Rethinking Poverty with Getting Ahead

Guest article by Sue Harris-Wille

The “Getting Ahead” class brought together a group of people who wanted to change their relationship to money and/or poverty. Before I took the “Getting Ahead” class I was pretty ignorant about poverty. I saw people living in poverty. I knew people living in poverty. But I didn’t know there were different kinds of poverty, that poverty is a systemic as well as an individual problem. I didn’t know that it takes more than financial change to get out of poverty. During the “Getting Ahead” class, we discussed various causes of poverty, and I learned that getting out of poverty is more complex than I ever could have imagined. It requires addressing aspects of life beyond and much deeper than finances, income and money.

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.
--Chinese proverb

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Dear Friends of ICS!

What a joy it is to be part of an organization making such a positive difference in our community. The number of people impacted on a daily basis is unbelievable. The method in which we deliver our services is even more impressive. Our vehicle to reach those in need is our volunteers!

• In February, 147 volunteers served 5,950 individuals through our food bank.
• Well over 800 volunteer hours helped ICS raise over $90,000 through Empty Bowls.
• 386 rides, 2,572 meals and 523 caregiving services were provided by 191 volunteers in February.

All of the above and more is made possible through the work of our volunteers: people who care about their neighbors and the welfare of our community. National Volunteer Week is April 7 through 13. On behalf of the ICS staff and board, I want to take the opportunity to thank all the ICS volunteers who provide services that otherwise would not exist.

We are blessed to have our volunteers who now number over 1,000!

Tom McKinney
Chief Executive Officer

Getting Ahead

In the text “Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By World,” Ruby Payne defines poverty as “the extent to which an individual does without resources.” Her definition takes in all aspects of a person’s life. This definition of poverty gave me a starting place from which I could begin to shift my mindset from poverty to stability.

Although it’s true that instability and poverty are caused by more than the choices an individual makes, the “Getting Ahead” group focused on the aspects of our lives that we could influence and change. When you feel you’re stuck just getting by, you make decisions from a place of fear, resignation, and helplessness. But, when you believe that what you’re doing is getting you ahead, you make decisions with greater confidence about what may come.

The most empowering benefit of the “Getting Ahead” course for me was the change in the way we thought and talked about ourselves—our responses to situations in our lives. One group member decided that if she made saving first a priority, she would be two dollars richer at the end of each month. Two dollars might not seem like much, but far more important than the 24 dollars she would have at the year’s end was the realization that she was able to make self-determined, life-enhancing choices for herself. As she said, “No matter how little or much of it I have, I’m in charge of my money!” The shift from being a victim of not having enough money to being a victor in charge of whatever money she had was a pivotal perspective change in her life. This shift resulted in a change in her decision-making and behavior. And it was also a profound example to other members in the group.

Each participant in the “Getting Ahead” class learned something about what made their world a get-handed-a-fish-a-day world and what it would take to get ahead and become one who knows how to fish.

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ICS is My Go-To Place!

Art Aldag serves in multiple capacities at ICS. Every Saturday, bright and early, he picks up bread from Einstein Bagels and delivers it to the ICS Food Bank, where he helps guests check in for their monthly food bags. He assists and provides encouragement to recipients in our Care Partners program who are transitioning home from the hospital. He transports seniors to doctor’s appointments and grocery shopping each week. On top of all that, he is on the ICS Program Committee, lending his input into the development of ICS services.

“I’ve been lucky and blessed in my life,” he says. “So this is just a small way to give back.”

Art professes he has always been a “workaholic.” After obtaining his Ph.D. in Engineering from Stanford, he taught at the University of Oklahoma and spent 17 years as an engineer for Phillips Petroleum. When he retired and moved to Tucson, sitting home wasn’t what he pictured. He heard about ICS at St. Philip’s in the Foot Hills, which has a focus on social issues. He soon got involved with ICS as a volunteer and a donor. “It gives me meaningful work,” he explains. “I like being part of the mission at ICS to help people help themselves and get out of the situations they are in.”

“You can see the gratitude from those ICS helps every day. And, as a supporter, I like the fact that ICS spends the dollars it receives wisely, earning the Charity Navigator 4-star rating for so many years.”

