



IN THIS ISSUE:

AmeriCorps

TAX CREDIT

Homelessness Prevention in Uncertain Times

It has been over six months since the pandemic fundamentally changed how the world operates, and as we get ready to head into the holiday season there may be many more hardships to come. As more and more people grapple with unemployment and an uncertain job market, Arizona is getting ready to deal with the next phase of this crisis:

homelessness.

Prior to the pandemic, Tucson was already known as a “Top 25 Evicting City,” according to Princeton University’s The Eviction Lab. Now, more than 365,000 renters across Arizona are facing possible eviction due COVID related income loss. As Governor Doug Ducey’s moratorium postponing COVID-19 related evictions neared its October 31, 2020 deadline, a Federal moratorium on evictions extended protections through the end of the year. The City of Tucson, Pima

2820 W. Ina Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85741

continued on page 3



“Helping people in need achieve stable, healthy and independent lives.”



A Word from Tom

Dear Friends of ICS!

Reflecting on the events of our rapidly changing times, ICS continues to remain proactive in responding to the needs of our community. And while responding to our community needs, we continue to serve with compassion which has defined us - and sustained us - throughout 35 years . This is due to our committed donors, volunteers and staff.

Today, compassion looks a little bit different. People need help as quickly as they can get it. So, compassion may be a little less conversation and a little more expediency, and it is definitely virtual. This is hard for us to accept, but in these times it is more effective, greatly needed and the best way to serve.

In my many years in non-profits, those who have strong mission, values, and vision successfully navigate a changing world. We must appreciate our history, but we must also able to pivot while maintaining what anchors us. What makes us special is our ability to adapt, while remaining true to our values.

Please know that ICS is growing, adapting daily and striving to stay rooted in our unique identity while pushing forward to serve those in need. We hope you share this vision and join us as we move forward in serving and caring for our community.



Tom McKinney
Chief Executive Officer

Email: info@icstucson.org **Website:** www.icstucson.org

Northwest Office:

2820 W. Ina Road
Tucson, AZ 85741
campus of Christ the King Episcopal
Ph: 520-297-6049

Eastside Office:

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710
campus of New Spirit Lutheran
Ph: 520-731-3076

Southside Office:

101 W. Irvington Rd. Building 2A
Tucson, AZ 85714
El Pueblo Neighborhood Center
Ph: 520-297-6049

Evictions loom

continued from page 1

County, and local nonprofit organizations, including Interfaith Community Services (ICS), are diligently working together to keep as many people off the streets as possible.

One of the programs available to offer aid to families in crisis is the City of Tucson’s COVID-19 Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance program (tucsonaz.org). This program can provide families with help paying both rental and utility bills for up to three months for a maximum of \$2500. There are certain eligibility requirements that must be met and the financial assistance goes directly to landlords or utility providers. The program has been in place for several months and continues to refer qualified applicants to ICS in order to complete the final steps of the process.

ICS is also working with the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH), which has set up a Rental Eviction Assistance Program for households who have a substantial reduction in income due to COVID-19. Eligible households would be responsible for giving a portion of their income to their landlord, and the program would provide a supplement for the remaining rent due. It would be paid directly to the landlord and can be a maximum of \$2000 a month. A link to the application can be found on the Arizona Department of Housing’s website (housing.az.gov).

Additionally, ICS contracted with the Community Investment Corporation (CIC) in mid-August to help serve a portion of the at least 600 low-income households that are facing eviction. According to a press release from Pima County’s Community & Workforce Development Deputy Director, Daniel Tylutki: “Assistance will be provided to pay landlords for unpaid rent due since March 1, 2020 if they agree to waive late fees, withdraw the eviction and enter into a payment plan with the tenant to keep their family from becoming homeless.” ICS will be working closely with CIC to get funding to those most in need.

These are just a few of the resources available to those in need during these tumultuous times. All organizations encourage active communication between landlords, tenants, and financial aid institutions in order to process and finalize as many claims as possible. Interfaith Community Services is and will continue to be available to guide individuals and families through the fight against homelessness.

ICS has scaled up our Emergency Financial Assistance program by serving 524 clients in the month of October providing approximately \$450,000 in aid.



Celebrating Our Volunteer Family

Connect

Venture

HELP

Community Support

Grow

ENGAGE

Learn

GIVE

Service

The steadfast impact of ICS volunteers supported by staff, donors, the wide network of faith community partners and community partnerships continues to be a backbone of help for thousands in our community. With increased safety protocols of delivery, the healthy work of volunteering makes a profound difference within our individual and cultural lives.

