Welcome Andrea!
This spring we are partnering with United Way and 501 Commons to host a Volunteer Impact Partnership Manager. We are lucky to welcome Andrea, who is working with us to build our volunteer recruitment, engagement and training program. Our volunteers are core to our work and we want to make sure we support them in their important work. Thanks United Way and 501 Commons for providing us with this wonderful opportunity!

Apply to Join our Board!
Are you passionate about giving the people in your community a sense of dignity and hope? Would you like to help alleviate the effects of hunger, homelessness and addiction by providing community-based social services to those in need?

If you or anyone you know is interested, we hope you’ll consider applying to join the ICS Board of Directors!

Join us for the
4TH ANNUAL PUTT PUTT TOURNAMENT
Saturday, June 8th
2-6 PM | Interbay Golf Course

Interested in ...
...being a Team Captain? ...playing on a team? ...sponsoring a hole?
Email info@icsseattle.org or visit www.icsseattle.org to learn more!

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 to ICS directly!!

This is true for ALL workplace campaigns! So, if you have one at your work, think ICS!

Legacy Giving
Have you thought about leaving a gift to ICS in your will? Please consider supporting our work in this very special way. Your legacy will help care for the hungry, homeless and vulnerable. If you have already done this, please let us know. If you would like to explore this further...we can help! Please contact Shawna McMahon for more information: shawna@icsseattle.org

Meet Bobby: Mentor & Friend
I’m right where I need to be....

Bobby lost both parents when he was young and lived with different family members who didn’t treat him well. By the age of 10, he was drinking and by the age of 16 he had graduated to major crimes like stealing cars.

Because of his adolescent crime spree, he went to prison – serving 18 years in three different states. Bobby shares that he “knew right then that I had to do something different. Prison kind of broke me right there but I still had two stretches to do.” So he kept his head down and got involved in service.

When he got out of prison, he joined a carnival and eventually managed it as it traveled around the country. He really liked the carnival and the responsibility but still struggled with drinking. He tried treatment a few times but life on the road and being in a carnival made it hard to stay sober; he always drank again.

Bobby retired from the carnival after 25 years and headed to Seattle. Not long after arriving, he found himself at Harborview with a gunshot over a $50 disagreement in a pool game. It was there that Bobby met a friend who convinced him to go to an AA meeting where he met one of the residents of our shelter who told him about ICS. Exhausted and worn out, Bobby finally found his way to the ICS Recovery Shelter.

Bobby says he never intended to stay in Seattle but things happen for the best and he is where he needs to be. He is now 10 months sober and is preparing to move into his own apartment. He is a senior member of the house and finds a lot of satisfaction acting as mentor & friend to his housemates, many of whom turn to him for advice and support. Every week at house meeting he tells them, “Don’t give up on yourself. You’re worth more than that.” We think you are right where you need to be, too, Bobby!
Letter from the Executive Director...

Hopefulness and Optimism...
Sometimes it’s really hard to see. The last few months we’ve seen more and more negative stories about people in our community who are experiencing poverty, homelessness and hunger. Some people get so angry and only see the person who appears to be homeless sitting or sleeping on the streets, asking for money on off-ramps, in camps or on TV with garbage & needles.

But I see the beautiful humans who stand behind me ready to come to my defense anytime someone in the neighborhood is aggressive or rude to me. I see the folks in our Hygiene Center who asked for flyers when my dog Sophie went missing (while I was out of town) and took the flyers around the city to several homeless encampments.

I see the 12 men who commenced last month and the four men who have moved into their own apartments this month! I see the people who felt invisible or hated for so many years and when treated with a bit of kindness & compassion, they find the courage and strength to build a new life for themselves—and then come back to ICS to serve others!

There may not seem to be a lot of hopefulness and optimism around them, reflecting on their darkest times and ultimately looking to the future with positivity and hope. We are so proud of each one of them — and the incredible strides that they take each day for recovery. Thanks to supporters like you, these men find a safe, warm, comforting place to stay while they work to overcome their addictions.

In Peace and Hopefulness,

ICS Executive Director, Shawna McMahon (left), met with Secretary Hillary Clinton, Washington Senators Claire Wilson & Mona Das and other women in leadership from around the region earlier this month. Secretary Clinton encouraged us to remain optimistic and hopeful: “Be part of something bigger than yourselves. There are a lot of good things happening that just don’t make the headlines. Be willing to stake your claim on making a difference!”

Commencement Celebration!

This April we celebrated one of the largest commencements that ICS has ever seen! Twelve of our Recovery Program Shelter residents commenced from their Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program at the Matt Talbot Center. Two residents, Jeremy and Jake, graduated from the year-long program.

When men graduate from the program, they have the opportunity to speak back to the community. Jeremy and Jake gave heartfelt speeches, thanking those that have helped them, reflecting on their darkest times and ultimately looking to the future with positivity and hope. We are so proud of each one of them — and the incredible strides that they take each day for recovery. Thanks to supporters like you, these men find a safe, warm, comforting place to stay while they work to overcome their addictions.

Needs List

We are looking for specific donated items, including:

- New pillows for the shelter
- Storage bins for our Recovery Shelter residents (contact Mariel or Shawna for specific sizes)

Volunteer Appreciation

We celebrated our amazing volunteers this April, in honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Month. At ICS, volunteers are critical to our programs and the community we serve. In 2019 so far, volunteers have donated over 1,000 hours of their time by providing warm, nutritious meals for our Hygiene Center, & Community Lunches, bags of fresh produce for our Food Bank guests and an overall welcoming environment for our clients.

We honored them at a Volunteer Appreciation Party, where we played games, gave out prizes and enjoyed a delicious BBQ meal. It was fun for everyone! We love our volunteers!!

Cooking Matters

This spring we teamed up with Solid Ground to host a six-week Cooking Matters class for the residents of our Recovery Program Shelter! Each Tuesday, a team of volunteers taught our guys how to cook on a budget, healthy eating and handy cooking tricks & tips. Some favorite moments from this year’s cooking class were: learning how to peel ginger with a spoon, visiting the grocery store to practice healthy shopping on a budget, cooking stir fried rice and a pizza-making competition. The guys had a really great time!

GIVEBIG 2019!

Thank you for GivingBig for over $13,600!!

Your GiveBIG donations will provide funding for a full-time service member who will provide case management and client support to our guests. This one-on-one compassionate support is the only way that these folks can get off the streets and hope for a new life for themselves. Thanks to your support we can now deepen our services and address the long term issues our clients struggle with, creating a path out of poverty, homelessness, hunger and addiction.