Art especially enjoys helping seniors. “It is traumatic to not be able to drive – a real transition. People get very attached to their cars,” he says. He remembers one client who lived alone and was battling cancer. “I took him to his treatments, and this man remained very positive,” Art says. “He was going to beat it. After taking chemotherapy for weeks, he was relieved when his doctor told him he was in remission. It’s personal connection like this that is so important, and I was glad I could be there. Who knows? Someday I could be the one needing help.”

Art supports ICS as a monthly Champion of Hope donor and sponsors the annual Empty Bowls event benefitting the ICS Food Bank. “To see the positive impact ICS has on people’s lives,” he says, “is extraordinary. Life can get chaotic and change in a moment. We see it every day at ICS. It’s important for ICS to bring people together, neighbor helping neighbor. I feel good being part of that, and it enriches my life too. ICS is my go-to place!”

Jenkins Family Legacy Society: Making Permanent Impact

“I don’t know where I would be if ICS hadn’t been there to help.” These words that we hear so often at ICS remind us of the real lives that are touched every day through our services. In turn, none of our work would be possible without the loyal support of our donor partners.

The Jenkins Family Legacy Society is a special group of caring individuals who have planned to support our mission at ICS beyond their lifetimes by making an estate gift in any amount or a current gift of $10,000 or more to the ICS Endowment Fund. These important contributions help sustain the financial stability of ICS, ensuring those most vulnerable in our community will continue to find help and hope at ICS long into the future. Legacy giving is a great way to have perpetual impact into the causes you are passionate about – a lasting vision of what is dear to your heart.

We are pleased to honor and welcome our newest Jenkins Family Legacy Society member Jane Nugent in memory of Skip Nugent. Jane served for many years as an ICS volunteer and is former chair of the ICS Planned Giving Advisory Council. Thank you, Jane!

If your life has been touched by ICS and you would like to be part of the Legacy Society, please contact Tom McKinney, CEO, at 520-526-9292 or Deborah Carr, Philanthropy Director, at 520-526-5310. Thank you!
ICS welcomes our newest partner faith communities! St. Michael the Archangel Ecumenical Catholic Church, Unleashed Church, and Tucson Church International are all very excited to be partnering in service with ICS. These faith communities and their members are quickly getting involved with ICS in various ways and look forward to continuing their participation.

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

- **Seven ICS Partner Faith Communities** held an interfaith prayer service that raised spaghetti noodles and sauce for the ICS Food Banks.
- **Alive Church** sent a large group to volunteer at Empty Bowls and another volunteer group to help homebound seniors with yard work.
- **The North Tucson Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** chose to support the ICS Single Mom Scholars program through a wonderful donation.
- **Desert Dove Christian Church** began hosting monthly ICS produce giveaways and has been supporting these giveaways with great volunteers.
- **Rincon Congregational United Church of Christ** hosted our most recent ICS Faith Council Meeting for advocates from our faith community partners.

We are deeply grateful for the caring of our 112 Partner Faith Communities! Together we're impacting many lives for the good. To schedule a visit to ICS or to have ICS staff speak to your congregation or to explore your congregation joining ICS in the good work described in this newsletter, call our Chief Outreach Officer, Tim Kromer, at 520-526-9290.

**Interfaith Community Services was founded in 1985 by six faith communities and is proud to work with 112 partnering faith communities today.**

Abiding in Christ Fellowship • Abiding Savior Free Lutheran • Agape Christian Church International • Aldeia 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 United • CORE Life Ministries • Cortaro Vista Community Church • Country Club at La Cholla Chapel • 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 • Grace St. Paul’s Episcopal • Grace Temple Missionary Baptist Presbyterian • Hope City Church • Immigrant Congregational United Church of Christ • Lord of Grace Lutheran • LifeBridge Church • Lutheran Church of the Foothills • Mananatha Seventh Day Adventist • Ministerios Manantial De Amor • 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 • Northside Presbyterian Church • North Tucson Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints • Northwest Baptist • Northwest Community Church • Northwest Community Faiths 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 Congregational UCC • Rising Star Baptist Church • Saguarzo Christian Church • Sanctuary United Methodist •Santa Catalina Catholic • Shalom Mennonite • Southside Presbyterian • St. Alban’s Episcopal Church • St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church • St. Andrew’s Presbyterian • St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic • St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist • St. James United Methodist • St. John’s United Methodist Church • St. John the Despert 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. Odilia Catholic • St. Paul's United Methodist Church • St. Philip’s in The Hills Episcopal • Streams in the Desert Lutheran • Tanque Verde Lutheran • Temple Emanuel-El • Tempe La Unión • The Good News Community Church • The Holy Presbyterian • The Journey Church • Third Church of Christ, Scientist • Tortolita Presbyterian • Trinity Presbyterian Church • Tucson Church of the Brethren • Tucson Church International • Tucson Community of Christ • Unity of Tucson • Unity Spiritual Center of Peace • Unleashed Church • United Church of Tucson • Vida Nueva/New Life Church of God • The Village Church • Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church
Welcome