Recently, the federal grantor to our RSVP program, which supports our caregiving services, changed its name to AmeriCorps. The new name is an exciting change which allows for more cohesive and consistent messaging for all the federal service programs. Additionally, it will help raise awareness of the need and value of national service around our country. Our RSVP program is still the same, but the name is now enhanced to AmeriCorps Seniors! AmeriCorps has a long and cherished history of service and training. ICS RSVP volunteers, now called AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are making an impact to our community that will last long into the future.



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS ARE NOW ONLINE!

Sign up on our website at icstucson.org

All orientation times are 10:00 am

**November 19th,
December 3rd,
December 17th**



Don't Forget the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit in this Season of Giving!

'Tis the season for giving. A recent poll by Charity Navigator, an independent nonprofit evaluator, estimates that up to 40 percent of charitable contributions are made at the end of the year. But time is running out to make sure your generosity is both effective and tax-deductible.

Several donations made this year will ultimately not cost you a penny!

The Arizona Charitable Tax Credit allows you to direct your Arizona State liability and donate up to \$400 for single filers, or \$800 for married couples filing jointly to ICS or another qualifying charity. For example, if a single individual owes \$2,000 in taxes but donates \$400 to a qualifying charitable organization, her tax liability is reduced to \$1,600.

Time your donations to ensure the deduction is applied in the desired year. Donations are eligible for deduction based on the date the charity receives the donation and you relinquish control of the money. Donations must be received by December 31, 2020.

When donating securities, they are typically transferred from your broker to the charity's broker and must be received by Dec. 31. Credit card donations are very popular, as they can offer tax donation as well as credit card rewards.

We have seen a large increase in donations of appreciated securities versus cash. Typically, you are able to deduct the current value of the donation and avoid capital gains.

Don't forget about your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)! Many DAF holders established their charitable funds to respond to the changing demands of our community. There has been an outpouring of support from DAF holders to support the significant increased need for food and shelter due to COVID.

If you would like to be part of the ICS family of supporters, please contact Karen Latendresse, Chief Development Officer, at klatendresse@icstucson.org or (520) 526-9310.

For more information on the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, please contact your tax professional, or visit the state of Arizona's Department of Revenue website at azdor.gov/tax-credits.

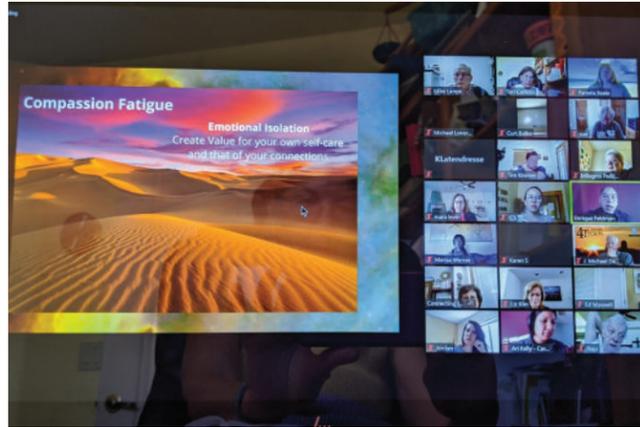
Thank you!

Sun City Vistoso Cyclists held their annual ride for ICS food banks. This year they called the event 'El Tour de Food Bank' raising more than \$25,000!!! Looks like they had a lot of fun!



Faith Community Engagement News

The faith communities that partner with ICS have always been central to our work; guiding and leading our programs and efforts in various ways throughout the years. Already facing so many difficult decisions and situations, our faith community partners have mobilized in unprecedented ways to support struggling families that we serve. Living out one's faith has never been so challenging, but people all over our community are doing so in creative and novel ways:



A special thank you to **Church of the Painted Hills United Church of Christ, St. Odilia's Catholic Church, Oro Valley United Church of Christ, Lutheran Church of the Foothills, and St. Mark's United Methodist Church** for continuously collecting food over the course of the pandemic. We appreciate your ongoing efforts!

Amidst growing unemployment and greater challenges to our community's families, the ICS Faith Community Food Delivery Program has been operating to help food insecure families at ICS faith community partners. Each month, food is delivered to faith communities which then gets distributed to struggling families. Thank you to the dedicated group of volunteers from **Casas Church** and ICS volunteers who are delivering hundreds of bags of food each month to faith communities with families in need. If families in your congregation need extra food, let us know at <https://www.icstucson.org/faithcommunityfooddelivery/>.

