



ICM - MORE THAN JUST A FOOD BOX...

by **Regina Mitzel**
Assistant Director

While the mission of ICM is to provide an immediate response to basic human needs, we strive to provide "more than just a food box" to those in need. As highlighted in a previous newsletter, we began a partnership with **St. Joseph the Worker** in 2007, an agency that provides on-site employment services to our clients.

Promoting self sufficiency is a key element of program services at Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, and providing avenues for employment and job training

are an integral part of this effort.

In keeping with this goal, ICM is a partner with **Goodwill Industries of Arizona** to provide employment training to seniors ages 55 and older - at no cost to ICM! **The Senior Community Service Employment Program, or SCSEP**, is a program of the Department of Labor, and Goodwill is one of their providers. ICM became a partner agency,



SCSEP participant working at ICM

or host site, of the program through Goodwill.

Who does the program serve?
The SCSEP works with low-income workers ages 55 or older. The program goal is to help them gain and perfect the job skills they will need to

find competitive employment, preferably
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Is There a Phantom Dinner in Your Future?

Maybe you've heard of phantom events - a tea, golf date or breakfast, where the event doesn't actually happen, but a charity benefits as a result.

We're asking you to consider having a "phantom event" - a dinner, tea, cocktail hour or whatever tickles your fancy, on behalf of ICM! Send an invitation to your friends asking them NOT to join you at your phantom event and then donate the cost of throwing that event to ICM.

We will provide the form letter, a brochure about ICM and a return donation envelope. All you need to do is address the letter to your friends, stuff and seal the envelope, stamp it and mail it out. (Or even easier yet, send in the cost of a dinner party you would throw for friends in the self-addressed envelope provided in this mailing, or donate online.)

What could be easier than sitting back in an easy chair at the time of your "event," knowing that you've helped to feed a hungry family or provide clothing to help an adult go to work and support his or her family. You can be grateful your stomach is full and that you have choices of appropriate clothing to wear - and watch the world take one step forward to help those in need.

But now, you must take the first step. Go to the ICM website at www.icmaz.org and look for our phantom invitations. Download the invitation to your computer and personalize it; send ICM an email requesting the number of pamphlets and donation envelopes that you need, and make magic happen.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and the bottom of our clients' empty stomachs.

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ICM Board Member

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Executive Director

Regina Mitzel
Assistant Director



Sara Adams

Hunger Never Takes a Vacation

ICM has evolved over the last 25 years providing for and helping those most in need. But our mission remains unchanged: “providing an immediate response to basic human needs.” Hunger is the most immediate and basic challenge for many of our clients who pass through our doors.

I've always wondered what it feels like to be hungry all the time. Sure, there have been many times in my life I have said “I'm hungry,” but I've never been denied a meal, a snack, anything that wouldn't squelch the pangs. My desire soon disappears. Not so for the people we serve at ICM. Hunger is a day to day reality for the families who come to us for help. ICM provides them with an “emergency food box” that we receive from **St. Mary's Food Bank**, which is meant to last for only three days. We add to the box from our own pantry plus any fresh bread, dairy products, fruit and vegetables we can gather on any given day - hopefully stretching out the food box to last longer.

Next time you feel that small pang in your stomach we call

hunger, think of those less fortunate who have to deal with it all too often. Try to imagine the pain of a parent who has to tell his/her children there is nothing they can do. As a parent myself, it is unimaginable!

Hunger never takes a vacation! Hunger adheres to no schedule or time table! Hunger is REAL for so many!

I welcome you to stand beside ICM in this fight!

In this newsletter there is an opportunity presented to help us in the fight against hunger, see the **Phantom Dinner opportunity on page 1.**

Sara Adams
President, ICM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Renea Gentry

We are pleased to announce a new partnership for ICM! **Mission of Mercy**, a mobile healthcare van, has chosen a location for service in south Phoenix to provide free primary medical care and prescriptions for ICM clients and other individuals without health insurance! Services began on July 8th.

In the past few years, healthcare services for very low income residents of south central Phoenix have shrunk. Even Phoenix Memorial Hospital

at Buckeye and 7th Avenue has been faced with necessary cutbacks in services to area residents.

