

November, 2016



*Neighbors helping neighbors
for more than 40 years*
Serving residents in the Issaquah School District

Emily's Story

When she arrived at the ICS office it was clear that the stress of being faced with apartment eviction, late utility bills and broken eyeglasses was overwhelming. This working single mother of three was in tears and afraid because she knew that even though she was bringing home a regular paycheck, it wasn't enough. On top of everything else, she had some of her wages garnished due to a dental bill for one of the children. The bill was left unpaid by her ex-husband and he couldn't be located by the collection agency.

Emily had already paid part of her monthly rent and ICS was able to speak with her landlord and arrange for the rest of the rent to be covered. Volunteers were able to take time to be concerned listeners. They offered encouragement and discussed other possible resources for additional help, giving her places to contact. Emily was already trying to work with PSE to qualify for a payment plan and she was soon to have the dental bill paid in full.

Emily was so grateful and aware that she is a resident of a caring community, your community. We're glad we were able to help.

Issaquah Community Services is making a difference in our local community

Last year, with **your** donations, emergency financial assistance was provided to:



- 353 households
- 983 individuals consisting of 475 adults and 508 children
- 194 households avoided eviction from their homes
- 104 avoided utility shut off
- 55 were helped with transportation needs, medical or other miscellaneous assistance
- Total \$123,480 distributed
- Many other individuals were provided additional resources by our compassionate and caring volunteers.

A big **Thank You** goes to our donors for continued support to our local community. Issaquah Community Services could not do it without you.



"As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person."



YOU ARE INVITED TO A FUN, LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENT



Singers of all ages and skill levels, and instrumentalists comfortable playing Baroque music are invited to come sing, play or hear the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah and help raise funds for Issaquah Community Services through its "Merry Christmas Issaquah" fund drive.

The annual Sing Along Messiah will be held at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11 at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, 325 SE Darst Street in Issaquah (off Second Avenue, near the high school.)



ICS does due diligence to safe guard your donation. Here is how the process works:

- Client completes application
- Client identifies help needed and how much money they need to meet their payment
- ICS Volunteer reviews the application and help needed
- ICS Volunteer contacts the landlord or utility company to confirm client is behind in payment and discusses the amount owed.
- ICS makes a pledge to the landlord or utility company
- All checks are issued by ICS Treasurer

All checks are mailed directly to apartment / landlord or utility company. Clients do not receive any payments

OFFICE HOURS

9 to 11 a.m.

Monday – Friday

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays

180 East Sunset Way
(Community Hall)

Phone: 425-837-3125

Fax: 425-837-3127

Email:

icsoffice180@gmail.com

2016 Merry Christmas Issaquah annual fund drive

When a community comes together great things happen. Recently several Issaquah Community Services (ICS) volunteers attended several local nonprofit fund raiser events. These organizations reported generous record breaking donations. We support one another because we serve the local community in many different ways. Most of the nonprofits are members of the Issaquah Nourishing Networks, where we come together to discuss how to serve the needs of the community. We provide services that meet a variety of needs, and are careful that we do not duplicate services. We are fortunate to live in the wonderful, caring communities of Issaquah and Sammamish where we do our best to care for citizens in need. Issaquah Community Services' annual fund raiser is *The Merry Christmas Issaquah* event where we partner with The Issaquah Press. For over 35 years, our partnership has raised almost \$1,000,000. In order to help ICS help our local families, we hope you can find it in your heart to donate to our fund raiser. With your help, families can stay in their homes while they work through difficult situations, such as the loss of a job, reduced work hours, car repair, medical expenses, or whatever keeps them from being able to pay their bills. ICS needs your help again this year. Please consider a donation. **ICS is a 501c3 non-profit, tax ID #91-1499522.**

ICS Volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization. Because of volunteers, 100% of your donation goes to local individuals and families in need. ICS is 26 volunteers strong. We come from local churches, nonprofit organizations, neighbors, friends, etc.. If you are interested in joining our team, please visit our website or send us an email.



Meet one of our new Volunteers: Susan Spinella

An Issaquah resident for 25 years and a retired federal employee, Susan was looking for volunteer opportunities she could give service to her community. A few of her neighbors and a friend recommended ICS. Susan is glad they did because she finds ICS a very worthwhile organization. The fact that it is small and local, the overhead is very low and ICS is able to help so many people that find themselves in temporary financial straits are what appeals to Susan. She says "I have seen time and again how we keep families and individuals from being homeless and kept their utilities on. That is a good feeling".



Relocation to affordable housing update

In 2014, ICS experienced a great need in the community for financial assistance to help with moving costs to a more affordable living situation. We partnered with the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank as well as received grants from local community organizations. Together we helped 5 families. In 2015, we changed our policy to allow funds for rent to also be used to help with relocation costs. In 2015, we were able to help 7 families. We have already surpassed 2015 numbers and hope to continue to expand this program as long as the funds are available.

Meet Wesley in the next story, as he is a recent example of where we were able to help his family move to Issaquah.

A NEW BEGINNING:

We would like to share a success story about our client, Wesley Thompson. This is a story that you, our donors made possible.

Mr. Thompson is a single dad currently living in transitional housing with his 4 year old daughter, while awaiting an opening in permanent subsidized housing. Mr. Thompson works for a local company, who is assisting him to obtain advanced training required for his job. He alternates working full time for 6 weeks and then half time for 6 weeks while attending school. He has managed to save a little money for the expected move, but it is not enough to cover both move in costs and renting a truck to move his belongings. ICS confirmed his request with the Y Family Village and pledged the needed money to allow him to move in. The future is looking bright for Wesley and his little girl!



Issaquah Nourishing Network

Did you know that several nonprofit groups, businesses, government and concerned citizens serving the Issaquah School District meet monthly to discuss the needs of our community and how our organizations can join together to address those needs? This group is called the Issaquah Nourishing Networks. By working together sharing our resources, knowledge, identifying needs, and help wanted, we can better support our community. One great recent example of working together involved an elderly woman and her disable son living in their car as they were evicted from their home. An Issaquah police officer noticed them in their car and asked questions. The police officer contacted Cori, executive director of The Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank to assist the woman and her son. That one contact started the ball rolling with many other organizations such as Issaquah Community Services and local churches helping this family work through their difficult situation. Cori at the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank is the convener of the monthly Issaquah Nourishing Network meetings. Please visit the following website for more information, (<http://www.nourishingnetworks.net/networks/issaquah/>).



180 E. SUNSET WAY
P.O. BOX 669, ISSAQUAH, WA 98027

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Merry Christmas Issaquah Fund

Yes, I want to help my neighbors in need.

Donor name(s) _____

Address _____

Email address: _____

(Please help us reduce future costs by supplying your email address)



DONOR OPTIONS:

YES! Please acknowledge my 2016 gift in The Issaquah Press as a contribution to the Merry Christmas Issaquah fund *(donation amounts are never published, only your name)*

My gift is in memory of _____

My gift is on behalf of _____

I prefer to give anonymously.

My/spouse's company will match this gift; a form is enclosed.

My/spouse's company will match this gift. I have completed the process online.

Matching Company _____

Mail checks to Merry Christmas Issaquah, PO Box 669, Issaquah WA 98027

OPTION: Donate online – www.issaquahcommunityservices.org