

Irvington Community Advocacy Network (ICAN)

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2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## WHO WE ARE

ICAN is a small social services agency located on the east side of Indianapolis in the historic Irvington neighborhood. ICAN was founded by the Irvington Association of Ministers, an ecumenical group of pastors who saw a need to combine resources to support Irvington neighbors in crisis. This unique, collaborative coalition has continued to evolve and has grown into the organization we have today.

At ICAN, we believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion are foundational to building a just and compassionate community. ICAN's values foster a culture where all individuals—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, religion, socioeconomic status, or background—are respected, valued, and empowered to thrive.

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### Our Mission

ICAN is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to helping our neighbors lead healthier, safer, and more stable lives.

### What We Do

Through our Assistance Center and Food Pantry, ICAN addresses food insecurity, poverty, and other related challenges by offering personalized support and connecting clients with a broad network of local resources to promote lasting stability and well-being.

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# ICAN Leadership

## Irvington Association of Ministers (IAM)

ICAN is the programmatic outgrowth of IAM—a 30-year collaboration of clergy from Irvington's Christian churches. Today, our programs still receive oversight and support from the clergy and leaders of our founding congregations. These communities of faith find that their commitment to ecumenical partnership thrives as they join in ICAN's work, and they discover a rich sense of joy, hope, and peace as they serve their neighbors in need with us.

### ICAN Board Director, President

Rev. Melody Merida\*  
Downey Avenue  
Christian Church

### ICAN Board Director

Rev. Sunil Kotian  
Irvington United  
Methodist Church

### ICAN Board Director

Rev. Lee Welker  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church

### ICAN Board Director, Treasurer

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Reinink  
Irvington Presbyterian Church

### ICAN Board, Secretary and Assoc. Dir.

Brady Briggs  
Downey Avenue  
Christian Church

### ICAN Board Assoc. Dir.

Rev. Jude Meril C. Sahayam^  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Catholic Parish

### At-Large Community Members

Rev. Martin Bornhoeft  
Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA

### At-Large Community Members

Rev. Frank Everett^  
Linwood Christian Church

### At-Large Community Members

Minister Lynne Kreiger\*  
Church

### ICAN Board Member (VACANT)

St. Matthew Episcopal Church

### ICAN, Executive Director

Kari Burns, MS\*

\* - Denotes individuals who identify as female.

^ - Denotes individuals who are incoming Directors.

+ - Denotes individuals who are outgoing members.

# Program Clarification & Strategic Growth

## A Letter from ICAN's Executive Director

### Hello Neighbors & Friends,

In 2025, ICAN's programming reached an important milestone through the formal definition and expansion of its Basic Needs Programs. As Executive Director, I worked to clearly define **ICAN's Neighbors in Need** and **Women & Girls' Basic Needs programs**, establishing distinct program scopes, service goals and populations served. This work strengthened ICAN's ability to articulate impact, track outcomes and pursue funding aligned with the specific needs of the neighbors we serve.

By creating clear program definitions, ICAN is now better positioned to seek targeted funding for hygiene kits, clothing, period supplies, transportation access and other essential supports for low-income and unhoused neighbors, women, girls, and families. This clarity helps funders understand exactly how their investments support defined programs and measurable outcomes, strengthening sustainability and growth.

In 2025, ICAN also officially expanded its programming to meet emerging community needs. This included the launch of the **Senior Essentials Program**, focused on incontinence and hygiene supplies for aging neighbors, and the formal naming and expansion of the **No Hungry Neighbors Food Security Program**, which now encompasses the ICAN food pantry, fresh food partnerships, food distribution, and community food access initiatives.

As part of this expansion, ICAN identified and partnered with new food pantries across Indianapolis, establishing formal partnership agreements that is creating the **ICAN Pantry Partner Network**. Through this network, ICAN and partner pantries coordinate food distribution efforts and

combine volunteer resources to increase impact, reduce duplication, and strengthen food access across multiple neighborhoods.

Together, these program advancements reflect ICAN's continued growth, responsiveness, and commitment to equity. As economic and political landscapes shift, the needs of our neighbors and ICAN's responses continue to evolve, shaping our programs, partnerships, and approach to service. By strengthening program structure and collaboration, ICAN is better equipped to serve diverse populations, secure sustainable funding, and expand its reach across Indianapolis.