Here is just a sampling of other ICS faith community partners in action:

Thank you to all the faith communities who have held food drives to re-stock shelves at the food bank over the course of the pandemic.

- **Our Savior's Lutheran Church** Knitting Group made many scarves, blankets, sweaters and hats for people in need as it gets colder.
- **Lutheran Church of the Foothills** held a drive-through fundraiser for ICS in honor of Pastor John Lillie's transition from the church. Thank you, Pastor Lillie, for all your support of ICS!
- ICS was the recipient of a special offering at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson** in September.
- Members from multiple faith communities have donated laptops for children in the Single Mom Scholar Program.
- Missionaries from **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** have continued to be major volunteers at the food bank throughout the pandemic.

We are deeply grateful for the contributions of our 118 Partner Faith Communities! Together we're impacting many lives for the better.

Change a Life and Get a Tax Credit

Many of you support ICS by taking the dollar-for-dollar Arizona Charitable Tax Credit when you make a donation. **The law allows an individual to take a \$400 tax credit and married couples to contribute up to \$800 in addition to any foster care, school or Veterans' tax credits you may be claiming.**

Your donation helps families who turn to the ICS Food Bank, people in crisis who need emergency help with rent or utilities, and seniors who depend on nutritious Mobile Meals delivered to their home, among many others.

Deadline to claim the tax credit on your state of Arizona 2020 taxes is April 15, 2021. Learn more at icstucson.org



Interfaith Community Services was founded in 1985 by six faith communities and is proud to work with 118 partnering faith communities today.

Abiding in Christ Fellowship · Abiding Savior Free Lutheran · Agape Christian Church International · Aldea Spiritual Community · Alive Church · Alive in Christ Lutheran · Arizona Yage Spiritual Assembly · Ascension Lutheran · Baha'i Faith - Oro Valley · Beautiful Savior Lutheran · Canyon del Oro Baptist · Capilla del Sol Christian · Casas Adobes Congregational UCC · Casas Church · Catalina United Methodist · Christ Church United Methodist · Christ Presbyterian · Christ the King Episcopal · Church of the Apostles Episcopal · Church of the Everlasting Gospel · Church of the Painted Hills UCC · Community Christian Church Marana · Congregation Anshei Israel · Congregation Bet Shalom · Congregation Chaverim · Congregation Or Chadash · Congregation M'kor Hayim · ConnectionPointe Church · Connections Vineyard · C.O.R.E. Life Ministries · Cortaro Vista Community Church · Desert Dove Christian Church · Desert Skies United Methodist · Desert Valley Adventist Church · Dove of Peace Lutheran · Ebenezer All Nations Seventh Day Adventist · Faith Christian Fellowship of Tucson · First Christian Church · First United Methodist Church · Fountain of Life Lutheran · Good News Community Church · Grace Community Church · Grace St. Paul's Episcopal · Grace Temple Missionary Baptist Church · Grace to the Nations · Holy Way Presbyterian Church · Hope City Church · Immanuel Presbyterian · Islamic Center, Tucson · Living Grace Ekklesia · Lord of Grace Lutheran · LifeBridge Church · Lutheran Church of the Foothills · Maranatha Seventh Day Adventist · Midvale Park Seventh Day Adventist · Ministerios Manantial De Amor · Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church · Mountain Shadows Presbyterian · Mountain View Baptist · Mountain Vista U.U. Congregation · New Hope/Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church · New Life Bible Fellowship · New Life Community Church of the Nazarene · New Spirit Lutheran · Northminster Presbyterian · North Tucson Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints · Northwest Baptist · Northwest Community Friends Church · Oro Valley Church of the Nazarene · Oro Valley United Church of Christ · Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church · Our Saviour's Lutheran · Pantano Christian Church · Resurrection Lutheran · Rincon Baptist Church · Rincon Congregational UCC · Rising Star Baptist Church · Saguaro Christian Church · Sanctuary United Methodist · Santa Catalina Catholic · Shalom Mennonite Fellowship · Southside Presbyterian · St. Alban's Episcopal Church · St. Andrew's Episcopal Church · St. Andrew's Presbyterian · St. Christopher Catholic Parish · St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic · St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist · St. James United Methodist · St. John's United Methodist Church · St. John on the Desert Presbyterian · St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic · St. Mark's Presbyterian · St. Mark's United Methodist · St. Matthew's Episcopal · St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal · St. Michael the Archangel Ecumenical Catholic Church · St. Odilia Catholic · St. Paul's United Methodist Church · St. Philip's In The Hills Episcopal · Streams in the Desert Lutheran · Summit Ridge Community Church · Tanque Verde Lutheran · Temple Emanu-El · Templo La Uncion · The Journey Church · Third Church of Christ, Scientist · Tortolita Presbyterian · Trinity Presbyterian Church · Tucson Central Church of the Nazarene · Tucson Church International · Tucson Community of Christ · Unity of Tucson · Unity Spiritual Center of Peace · Unleashed Church · U.U. Church of Tucson · Vida Nueva/New Life Church of God · The Village Church · Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church