ICS Welcomes Tom McKinney as new CEO

McKinney has served as President and CEO of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra for the past two years and previously was the organization’s Vice President of Development.

McKinney has over 35 years of experience in nonprofit organizations. He has initiated numerous strategic business plans and overseen implementation, established community partnerships, and fostered program development for several organizations including ten years as President and CEO for Make-A-Wish Minnesota where he and his team led the foundation nationally in growth of funds raised and wishes granted.

Previously he served as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Minneapolis YMCA and was instrumental in securing grants in excess of $1 million for programs providing life-changing opportunities for at-risk youth. Prior to his role with the YMCA, he managed seven regional offices that included recruitment, counseling, fundraising, and special events as Vice President of The American Field Service organization (AFS).

ICS Board Chair Scott Summerford praised the search team in selecting the ‘very best fit’ for ICS. “We believe that Tom McKinney has the vision and leadership experience to continue to grow ICS as an integral part of our community.”

ICS Staff Updates

Andi Hammonds is the new Case Manager. Andi is a social worker who joins ICS with over a dozen years in behavioral health and social services, having specialized in crisis intervention and trauma-informed care. After moving here from Southeast Michigan, Andi spent seven years serving refugees and asylum-seekers in Pima County at the International Rescue Committee. As co-founder of the AZ Survivors of Torture Program, Andi spent seven years serving as Case Manager. Andi’s loves, in no particular order, include cheese, live music, traveling the world, and her 6-year-old daughter.

Fun fact: In college, Andi lived in a cooperative house with 19 guys and 3 ladies and was responsible for grocery shopping.

Walmart Neighborhood Market

Food Drive

May 11-24

ICS Welcomes Tom McKinney as new CEO

Thank You to Our Sponsors and Restaurant Partners!

Presenting
- Wendell and Rose Tyson
- Dorothy D. Vanek
- Richard and Judy Weill

Gold Ladle
- Steve and Ruth Pollyea
- Terry and Shirley Coleman
- Joseph and Pat Havens
- Southwest Gas
- Sundt Foundation
- Oro Valley Hospital
- Arizona Complete Health
- Splendido at Rancho Vistoso
- Edward Jones

Silver Ladle
- Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona
- Dick Backus in memory of Carol Backus
- Bruce Bittmann and Karen Hamar Bittmann
- Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie
- Border States Electric
- Omni Tucson National
- Catalina In-Home Services
- Westpress
- Desert Leaf

Thanks to our more than 30 Souper Hero Partners and Make a Difference Donors.

Restaurant Partners
- Bob’s Steak & Chop House
- Brookdale North Tucson
- Cakes for Causes
- Casino Del Sol
- Claire’s Cafe & Art Gallery
- Dedicated
- Egee’s
- El Conquistador Resort
- Fountains/iskifestyle
- GAP Ministries
- Gourmet Girls Gluten Free Bakery/ Bistro
- The Grill @ Hacienda Del Sol
- Hines
- Jason’s Deli
- Kingfisher
- La Hacienda Family Mexican Restaurant
- Mountain View Village Retirement
- Nadiné’s
- Noble Hops
- Overlook Restaurant - Oro Valley Community Center
- Splendido at Rancho Vistoso
- Sunrise Senior Living
- Texas Roadhouse
- Vero Amore
- Village Bakehouse
- Vivec

The 2019 Empty Bowls fundraiser was enjoyed by all, with near perfect weather, toe-tapping tunes generously provided by the Ocotillo Rain and Thunder Bluegrass Band, all of the delicious soups and, of course, beautiful hand-made bowls. This year’s event raised more than $90,000 for the ICS Food Banks and services. Your support makes it possible to feed more families in need.