In 2026, we will build new connections to support basic needs, address root causes of instability, and respond to emerging challenges in solidarity with our Irvington neighbors and larger Indianapolis community. I am deeply grateful to serve alongside neighbors, volunteers, and partners who believe community care is a shared responsibility. Together, we are strengthening our city, upholding equity and the ensuring dignity for all of our neighbors in need.

With Hope & Gratitude,



Kari Burns, MS  
Executive Director

# 2025 Focus Areas

## Basic Needs Programs

ICAN's three Basic Needs Programs—the **Neighbors in Need Program**, the **Women and Girls' Basic Needs Program**, and the **Senior Essentials Program**—ensure neighbors have access to essential items that support health, dignity, and daily stability. ICAN provides hygiene kits, free clothing through the ICAN Clothing Closet, period supplies for women and girls, and incontinence supplies for seniors and others with medical or age-related needs. These programs reduce barriers, ease daily stress, and support the well-being of neighbors experiencing economic hardship.

## Food Security Program

The **No Hungry Neighbors Food Security Program** provides reliable access to nutritious food through the ICAN Food Pantry and community partnerships. The pantry offers grocery staples and collaborates with local gardens, like the Grow in Peace Garden at Downey Ave, as well as nonprofit partners such as Second Helpings, to provide fresh produce to our visitors. **ICAN's Pantry Partner Network** is working to support smaller food pantries receive food and pantry staples as needed, including support for community impact food projects. ICAN also distributes food bags for unhoused neighbors and helps to stock Big Red Food Boxes, expanding neighborhood food access and strengthening community-based responses to hunger.

## Access to Transportation

Transportation is a key element of ICAN's program impact. By providing free bus passes, ICAN removes a major barrier to economic stability, helping neighbors reach jobs, training, medical appointments, and essential services. This access connects neighbors to resources beyond immediate assistance, promotes upward economic growth, and supports long-term stability and independence.



### 1. BASIC NEEDS

Free clothing, hygiene kits and other essentials to low-income and unhoused neighbors in need.

### 2. FOOD SECURITY

Free food network for 46219 residents, unhoused neighbors and partner pantries.

### 3. TRANSPORTATION

Free bus passes for interviews, work, groceries, school and medical care.

# 2025 Program Outcomes & Demographics

Total Family Units Served @ ICAN Food Pantry:

**1369**

Total Individuals Served @ ICAN Assistance Center:

**759**

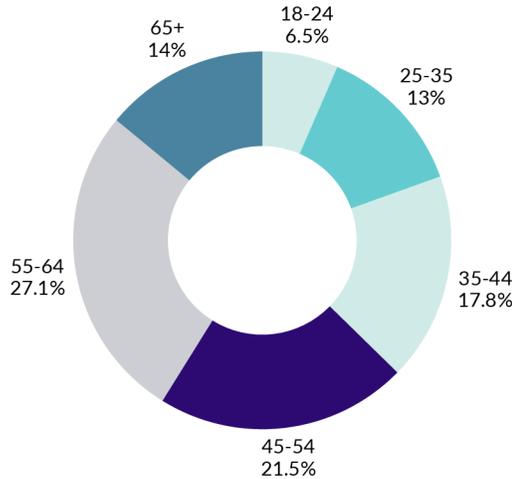
Number of First-Time Visits @ Food Pantry & Assistance Center:

**248**

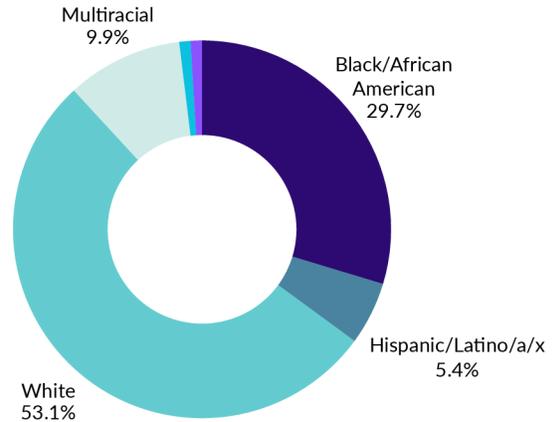
## Resources Distributed :

● Bus passes	1351
● Hygiene Kits	545
● Feminine Kits	153
● Senior Kits	108

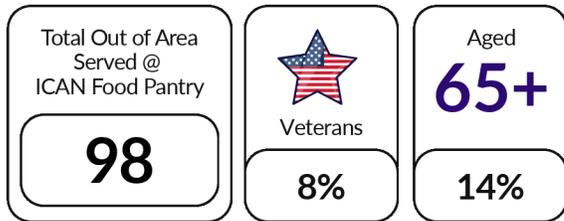
## Age Range :