ICS Staff Updates

Welcome



Oliva Almeida, Case Manager, was born and raised in Yuma, Arizona. She graduated from Northern Arizona University. She has always been passionate about helping others and using her time for the greater good. She enjoys being part of an organization that prides itself on excellent public service. She also enjoys hiking, strength training and spending time with family.

Fun fact: Oliva is a hockey fan - Go Coyotes!



Ana Galaviz Morales, Accounting Assistant is currently a student at Pima Community College studying accounting. She is excited for the opportunity to work at ICS and gain valuable experience in her field. "I feel as though it's the perfect environment for me to learn from those around me who are more experienced and can help lead me in the right direction." In her free time she enjoys reading, listening to true crime podcasts, and spending time with her family.

Fun Fact: After two years of driving and never being in a car accident, her car was rear ended and then sideswiped in less than 48 hours. That was a really educational experience to say the least!



Danitza Gomez, Front Desk Intake Specialist was born in Tucson, Arizona and raised in Douglas. She has three beautiful children of ages 18, 15, and 13. The two oldest being girls and youngest a boy. "I recently just got married to the most wonderful man I could ask for." She was a stay home mom for many years, once she went back to work she worked in behavioral health with children of all ages and in a title loan company. "Until I found ICS and I can honestly say its be a blessing to be here."

Fun fact: Danitza has 8 tattoos that all have meanings to them.



Iliana Recinos, Case Manager After having taken a break from full-time employment in order to care for her family and adjusting to life as a single mom after losing her husband unexpectedly, Iliana was extremely excited when given the opportunity to work here at ICS. "I consider myself a fun, outgoing, and very family orientated person. My passion is helping others any way I can."

Fun Fact: "I was conceived in the USA but born in Mexico. I really have never lived in Mexico."



Melissa Ruiz, Case Manager has lived in Tucson her whole life. She enjoys staying active by hiking, exercising and kickboxing with family, and just having fun together.

Fun fact: Melissa can speak four languages!



Barbara Taylor, Food Bank Assistant, professional career has been spent in healthcare, beginning as a nurse aide her senior year in high school (1968) and then on to nursing school for her RN which she has worked at ever since. She retired this year and is enjoying that.

Fun fact: One of Barbara's favorite things to do is refinish old/ antique Furniture.



Alexis Wilson, Front Desk Intake Specialist, W has a background is in hospitality and customer service. Her first job was a hostess for a fine dining restaurant in California, where she perfected her service dialogue over 5 years. During that time she had a few other extra jobs, including some time coaching a high school dance team, and one year as a barista. When she moved back to Tucson, she spent some time as the Guest Relations Director for a rehabilitation nursing center, before she started her path with ICS!

Fun fact: Alexis can touch her nose with her tongue.

Memorials and Tributes: 8/1/20-10/31/20

Memorials and gifts of honor are a special way to remember friends and loved ones, as well as make a tax-deductible donation to ICS. An acknowledgment is sent to both donor and honoree. Thank you!

In Memory Of: Given By

Katina Anastopoulos, George Anastopoulos
June Head, John and Barbara Anderson
Joe Barraza, Helen Barraza
E W Leissring, The Beres Family
Pat Bishop, Suzanne M Bishop
Millie Ostroff, Kathy Boelte
Marguerite Strong, Lois A Breden
John T. Clymer, Owen Clymer, MD
Thomas Conway, Barbara Conway
Betty Hall Crawford, Dale Crawford
Willis R. Riba Jr, Darlene Depietro
Robert L "Bob" Kelley, Judith F. Doran
Thomas Feldsien, Mary Feldsien
Ilse and Jim McKenzie, Virgil and Muriel Gerdes
Dick Gillespie, Glenda Gillespie
Wilbur "Web" Goldsmith, Elila Goldsmith
Pauline Roberta Shively, Elaine Hall
Kelly R. Harris, Ana Harris
Pastor Cedric C McKesson, Gwendolyn Hatcher
Kevin Koch, Beth Koch
Annie Laurie McGary, Katherine and Gerald Kroninger
E W Leissring, Bill and Joyce Leissring, Earl and Sandra Mason
Peter Lipera, Sheila Li Pera
Ernest Aros Jr, Rebecca Lock
Robert McKinney, Suzanne McKinney
Robert Fanning, William Owen
Budd Earling, Quails Golf League
Robert E. Reiff, Betty Reiff
Helen (Robbie) Dick, Judy Robinson

