

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunger on the Rise: Local Nonprofit Partners with Community to Provide 500 Grocery Boxes for Holiday Meals

With stubborn inflation rates and relentless rental costs, food support makes a difference.

DENVER, CO, November 7, 2023 – It's been a tough year in Denver: the city experienced some of the highest inflation in the country,¹ over 9,000 evictions have been filed², and approaching winter weather and holidays add stress for households feeling the financial squeeze. Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS) has become a staple of support for families experiencing food insecurity. **In advance of Thanksgiving, IFCS is hosting a Fresh Thanks event that will bring the community together to provide grocery boxes for holiday meal support.**

On Saturday, November 18, 2023 beginning at 12:00pm, no-cost grocery boxes of fresh, seasonal produce and pantry staples will be distributed to 500 households in drive-thru fashion. The event will take place at Arapahoe Community College (Littleton Campus). Food will be distributed first-come, first-served while supplies last, and all involved anticipate this to be a popular event.

Stubborn inflation, exorbitant food and energy prices, and relentless rental costs fatigue community resources while federal funding teeters precariously. Earlier this year, IFCS opened an indoor market of choice (open weekdays for income eligible households). To support as many families as possible, the nonprofit limited household visits to twice monthly, and is seeing a steady increase of new visitors.

IFCS' Fresh Thanks event is made possible by up to 250 volunteers, converging early Saturday morning to sort and assemble the food boxes, as well as private donors and grant funders. From its beginnings in 1964, IFCS has a nearly 60-year partnership with the community, working together to alleviate hunger, offer compassion, and help children, families, and seniors out of the downward spiral of poverty. **Fresh Thanks is an event that makes IFCS' partnership with the community visible and promises to help 500 households with holiday meals.**

¹ Maddie Rhodes, "Denver Ranks 2nd for Highest Inflation," KDVR.com, September 15, 2023, <https://kdvr.com/news/local/denver-ranks-2nd-for-highest-inflation/>

² Denver 7 News, "Denver Mayor, City Council Members, at Odds Over Emergency Rental Assistance," October 30, 2023, YouTube, 0:01-0:07, <https://youtu.be/fJ6YAVDA6NU?si=6kgTdC5R2zsOnQUw>

Items to be included in the 2023 Fresh Thanks Grocery Boxes:



Saturday, November 18, 2023
Beginning at 12:00 pm
Arapahoe Community College



Partnering with the community
to alleviate hunger since 1964

IFCS is dedicated to a **culturally responsive approach** to food security. IFCS' "Fresh Thanks" is different from traditional Thanksgiving aid, with its focus on **seasonally available foods** and **common main ingredients** that can be used to make special meals for **various holidays across cultures**.

IFCS believes the 500 Fresh Thanks Seasonal Food Boxes will be distributed **within 30 minutes** of the event opening.

MEDIA - IFCS invites news media coverage of the Fresh Thanks food distribution event. Interviews may be scheduled to occur during the event, or a tour/interview at IFCS may be scheduled another day. Todd McPherson, IFCS Development Director, will be available on-site for either option.

EVENT DETAILS - The Fresh Thanks food distribution will be held on **Saturday, November 18, 2023 beginning at 12:00pm at the Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, CO.**

- Details for receiving no-cost holiday food support may be found at: <https://ifcs.org/happenings-fresh-thanks/>
Distributed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last, 500 Fresh Thanks grocery boxes will be provided in a drive-thru pickup style.
- Donations to support IFCS may be made at <https://ifcs.org/fresh-thanks-donor-support/>.

ABOUT INTEGRATED FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS) provides basic human services and enrichment programs to low-income people using community resources. IFCS fosters self-sufficiency and respects the dignity of each client, serving served families in the greater Denver metro.

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For more information, and to schedule interviews with photo/video opportunities at the Fresh Thanks event or IFCS, contact Donna Wintz at (970) 682-0075, or email donnaw@ifcs.org