



Help make our
resources sustainable
with your gift today



YEAR END COMMUNITY UPDATE, 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Because of your generosity, IFCS has been a dependable resource for those who are struggling in our community. It's been a tough year with many uncertainties, and we continue to see hunger growing in our neighborhoods: we face troubled times, but are compelled to move forward! As an organization, we are looking back on our 60-year partnership with the community, and we have so much to be grateful for. We trust that *together* we will continue alleviating hunger, offering compassion, and helping families and seniors out of the downward spiral of poverty.

IFCS KEEPS GROWING AND IMPROVING

Earlier this year, we opened our indoor market again to in-person shopping, where we offer a range of self-selected grocery items. Program participants enjoy the **new, more personalized shopping experience**, and are grateful for **fresh, seasonal produce and pantry staples**. We're always on the lookout for opportunities to optimize our operations and effectiveness, so **IFCS is constantly adapting**:



Building Updates: We've opened up some walls to create a more hospitable, welcoming, and functional space. Through in-kind donations and partnerships, we've also updated segments of our aging building and property, and streamlined large food deliveries.



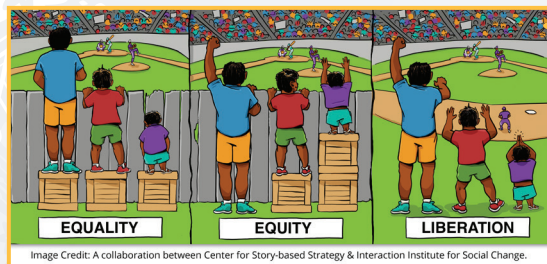
Team Development: We strive to welcome all who need support, and to provide care and compassion without judgement. To best serve our Spanish-speaking participants, we make it a priority to have bilingual staff available in the Market and for program navigation. Additionally, ongoing education helps our team learn – and train our volunteers – to create a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion.



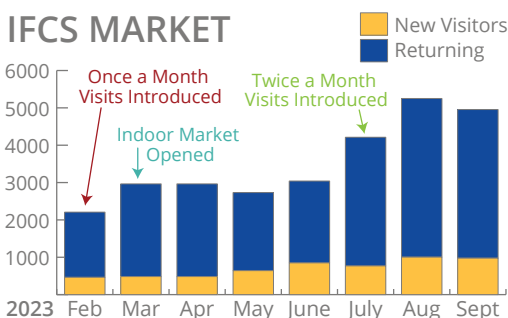
Digital Growth: We are making updates to improve our website's speed, which directly affects program access and efficiency. We're also adding online, meaningful stories of impact that we hope will nourish our supporters' knowledge while attracting new corporate sponsors and donors into partnership.

INCREASING NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Funding from the American Rescue Plan was granted to IFCS through Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties in July – an immense help in keeping our market shelves stocked; however, that funding ends December 31, 2023. **Stubborn inflation rates, exorbitant food and energy prices, and relentless rental costs have become the new norm.** When federal funding teeters precariously we plan ahead for increased demand, but worry that our supporters may become hesitant to contribute. New visitors to the Market@IFCS are on the rise, and we are daily faced with hunger growing around us. **There are more participants than IFCS can realistically support.**



IFCS MARKET



Requests for Rental Assistance and Utility Bill Payment Assistance far exceed our capacity, as households struggle to stay in their homes. Also concerning is the fact that funding for these programs don't cover the full expense of administering such benefits. **It's your support that makes it possible for IFCS to accept grants, providing staff to ensure that funding is utilized as intended.**

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

As we prepare to celebrate our 60th anniversary, we recognize that our **partnership with the community is at the heart of IFCS' existence.** Together, we have made – and continue to make – a difference for children, families, and seniors who struggle to survive inflation, medical emergencies, natural and environmental disasters, job loss, family and societal crises, debt, hunger, and all the stresses associated with financial strain. **The community has always been our "main ingredient": together with you, IFCS became a resource to the community back in 1964. And you have sustained that resource.**

How can IFCS continue helping those who struggle to make ends meet? This year, with no end in sight for increased costs and growing needs, we have a lot of concerns about the health of our community, and some *big goals*. In the midst of crises, when funding is precarious, **those who are most affected are the marginalized segments of our population.**

BOLD GOALS FOR THE LONG HAUL

Your help has made IFCS a staple of support in the community; now, we'd like to become a more *financially stable* resource that provides security even in times of uncertainty. Here are our current requests:

- 1 Make a Donation Today:** Your generosity allows IFCS to be *proactive* in the face of crises, and turn bad situations into good.
- 2 Become a Compassion Partner:** IFCS has upgraded and re-launched our program for donors who provide *sustaining* support through recurring donations of as little as \$5.00 a month.
- 3 Become a Community or Corporate Partner:** We are in search of businesses and service groups who will collaborate with us in alleviating hunger. Event, program, and corporate support are all powerful forces for good, as well as *steadfast* resources for IFCS.

Will you make a year-end gift, commit to a recurring donation, or help build a collaborative partnership with IFCS? Every contribution makes a difference, and offers a sense of hope that we can survive the long haul as a *community*. Thank you for your consideration, and for all you do for IFCS.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Alm
Board President



Sandra Blythe-Perry
Executive Director

ONE CAN, TWO CAN, WHO CAN, YOU CAN!



IFCS

Integrated Family
Community Services

3370 South Irving Street
Englewood, CO 80110-1816
(303) 789-0501 • ifcs.org

November rent assistance will help *exponentially*, especially with maintenance my car is needing.

A.R. • IFCS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Energy bill payment assistance is a huge *gift* to our household that is not taken lightly at all...

T.R. • IFCS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

SCAN A QR CODE TO:

1 MAKE A SECURE ONLINE DONATION

OR VISIT
ONECANFEED.ORG



2 LEARN ABOUT COMPASSION PARTNERS

OR VISIT
IFCS.ORG/COMPASSION-PARTNERS/



3 LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY/CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

OR VISIT
IFCS.ORG/PARTNER-CORPORATE-GIVING/



Your year-end gift keeps IFCS going! **Thank you!**