.O. Box 310
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Welcome to our FALL newsletter!

- Fall Benefit highlights and gratitude
- Holiday hours and other important updates
- A holiday gift that delivers security and comfort
- Ways to stay connected this winter
- An award-winning chili recipe...and 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.

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