Last year, we began “lobbying” Mission of Mercy (MOM) to somehow provide our clients who are without health insurance, and have very little money, a local option. A couple of other neighborhoods in the Valley also were lobbying for the same services. MOM officials were fortunate to receive money to expand, and they determined that the need was greatest in the south Phoenix area - much to our delight! Their van will be located at **St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church**, at Southern and Central Avenues, about three and a half miles south of ICM.

We will advertise this service heavily to ICM clients.

Individuals needing medical care will call to make an appointment,

or simply walk into the church “Teen Center Building” every other Tuesday to be seen by volunteer doctors, nurses and other health professionals. No money changes hands; in fact, even those with chronic health conditions like heart problems or diabetes are able to receive expensive prescription medications at no cost.

We want to thank Mission of Mercy for having a heart for helping people that matches the heart of donors and volunteers at ICM! We are thrilled with their new availability, and know that our clients who don't have insurance, or even the \$10 co-pay for prescriptions, will be blessed by their presence in south Phoenix.

Renea Gentry, MC, CFRE
Executive Director

More than a food box...

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full-time. Seniors enroll in the program for a variety of reasons: some have retired and want to stay active; others have been laid off from long-term jobs; others want to re-enter the work force after raising a family or a change in their financial situation; some participants are working to get out of homelessness. Whatever the reason, SCSEP participants are eager to gain the skills and experience needed to be competitive in the workforce.

How is ICM involved?

ICM is one of the partner agencies that serves as a training site for SCSEP participants. We agree to host a certain number of participants at our site as SCSEP staff members; they are able to gain job skills and experience while working at ICM, and receive guidance,

training and coach-ing from ICM staff. ICM does not pay the minimum wage SCSEP participants receive; instead, this is paid through the federal grant via Goodwill.

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries has had as many as four SCSEP participants at one time. Once the training is completed by an individual participant, and full-time employment is achieved, ICM can host a new participant for up to six months, and the cycle begins again.

Successes:

The SCSEP has been successful at ICM over the past year it has been in place. We have had participants that were once homeless successfully secure housing and full-time employment. Participants help

in every area imaginable, from the regular volunteer positions - front desk intake, clothing room, food pantry, child care - to "behind the scenes" work in the warehouse and office. Our Saturday program would not be as successful without our SCSEP participants. Each participant works on Saturday, and truly provides the "backbone" of our Saturday services. We couldn't do it without them!

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries is proud to partner with other like-minded agencies in order to provide "more than just a food box" to the many people we serve! The Senior Community Service Employment Program is one more example of crossing the bridge from basic needs to self sufficiency.



Dr. Brad Smith (left), Medical Director at Mission of Mercy, and a volunteer nurse (right) perform their "miracles."



St. Catherine of Siena

A CLIENT STORY

It's all over the news - "economic downturn" and "economic slowdown."

For ICM clients, those are merely euphemisms for "becoming homeless," "no food in the house" and "not able to buy gas to get to work."

Last week a family with two small children in tow came to see us. Joe had lost work when he was hospitalized with a diabetic coma, and his wife has Lupus and can't work. They had received a water shutoff notice and were fearing the same for their electricity. We were able to help with funds for those two bills, and then thanks to gracious donors, two gas vouchers to help Joe get to and from work until he catches up financially. In thanking me, a tear rolled down Joe's cheek. "I've been so worried I didn't know where to go. Your help has saved us from misery this summer!" I was lucky enough to get hugs from each member of the family.

Renea

CHILDREN'S CORNER IS A HIT!

In the past, ICM has not been able to keep up with the need for children's clothing and shoes. Families would come in with barefoot and half-dressed children, and our coffers would be bare. And keep in mind, **nearly 50% of ICM's clients are children.**

All that has changed. Since June 15th, and thanks to the \$25,000 grant from the **Gesner-Johnson Family Foundation**, another \$10,000 from **Medtronic** and a number of smaller donations, the **ICM Children's Corner** has been created! Our project is unique in that it is the first children's-only "store," at a service oriented non-profit in the Valley, that offers all of their basic needs.

Previously, adult and children's clothing were housed in one room. But this special, newly designed room is bright, inviting and filled with clothes for children who need them. The room is stocked with clothing for infants, toddlers and elementary school age kids. Children

who accompany parents into the room are able to look at clothing that they will be able to take home with them because there is no cost to the family.

"ICM Children's Corner is the first children's-only 'store' at a Valley non-profit."

ICM is also able to purchase diapers, formula and baby food with the grant money, so our large infant population benefits in many ways.