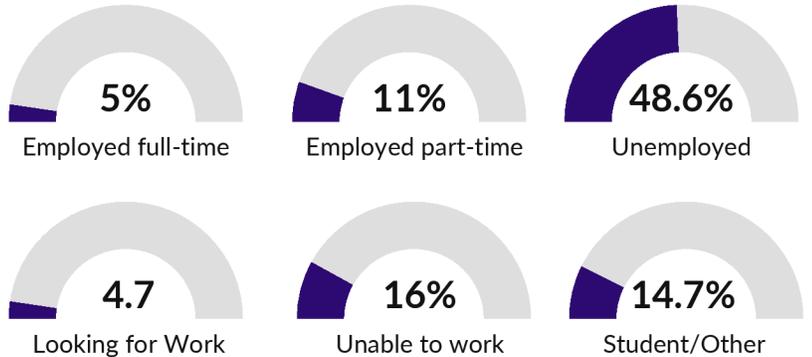
## Race/Ethnicity :



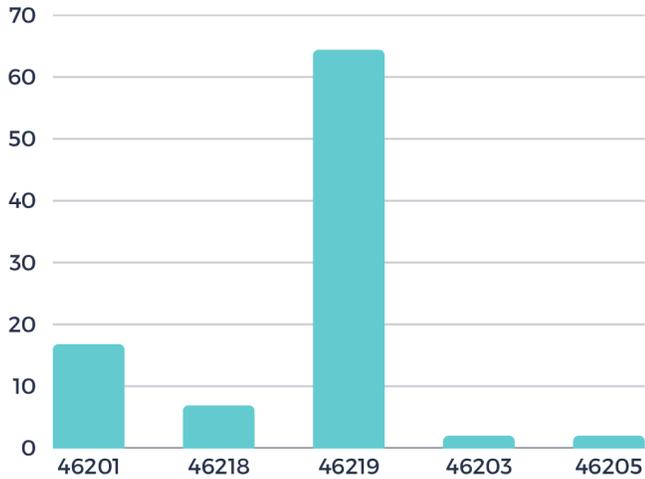
## Additional Demographics :



## Employment Status :



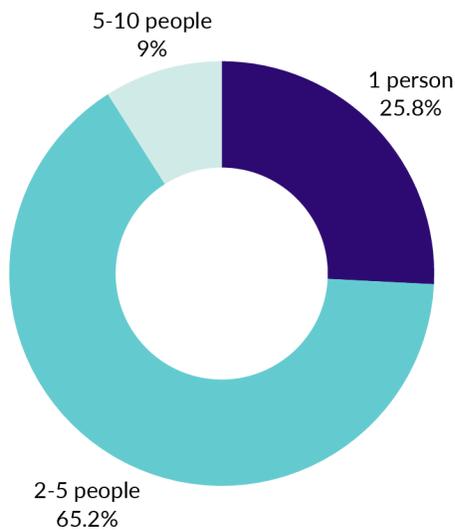
While Indiana's unemployment fell to 3.6% in June 2025, Indianapolis saw a rise from 3.5% to 3.9%, highlighting instability in retail, service, and gig sectors. Despite improving job numbers, many families continue to struggle, driving more neighbors to seek essential support from ICAN.



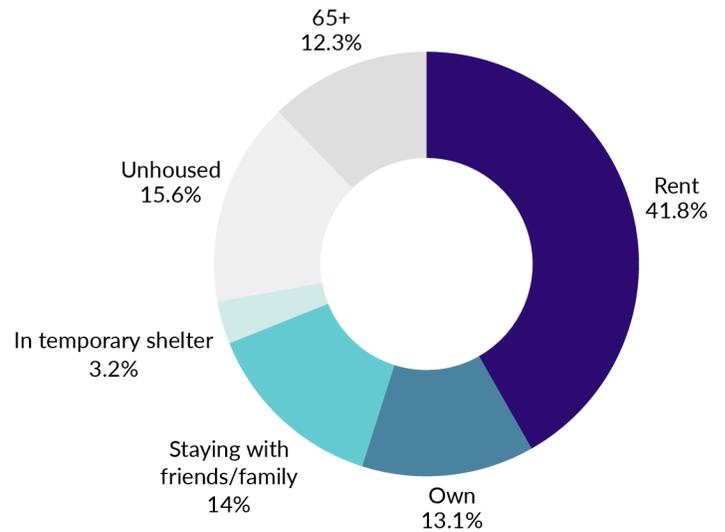
## TOP 5 ZIP CODES SERVED

ICAN serves a diverse Eastside community, with nearly 60% of residents identifying as Black, Hispanic/Latino, multiracial, or other minority groups. Recognizing systemic barriers to housing, food, and healthcare, ICAN advances equity, inclusion, and dignity, ensuring all neighbors—especially those historically marginalized—have the support and resources they need to thrive.