Carol J. Seavitt, Michael Seavitt
Tom Walker, Shelby and Pat Small
William Souders, Armida Souders
Jim Tillema, Linda M Tillema
Ruth Fales, Allan and Lisa Tyler
Bob Langwig, Wendell and Rose Tyson
My Pap who would give anyone the shirt off his back., Sara Wolfe Vaughan

In Honor Of: Given By

Ed Jenkins, Dr. Quentin Anderson and Pamela Henderson
Betsy Sandlin, Edward and Betty Aptaker
Bonnie Kampa's 70th Birthday, Kathy Hebb
Peggy Klein, Richard and Lois Klein, Mary Jo LaBeff
Pastor John Lillie and his wife Cheryl Lillie, Penelope S Lundstrom, Lutheran Church of the Foothills, Joseph and Joyce Steiner
George Olson, James and Marianne Mitchell
Our Parents, Richard and Sandi Nelson
Steve Pollyea, Nancy and Dave Peterson
ICS Staff and Volunteers, Celena N. Robles
Mary Beth Schneider's 70th Birthday! Fred Schneider
Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Sepic's 50th Anniversary, Esta Goldstein
Janet Stewart's 76th birthday, Lenhart, Suzi
Those that are working on the front lines as volunteers to show love towards other people just like Jesus taught. Thank you for being a good example, Maegan Hanks



This Holiday Season will be challenging for most of us... Help make the season a little brighter for some of Tucson's less fortunate.

The Gifts of Love program aims to match pre-screened families with generous individuals and interfaith organizations/partners to provide forms of tangible hope and joy for these families.

Gifts of Love for children, teens, and seniors will be accepted from November 1st through December 4th. Please drop off all items at our Northwest Office the week of December 14-18.

for more information call (520)-297-6049 or visit our website www.icstucson.org.

Thanks to our Corporate and Foundation Partners



You can support ICS while shopping on Amazon! Visit smile.amazon.com and select Interfaith Community Services (Tucson) as your preferred charity. Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to ICS with no additional cost to you!

Northwest Office
2820 W. Ina Road
Friday, December 11
2 pm - 4pm

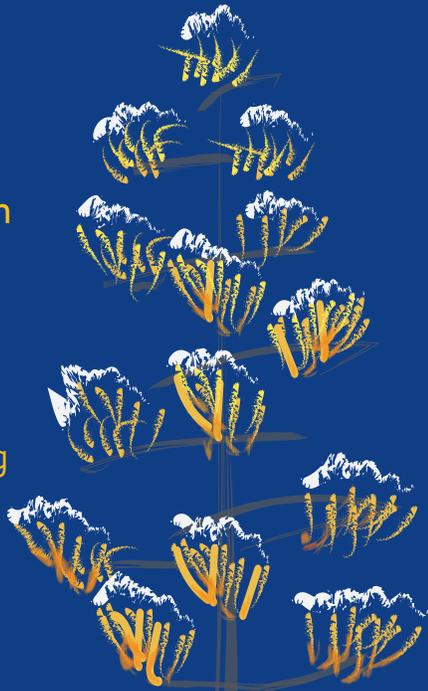
ICS invites you to this year's
"Drive-thru Winter Wonderland"

Sweet treats

Raffle

"Seasons
Greetings" from
the ICS Staff!

All of this can
be done at a
safe distance,
while remaining
in your cars.
We hope to see
you there and
spread a bit of
Holiday Cheer!



Drive-Thru Winter Wonderland

Please RSVP to
Celena Robles at 520-526-9304
or crobles@icstucson.org



Rise

Sunday, January 31, 2pm-3pm

**Virtual Celebration of
Empowered Women
to benefit
Interfaith Community Services
Single Mom Scholars**



Presented by Tucson Electric Power

**Join us to be inspired by stories of
resilience and determination**

"Finding Single Mom Scholars was like finding a dream I didn't know I was missing. Not only did I find other amazing women striving to challenge traditional stereotypes and norms, but I also found a support system which we know, is an invaluable asset to anyone trying to achieve more. I feel proud to be part of a life-long community of people that can lift you through the hard days and still encourage you to rise." -Quanisha

**Tickets on sale January 1st
Visit icstucson.org for more
information.**