In the first four days of operation, 81 families and 229 children were assisted in the Children's Corner.

Thanks again to our generous and kind donors for this wonderful gift to our families.

A number of volunteers also helped make this project possible; we thank the volunteers who helped build shelves, decorate, and purchase clothing and other supplies. Many of these kindhearted folks donated their time above and beyond their regular volunteer hours so Children's Corner could open on schedule! We appreciate each and every one of you!



One very happy customer!

We need volunteers each day to run the Children's Corner. If you like working with families and seeing smiles on children who just received a new outfit - **Call to Volunteer!**

"As of July 23rd, 150 school children have a new uniform to wear to school, thanks to ICM's Children's Corner."
Jennifer Sprague



Two clients at check-out



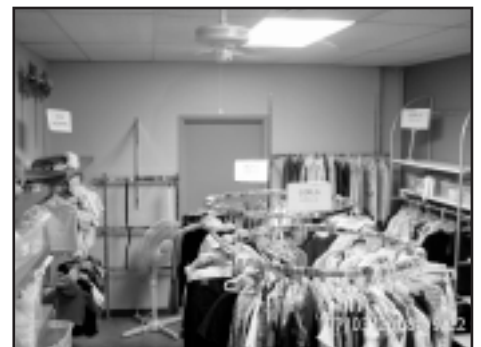
A mother signals her thanks

We Still Need Your Help

While the generous grant money has allowed us to purchase much needed items, such as school uniforms, underwear, socks and shoes, we still need your support to keep this room a hit! You can help our kids through Children's Corner with donations of the following:

- Summer clothing for all ages, 0-12, especially school-aged youth ages 6-12
- Shorts for boys
- Underwear (all ages)
- Socks (all ages)
- Shoes (all ages)
- Strollers, Car Seats, Children's books, etc.

*Clothing does not have to be new!
Gently Used is more than welcome!*



A bird's eye view of the Children's Corner



What size to choose...

CHARITABLE USES OF LIFE INSURANCE

It seems like all the recent news about charitable uses of life insurance has only been one thing? BAD! From the 1980s version of vanishing premium universal life, which caused a substantial amount of planned giving expectancies to vanish, to the more recent charitable reverse split dollar fiasco that Congress chose to eliminate, life insurance has become the black sheep of planned giving vehicles. While the life insurance product itself is not inherently inappropriate, the flexibility of the product has allowed many to stretch the product to the edge. The many traditional uses for life insurance that can benefit both the charity and the donor are often lost in all the bad press.

Life insurance is an excellent tool for making charitable gifts for a number of reasons. Life insurance provides an "amplified" gift that enables you to *purchase immortality on an installment plan*. Through a relatively small annual cost (the premium), a benefit far in excess of what would otherwise be possible can be provided for charity. This sizeable gift can be made without impairing or diluting the control of a family business or other investments. Assets earmarked for family members can be kept intact.

For example, a 50 year old committed to giving \$5,000 annually for 10 years could leverage the \$50,000 gift into a \$360,000 gift. A second-to-die, or survivor life policy, adds even more leverage. A 50 year old couple could make a gift

of \$800,000 with the same \$5,000 annual commitment. (Assumes 50-year old(s), preferred non-smoker(s) using variable life policy earning 10% gross return.) Keep in mind that using a traditional permanent life insurance contract will generally yield a 6% to 7% internal rate of return to life expectancy on premiums paid.

Life insurance can be a self-completing gift. For a donor committed to making annual gifts, a portion of the annual gift can be directed to an insurance policy guaranteeing the continuation of that gift in perpetuity. If the donor becomes disabled, the policy can remain in force through the "waiver of premium" feature (if elected). This guarantees the ultimate death benefit to the charity and, in some cases, the same cash values and dividend build-up that would have been earned had disability not occurred. Even if the donor dies after only a few premium payments, the charity is assured a full gift. The death proceeds can be received by the designated charity, free of federal income and estate taxes, probate, and administrative costs, and without any delay, fees, or transfer costs.

This is an overview of how life insurance can be used in a charitable gifting plan. Always consult your tax advisor before making any decisions. For more information, contact Renea Gentry at 602-254-7450.