## Family Unit Size



## Housing Snapshot



# 11

Total Zip Codes Served

# 23

Volunteers supported Assistance Center & Food Pantry operations

# 108

Referrals provided to outside resources

# In-Kind Donations

## Basic Hygiene Supplies

**673**

**Total Kits from Indy Hygiene Hub**

(215 feminine hygiene kits, 458 hygiene kits)  
Partners since 2024

## Fresh Produce and Dairy donation

**+5,600 lbs**

**Second Helpings Redirect Program**

Established Partnership March 2025

## Incontinence Supplies

(Depends, Poise pads, Absorbant Sheets)

**+2,000 units**

**Various Community Donors**

## Community Garden Vegetable Donations

**+1000 lbs**

**Grow In Peace Garden,  
Gethsemane Lutheran Garden  
& other local gardens**

## Handmade Quilts Donated for Unhoused Warm Kits

**200**

**Comfort Quilts**

Established Partnership September 2025

## Adult & Child Hats & Gloves

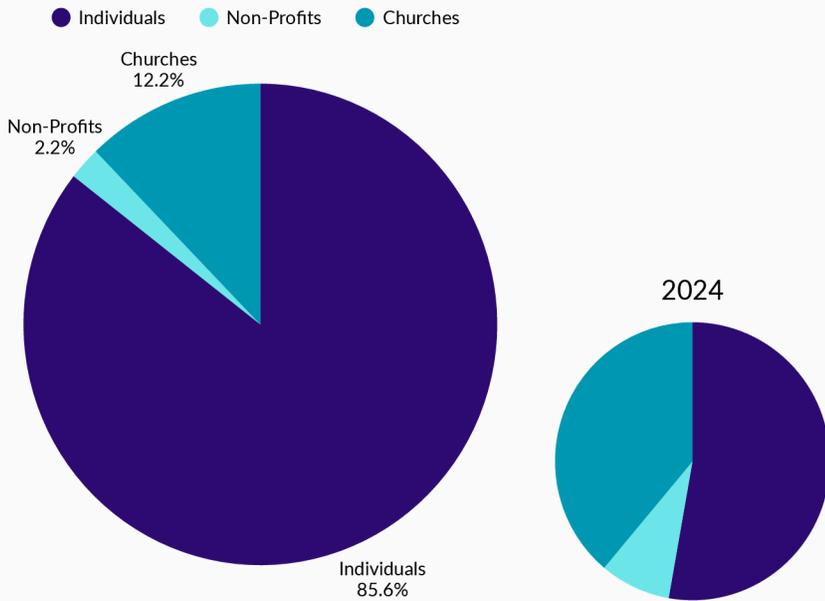
**250**

**Gift of Gloves**

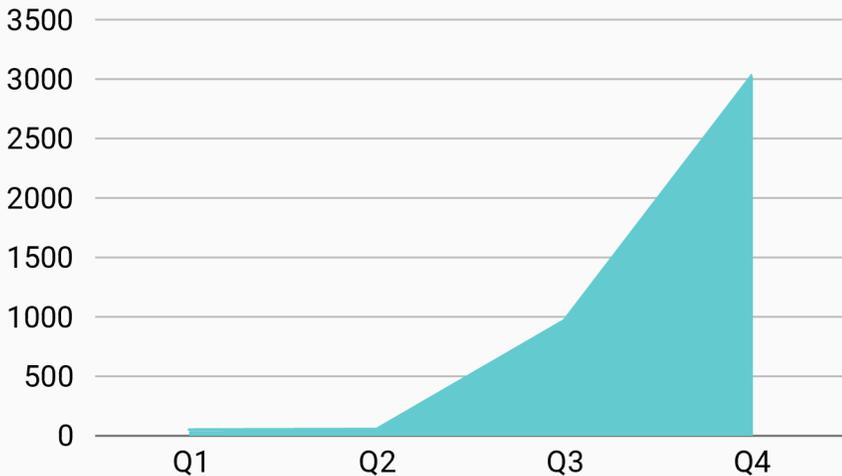
Partners since 2024

# Donation Trends

## 01. Number of Gifts



## 02. Online (Zeffy & PayPal)



## Explanation

This year, growing community need and shifts in grants and federal programs underscored the vital role local organizations play in meeting basic needs. ICAN expanded community support beyond our founding partners, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. We are grateful for the new individuals and organizations who joined this work and look forward to continuing to respond together to our neighbors' evolving needs.