We’re grateful to sponsors, restaurant partners, potters, attendees, and the many hardworking volunteers including a dedicated event committee who made this year’s event a tremendous success! A big thank you to presenting sponsors Wendell and Rose Tyson, Dorothy D. Vanek, Richard and Judy Weill.

A very special thank you to Jada Crellin-Ahern of Dry Heat Pottery for coordinating all of the participating artists. Thank you to potters from the Southern Arizona Clay Artists and local studios for creating and donating the bowls, and to Marjon Ceramics and Laguna Clay for donating clay and supplies.

ICS Welcomes Tom McKinney as new CEO
Memorials and Tributes: 1/1/19-3/31/19

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
Carol Backus: Richard Backus
Nancy Brock: Richard and Violet Davis
Paul and Marlene Den Herder, Larry and Sandy Glasser, Stephen and Judy Herzog, Richard and Bonnie Kampa, Lisa and Jerry Kertesz, Stephanie Mayen, Henry and Kay Sheets, Janice Didia Stubbe, David and Ellen Vellenga, Joe and Diane Wilcox

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Corine, your beloved sister: Barry and Diane Kalpin
Drew, your beloved husband: Barry and Diane Kalpin
Barbara Gross: Richard and Violet Davis
Korene Hausman, sister of Mrs. Roy Stein and Family: Robert and Selma Gevirtzman
Robert Hurst: Margaret Hurst
Kate, your beloved mom: Barry and Diane Kalpin
Kevin Koch: Beth Koch
Pam Kytola: Anonymous Donors, Deborah Baxter, Katherine Boeser, Robert and Joan Drake, Mary Evans, Schaefer Family, Celina Valenzuela, WSR Class of 1965
Robert Leffler: Rosalie and Herb Siegel
Kathleen Masterson: Carl Mueller
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Michael: James and Mikki Gries
Harry Moebiuis, father of Mrs. Stacy Goldstein: Robert and Selma Gevirtzman
Mom and Brandon: Debi and Robert Raterink
Jan Rogers: Richard and Bonnie Kampa
Sally Siebert: Kurt Siebert
Jim Wildblood: Jan and Gerry Petersen

In Honor Of: Given By
Sheila and Harvey Bart’s 60th anniversary: Robert and Selma Gevirtzman
Harold and Carol Blatter: Art and Sharon Geiger
Terry and Shirley Coleman: Mark and Joyce Laibin
Carol DeAugustine: Robert J Crecca
Amazing ICS Staff: Sylvia and Rick Buchanan
Mary O’Connell: Sharon Hendrickson-Pfeil
Sandy Ricker: John and Kay Sullivan
JoAnn Shambaugh: David Shambaugh

Thanks to our annual Corporate Partners

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ICS is pleased to feature our annual corporate partner Southwest Gas.

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The Employees of Southwest Gas are proud to lend a hand by supporting Interfaith Community Services.

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FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Who should attend: Faith leaders, e.g., rabbis, imams, pastors, faith community nurses or health promoters, congregational educators, or pastoral care ministers.

Panel Facilitator: David Fife, Casa de la Luz Hospice

Panelists: Ajahn Sarayut Arnanta, Wat Buddhametta Tucson; Rev. Owen Chandler, Saguaro Christian Church; Lynn Hourani, Islamic Center Tucson; and Gila Silverman, Jewish anthropologist

Schedule
12pm-12:45: Lunch
1:00-2:15: Panel discussion with leaders from diverse cultural and faith perspectives sharing experiences on death & dying
2:30-3:30: Information session on how to complete Advance Directives
3:30-4:00: End-of-Life care through the lens of Hospice “Stories from the Field”

REGISTER at:
azendoflifecare.org/living_fully_preparing_for_death

For more information contact Suzanne Morrison
520-526-9296 / smorrison@icstucson.org

"If Music Be the Food"
a chamber music concert to benefit the hungry in our community

sunday, april 28, 3:00pm
grace st. paul’s episcopal church
2331 east adams street

in lieu of tickets, please bring food or monetary donations to support the ICS Food Bank

featuring performances by
sarah toy
tim kantor
chia-chun ko
marybeth brown-plambeck
laura casárez
candice amato
jose luis gomez