

IFCS VOLUNTEER STORIES

At IFCS, we have seen a rapid growth in community need, and greatly rely on our volunteers to distribute services. On a weekly basis, we see upwards of 50 volunteers. These local individuals and groups help us in all areas, such as food market operations, administrative work, delivering food from Food Bank of the Rockies, and so many other projects. **It takes a community to keep IFCS operational each and every day!**



Dennis first came across IFCS when he was a young boy, within a few years of our incorporation. His father broke his hip in Kansas, leaving his family without his income. Needing to support 6 kids, his parents went on welfare and struggled to make ends meet.

That is when IFCS, formerly Inter-Faith Task Force for Community Services, came to help. The original "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" effort brought Dennis' family a Christmas meal, and a toy for each child. To Dennis and his family, this meant the world.

As a thank you for our support, Dennis spent his adult life giving back. He participated in volunteer and fundraising efforts, such as the Fun Run, became an annual donor, and now that he's retired, he volunteers in the Market @ IFCS on a weekly basis.

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I feel I owe [IFCS] because they helped us out in a hard time.
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Janet has volunteered with us for 7 years. At the beginning, she supported our admissions team, ensuring incoming participants were eligible for services. Janet says "I've been impressed with how IFCS reorganized quickly to meet the need."

When COVID-19 first hit, IFCS turned away volunteers for a year, and focused on simplifying and automating our intake process. That decreased the need for admissions volunteers, but didn't stop Janet from volunteering with us. Two years ago, she transitioned over to our seasonal enrichment programs, ensuring registered families receive the correct school supplies and gifts for their kids. Now that the Market @ IFCS is open, Janet also helps with pantry operations.

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It's confirmation of how great the social needs in our society are. It helps keep me centered on the important things in life.
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Rod first got involved with IFCS through a friend, and became a regular volunteer two summers ago when we partnered with Jeffco Summer of Early Learning to provide weekend meals to participating families. Ever since, Rod is just a text away whenever we need a hand.

Most recently, Rod supports IFCS by picking up a van-full of boxes used for food distribution, helping unload large deliveries, and organizing volunteers from Kiwanis Club of Columbine for special projects. Anything we need, Rod is there for us.

Moving large freezers around the Market? Transporting auction items for Nibbles & Sips? Need volunteers to load a large donation? Even if just for an hour, Rod is happy to help.

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One reason I do this is the kids. If kids are hungry, they can't learn. If kids get educated, they have a better chance of breaking out of the poverty cycle.
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