ICM TAX CREDIT FOR 2008

Another way to help the hungry

Now more than ever this becomes a great way to help ICM. Many of you have heard of this opportunity for non-profits that work with the working poor. This tax credit is a means for you to direct money that you will pay anyway to an area where you can see some direct benefit.

The way it works:

A taxpayer must itemize deductions and create a baseline year no earlier than 1996. The baseline amount is the total dollar amount of charitable contributions deducted on Schedule A for the given baseline year. If a taxpayer deducted \$700 in charitable contributions in 1996, the baseline number is \$700.

Credit dollars are allowed on the amounts given ABOVE the baseline dollar amount up to \$200 per taxpayer and \$400 per married household filing jointly. For instance, if a taxpayer has a baseline amount of \$700, and gives in total contributions in 2008

\$1000, with \$200 donated to ICM (or any other certifiable charitable organization) the tax credit is \$200. If the baseline amount is \$700 and \$800 was given in total contributions with \$200 going to ICM - \$100 is the tax credit.

A tax credit comes directly off the final total of Arizona State Tax owed.

So you can see, more than likely you will be paying this money (\$200 per taxpayer or \$400 per married filing jointly unit) either to the State of AZ or to ICM.

How about helping our hungry neighbors?

For further information contact your financial advisor or email/call the AZ Department of Revenue at www.azdor.gov or 602-255-3381.

MAKE IT EASY . . .

DONATE ONLINE AT www.icmaz.org



ICM Volunteers In Action



Save the Date

October 11, 2008

ROCK SUPPORT

the Fundraiser Supporting

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries

and

Habitat for Humanity

Time: 7:30 PM - 11:30 PM

Place: Trinity Cathedral - Roosevelt and Central, Phx, AZ

Entertainment: Crisis (Classic Rock 'n Roll)

For Information: 602-274-1491

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

**Some agencies have Wish Lists.
At ICM, our wish is for all of our clients
to have their basic needs met, which are described here.**

Toiletries:

Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap or Liquid Body Wash,
Lotion, Laundry Detergent, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes,
Deodorant, Razors
Hotel samples make great donations!
(Also, items from local dollar and discount stores are
welcomed.)

Clothing:

Most needed are Men's and Children's Clothing
(all sizes and types)
Baby Clothes
Shoes, Socks and Underwear for ALL ages and sizes

Baby Needs:

Diapers (all sizes, including pull ups)
Wet Wipes
Formula
Baby Food/Cereal

Food:

Peanut Butter
Tuna or other canned meats
Any non-perishable food items, such as rice, beans,
cereal, etc.

Household Items:

Pots, pans, plates, bowls, drinking glasses, flatware

Linens:

Sheets for all bed sizes, pillows, blankets
Bath towels and washcloths

Other:

Zip Loc Bags (to distribute laundry detergent, rice,
beans, etc.)
Feminine Hygiene Products
13-gallon trash bags with draw strings (for client
clothing)

Volunteer Positions Available

Volunteers are welcome any day of the week, but below is a list of the days and positions that are most needed RIGHT NOW:

Mondays - Food Pantry; Children's Corner; Child Care

Tuesdays - Front Desk Intake/Interviewer; Children's Corner;
Child Care

Wednesdays - Clothing Counter Checkout (Adult and Children's
Corner); Child Care

Thursdays - Children's Corner; Child Care

Fridays - Food Pantry; Clothing Checkout (Adult and Children's
Corner); Child Care

*****Saturdays - ALL POSITIONS** (except child care)

Please call Regina at 602-819-3350 if you are interested, or send an email to regina@icmaz.org to receive an application and information through your email.



Above:
College student and summer volunteer, Conner Lee, with young clients in the Children's Corner



Right:
Volunteers, Pauline Laveille (on left) and Ila Van Kilsdunk in the Sorting Room

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**WE ARE "PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
RESPONSE TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS"**

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING
DONORS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS**

\$10,000 from Applied Materials
for emergency food

\$10,000 from Medtronic Foundation
for the Children's Corner

\$5,000 from Phoenix Suns Charities
for the Children's Corner

\$3,500 from TJX Foundation
for emergency food

www.icmaz.org

Please visit us online at

www.icmaz.org

for donating and

volunteer opportunities.

We are in the process of updating our donor database and will list all our wonderful donors and volunteers in the next newsletter. Please know that your financial and in-kind donations as well as time volunteering are appreciated. We could not provide the services we do on a daily basis without your help.

Thank you