# Financial Summaries

## ICAN Food Pantry Summary

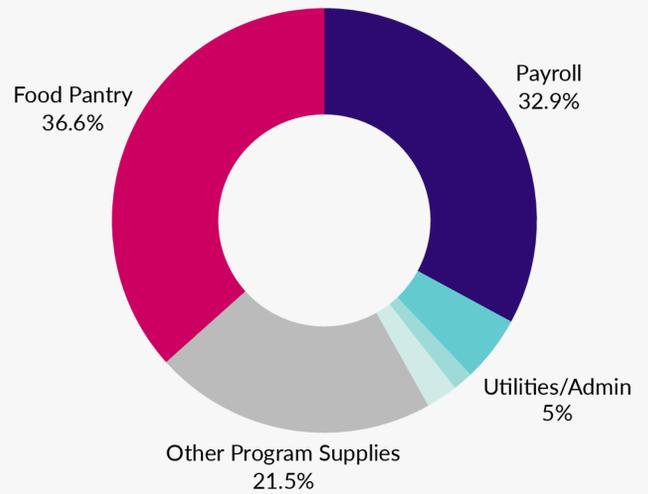
Total Income <b>\$17,710.57</b>	Total Expenses <b>\$15,482.50</b>	Excess Income 2025: <b>\$2,194.12</b>
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## ICAN Assistance Center Summary

Total Income <b>\$20,093.99</b>	Total Expenses <b>\$20,216.09</b>	Excess Income 2025: <b>-\$122.10</b>
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Expense Breakdown	
Category	Amount
Payroll - Executive Director	\$13,942.50
Utilities (Internet & Phone) & Admin	\$2,126.24
Program Supplies	\$9,112.50
Hygiene Kits - Indy Hygiene Hub	\$655
IndyGo Bus Passes	\$1,020.56
Food Pantry Supplies	\$15,516.45
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$42,373.25</b>

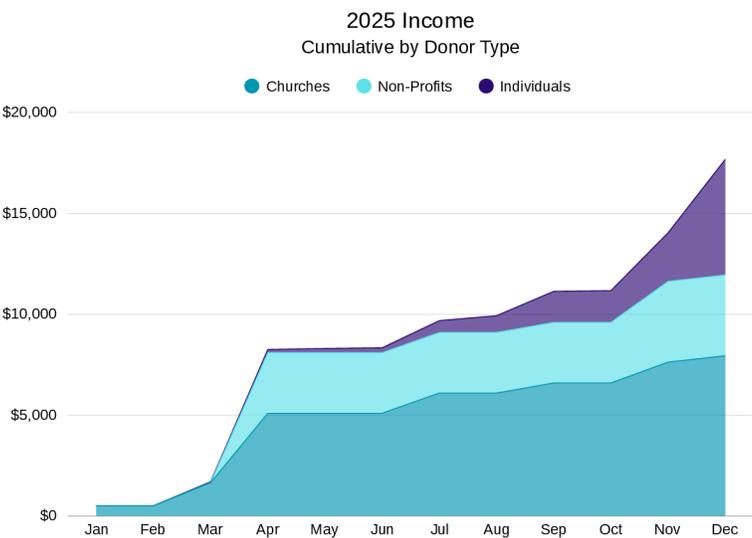
## 2025 Expenses Overview



### Program Purchases Included:

- Gleaners Pantry Food Items
- IndyGo Bus Passes
- Eggs & Bread
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Bar Soap
- Body Wipes
- Laundry Detergent Sheets
- Clothing Closet Supplies
- Assistant Center Office Supplies
- Hygiene Kit Orders
- Feminine Hygiene Kit Orders
- Incontinence Supplies
- Non-slip Work Shoes

Income Breakdown	
Category	Amount
Individual Donors	\$5,574.14
Member Congregations	\$4,723.44
Grant Income	\$3025.00
Corporate Donors	\$1,000
Fundraising Events	\$4,441.76
Donations from Ecumenical Lenten Services	\$1,329.65
Food Pantry Income	\$7,742.24
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$27,836.23</b>



### 2024/2025 Income Comparisons

**\$5k**  
2024 Grant Awards

▼  
-\$2k

**\$3k**  
2025 Grant Awards

**\$6.9k**  
2024 ICAN Church Donations

▼  
-\$2.2k

**\$4.7k**  
2025 ICAN Church Donations

**\$1.2k**  
2024 Individual Donors

▲  
-\$4.4k

**\$5.6k**  
2025 Individual Donors

**\$1.3k**  
2024 Fundraiser Events

▲  
-\$3.1k

**\$4.4k**  
2025 Fundraiser Events

**+3**

New Monthly Donors

**\$3,000**

2025 Strawberry Grant Award

# Thank you to our generous donors!

## Organizations

**\$2,903.76** - Downey Ave Christian Church  
**\$2,772.00** - Irvington Presbryterian Church  
**\$1,348.05** - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church  
**\$1,000** - Historic Irvington Community Council  
**\$540.65** - Gethesemane Lutheran Church  
**\$375.39** - Irvington United Methodist Church

## 2025 Grant Awards

**\$3,000** - Christ Church Cathedral Strawberry Fest

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## Indvidial Donors

### \$1,000+

C & S Thompson

### \$250 - \$500

K & K Moorehead  
Karon Preston  
S Todd & P Kielty  
Robert Sieck  
Susan Payne  
Ronald Heustis

### \$100 - \$249

Richard M. Ginther (monthly donor)  
Gabrielle Shufelt  
Susan E Beecher  
P & L Wooden  
Kayla Presley  
Dave Piwowar  
Jenny Giddens  
Michelle Eckert  
Bonnie Cate  
Carolyn Stobba-Wiley  
Chris Martersteck  
Eric Steele (Monthly Donor)

### \$50 - \$99

Roxie R. Davis  
Julia Mathis  
C & K Shaw  
Bonnie Atkins  
Dawn Presley  
Olivia Totten  
Michael Bowden  
Jonny Calderom  
Kathleen Adams  
Kiana White  
Pamela Stephens  
Mary-Margaret Sweeney

### \$1 - \$49

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Reinink  
K. Lucas  
L & M Markovich  
Jessica Young  
Shirley Sheeks  
Theresa Zens  
Kelly Mitchell  
Peter Stockwell  
Kari Burns  
Kayla Olive  
James P Gorman  
Jennifer Ruggles  
Raymond G Mills  
Stephanie Wiley  
Sara Riedeman  
Carrie L. Powers-Russell

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# Strategic Partners & In-kind Donors

## **13 Existing**

### **ICAN Member Churches**

Irvington Presbryterian Church  
Downey Ave Christian Church  
Irvington United Methodist Church  
Gethesemane Lutheran Church  
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

### **Local Indianapolis Churches**

Linwood Christian Church  
St. Matthews Episcopal Church

### **Food Banks**

Gleaners Food Bank  
Midwest Food Bank

### **Local Businesses**

Tyson Foods, Indianapolis  
Distribution Center

Brookville Road USPS  
Distribution Center

### **Nonprofit Organizations**

Indy Hygiene Hub  
Gift of Gloves

### **Food Pantries & Collectives**

Big Red Box Project  
Gaia Works Food Pantry  
Neighborhood Food Collective

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## **8 New in 2025**

### **Nonprofit Organizations**

University of Indianapolis  
School of Social Work  
(Student intern Support)

Soul Food Project  
(Garden Parnter)

Second Helpings  
(Weekly fresh produce  
and dairy donations)

Oak Street Health  
(Weekly outreach via  
ICAN Food Pantry)

Million Meal Movement  
(Pre-packaged meals)

### **Food Pantries**

Linwood Christian Church  
Food Pantry  
(Shared Food Delivery)

### **Community Gardens**

Grow in Peace Garden -  
Downey Ave Christian Church

Gethsemane Lutheran  
Church Community Garden

### **Church Groups**

Linwood Christian Church  
Rummage Room  
(ICAN Coupon Program)

### **Community Groups**

Comfort Quilts  
(Handmade quilts donated to  
unhoused basic needs kits)

Thank you to our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, community members and strategic partners who make ICAN's work possible. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and to serve alongside so many people committed to making positive changes in our city.

Your compassion, time and investment strengthen our ability to support neighbors in need across Indianapolis and build a more equitable, connected and caring community where every neighbor can thrive.