Fall 2018

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Letter from the Director

A Community of Hope….

I recently completed the Strengthsfinder assessment, recommended by a dear colleague. It is a tool to help you take a closer look at your strengths/gifts and how to use them each day to improve your life and the lives of those around you. Instead of focusing on people’s weaknesses, focus on strengths! In the book it asks, “Do you have the opportunity to do what you do best every day?”

While that is great advice in everyone’s day-to-day life, I realized that question is also central to what we do at Immanuel Community Services (ICS) every day. In all four programs we create opportunities for people to do their best; we focus on their strengths, not their weaknesses.

Whether at the Hygiene Center—with an open door and open heart, providing showers, laundry, a meal and companionship—or through our Recovery Program offering food, shelter and support for men battling addiction and trying to make a change in their lives—an opportunity to do their best looks a little different. But we meet each person where they are, support them and give them opportunities to imagine something different for themselves and the hope it is possible.

It turns out that Connectedness is one of my strengths: building bonds that unite different types of people and appreciating everyone’s uniqueness because we know we are all somehow linked to every other human being.

This sense of connectedness and community is central to all we do at ICS. It takes a community of partners, supporters, volunteers and compassionate companions to make our work possible. We are celebrating this beautiful community at our annual fall breakfast: A Community of Hope. Please join us on Thursday, October 11th at 8am (registration begins at 7:30am). Enjoy a delicious meal with friends while learning about the great work ICS does; hearing from the people whose lives have been changed and finding out how you can be a part of it.

This event is critical to the success of ICS. We hope you will join us!

Peace & Gratitude,
Shawna McMahon
Executive Director

Safeco Award

Immanuel Community Services is very honored to be a recipient of the 2018-19 Safeco Insurance Fund Basic Services Initiative. ICS received a $39,000 award for our Homeless Services in recognition for all ICS does to meet the basic needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness!

Welcome Mariel!!

Introducing the newest member of the ICS team: Mariel Wettick! Mariel joined ICS as our Development & Program Assistant this summer.

Originally from Brooklyn, Mariel graduated from Skidmore College with a degree in Gender Studies and Studio Art. She is interested in the issue of homelessness and when she moved here a year ago, she was surprised to find Seattle in the center of the conversation. She is now excited to help be a part of the solution! Welcome Mariel!

Pearl Jam Home Shows: Banding Together to Fight Homelessness

The 15 wonderful volunteers spent the day at ICS as part of the Pearl Jam Home Shows Volunteer Day. We are so lucky that these folks spent the day helping out. They cooked a meal for our Hygiene Center guests complete with French toasts, eggs, potatoes and baked goods, yum! They also did a much needed deep clean of our kitchen and organized our clothing donations. Now, we can efficiently hand out clothing to individuals in need. We are so grateful all of the work that was done. Everyone had a blast! It was especially fun to meet some new friends, some visiting from Sweden! Thank you all!

Time to Talk Turkey!

ICS is collecting turkeys throughout November for all of our programs. We need about 200 turkeys. Please help us make sure that all our neighbors have a nice Thanksgiving meal! If you’re interested in donating a turkey, please email info@icsseattle.org for more info!

Volunteer Corner

Here at ICS, we serve over 33,000 people a year experiencing homelessness and hunger through our four programs: Food Bank, Hygiene Center, Recovery Program Shelter and Community Lunch.

We are only able to provide the service we do thanks to the amazing volunteers who donate their time, talent and energy to care for members of our community in need.

Do you have a few hours to give? We are in desperate need of help in our Community Lunch, Hygiene Program and Food Bank. Whether you have a few hours a day, a week, a month or a quarter...we need your help!!

For information about volunteering, please email info@icsseattle.org

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Community Spotlight

Jordan Rabinowe is a volunteer and supporter of Immanuel Community Services. He supports ICS “because they encompass not only specific needs of our homeless citizens but they also help bridge the gaps in the system that often prevent those that are homeless from getting off the streets.”

As a real estate agent, he sees first-hand how big the disparity is between those who are housed and those who are not. Jordan wanted to find a way to help that would make a lasting impact on ICS so he created a Community Referral Program.

When he receives a referral from friends, family or anyone associated with ICS, he will donate a portion of his commission to ICS!! All you have to do is let him know you are an ICS supporter… and spread the word!!

“We all want to do our part to help. Through this program we will make our community, our city and our state a better place to live! We will make a difference!”

For more information contact Jordan at (206) 579-9764 or email him at jordan@pointe3.com.

Thank you Lunchbox Laboratory!!

Big thanks to our neighbors at Lunchbox Laboratory for hosting a Dine Out for ICS event on August 30th. Thanks to everyone that came by and had a delicious burger with friends to help raise $962 to serve the homeless & hungry in Seattle!!

Employee Giving Funds

Did you know ICS is part of the King County Employee Giving Fund? We participate through a food bank cooperative and get a portion of what is given to the group. But... anyone working for King County can designate ICS directly!! This is true for ALL workplace campaigns! So, if you have one at your work, think ICS!

Congrats Melvin!!

Melvin is a long-time guest at Immanuel Community Services, utilizing the Hygiene Center, Food Bank and Community Lunch on a regular basis. He is a vet who had been unable to access services and was on the streets as a result. For over a year, ICS worked very closely with several organizations to help Melvin navigate the system and obtain a housing voucher. We also helped him to gather all the documents he needed (like ID and Veterans’ forms) to make this happen!!

After years of living on the streets, Melvin moved into his own apartment this summer!!

You’re Invited: 9th Annual Fall Breakfast

Please join us to celebrate the ICS Community of Hope Breakfast

Thursday, October 11th

7:30am: Doors Open/Registration Begins
8:00am-9:00am: Program and Breakfast
415 Westlake

Please RSVP at www.icsseattle.org, info@icsseattle.org or (206) 622-1930

Special thanks to our sponsors: