Established 1972

Issaquah Community Services

Keeping Neighbors in Their Homes

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Our Annual Campaign

November 2026

ROOM TO BREATHE: *BRI'S STORY*

A helping hand when it mattered most gave Bri's family something they desperately needed: room to breathe.

Bri and her husband both work full time in merchandising and logistics to support their three young children, alternating shifts to ensure someone is always home with the kids, Like many working families, they do their best to manage their expenses and provide a stable home for their children. But earlier this year, financial headwinds became a perfect storm that pushed their hardworking family to the brink.



While Bri was on maternity leave, utility costs increased, adding to the strain on the family budget. In March, their rent went up by 5 percent. By the time Bri returned to work, the family was living paycheck-to-paycheck, with little room for unexpected expenses.

That's when an unanticipated vehicle repair wiped out the small savings cushion they had built. With little left to cover their expenses, the family struggled to pay the rent and finally reached out to Issaquah Community Services (ICS) for assistance.

See **Bri**, page 4

Make a Difference in Your Community

A Message from Issaquah Mayor Mark Mullet

As Mayor, one of the things I value most about Issaquah is the way our community shows great empathy for each other.

That spirit is found in what Issaquah Community Services (ICS) does for our community every day. When a neighbor faces an unexpected hardship, ICS has programs to help keep a family in their home or their essential services connected.

This work is powered by local residents. ICS relies entirely on local donations and grants, which means every contribution matters.

It's a great reminder that making a difference doesn't always require a big commitment.



Donate if you can. Volunteer for an afternoon. Check in on a neighbor. Support a local organization doing good work. Small acts of service, multiplied across our community, can have an incredible impact.

Issaquah Community Services is an all volunteer 501 (c)(3) nonprofit that relies on local giving to help neighbors in crisis pay rent and utilities.

Learn more and donate at: www.IssaquahCommunityServices.org

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

When a single missed rent payment could have derailed his future, Charles found the support he needed to keep moving forward.

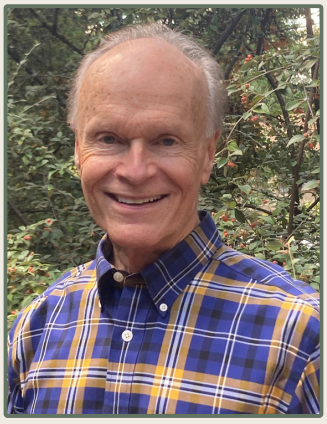
Charles is a single father living with his three-year-old daughter in a Sammamish apartment and pursuing his dream of becoming a firefighter. Recently, he completed a required EMT course and took part in a Fire Prep program at a local station—all while working at a restaurant to support himself and his daughter. Although he prioritized paying rent, the cost of tuition and books, combined with reduced work hours during training, depleted his savings and left him short on cash.



Anticipating this shortfall, Charles contacted his landlord, who encouraged him to reach out to ICS. We were able to step in and provide the vital financial assistance needed to bridge the gap. This allowed Charles to stay current on rent and avoid a potential eviction. He then worked with his apartment manager to establish a manageable payment plan and regain stability during a critical moment.

Today, Charles is focused on the next steps toward his firefighting career, including applying for positions and continuing his training. He shared that the support from ICS made a profound difference---lifting a heavy burden and giving him peace of mind that he and his daughter would be okay. With stable housing secured, he can now focus on building a better future for his family. He encourages others who are facing hard times to seek help, noting that ICS volunteers were understanding, non-judgmental, and genuinely committed to helping people improve their circumstances.

Meet Richard: Novelist, Problem-Solver, Community Volunteer



"Although we live in a relatively affluent area, many of our neighbors—whom we probably have never met—are struggling, often through no fault of their own."

Richard Sanford joined Issaquah Community Services in February 2026, bringing with him a remarkable range of experience and a deep commitment to community. In addition to a 25-year career as a technical communicator at Boeing—focused on user documentation, procedures, and online systems—Richard also worked as a software project manager for gaming companies and earlier as a small press editor and restaurateur. He is the author of six published novels, and that storytelling background informs his clear communication, attention to detail, and understanding of people—skills he now applies to his volunteer work at ICS.

Working both in the office and remotely, Richard interacts directly with clients, assists with procedures and provides technical support for ICS's online systems. He has helped streamline processes, including developing tools to better track assistance requests. Drawing on his background in documentation and systems, he is now contributing to efforts to improve ICS procedures—helping to ensure uniformity and efficiency.

See **Richard**, page 5

BUILT ON TRUST, POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

by Cris Wilkinson, ICS Board President



After many years of volunteering with Issaquah Community Services (ICS), including serving as Vice President, I feel especially honored to serve now as Board President. During my years with ICS, I have seen firsthand the dedication, experience, and care our volunteers bring to their work—and how effectively an all-volunteer organization can serve our community.

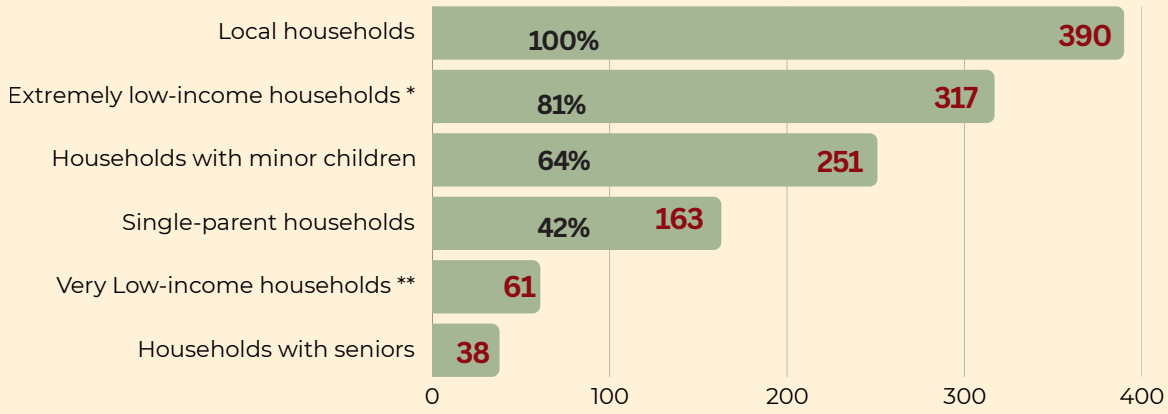
Every aspect of our work is carried out by dedicated volunteers—from our working board and client application processing to outreach, technology, fundraising, website management, and finance. Our volunteers bring a wide range of experience or simply a willingness to learn. Each volunteer plays an important role in keeping our organization effective, responsive, and focused on those who need assistance.

Because we have zero paid staff, our minimal administrative expenses allow for every donation to go directly to helping clients. We rely on operational grants to cover our very low overhead of 1-2%.

Being all-volunteer does not mean being informal or unstructured. ICS maintains strong systems and accountability. Our fraud detection team is a good example. Trained volunteers carefully review applications, flag concerns, and verify information to ensure that assistance reaches those who truly qualify. This thorough process reflects our commitment to responsible stewardship and professionalism. We take seriously our responsibility to use donated funds wisely and ensure they reach qualifying local households facing financial hardship.

ICS demonstrates that an all-volunteer organization can deliver meaningful, reliable support—powered by community, guided by integrity, and dedicated to helping neighbors through difficult times.

Who We Helped in the First 9 Months of 2026



Household categories may overlap, Numbers are not additive.

* An **extremely low-income** household of four in King County makes less than $49,300 per year.

** A **very low-income** household of four makes between $49,300 and $82,200 per year.

How Much

$235,284

Your donation dollars

For rent and utility assistance

$24,000

Salvation Army and PSE funds

For rent and utility assistance

WHEN RETIREMENT INCOME ISN'T ENOUGH

At 71, Arlinda had worked hard to build a secure retirement. But living on just $1,250 a month in Social Security, she was struggling to make ends meet. Although she was living in subsidized housing, her $750 monthly rent consumed a large portion of her income and she was having to dip into her savings.



After her savings were depleted, Arlinda began relying on credit cards to cover basic expenses. Eventually, she found herself falling behind on her rent and worried about how she would keep up with her monthly bills. With few options left, she reached out to ICS for help.

ICS was able to bring Arlinda's rent current, giving her some much-needed financial breathing room and helping her remain securely housed. The assistance also gave her the opportunity to take a step back and look for ways to make her limited income stretch further.

The volunteers at ICS encouraged Arlinda to take advantage of the Issaquah Food Bank and other local resources that could help reduce her monthly expenses and provide additional support. Connecting her with these resources was an important part of helping her move toward greater financial stability.

By showing seniors how to build connections to a wider network of community aid, ICS expands the options available to clients on fixed incomes, helping them maximize their limited resources and securely navigate today's uncertain economy.

Local Giving, Local Impact

At ICS, every dollar stays local. All funding comes from local donations and grants—we receive no state or federal funds. Your generosity directly supports neighbors in need within the Issaquah School District. Because we are a 100% volunteer-run organization, every contribution goes towards helping clients facing financial emergencies. Your support helps families stay housed, keep utilities on, and navigate difficult times.

There are many ways you can give.

- Annual donation
- Monthly gift
- IRA direct gift
- Donor-advised fund



- Business sponsorship
- Employer match
- Charitable bequest
- Volunteering

Learn more on our website:
www.issaquahcommunityservices.org/donate

Bri from page 1

ICS provided critical support, paying their rent and ensuring their family could stay safely in the place they call home. Before receiving help, Bri said she and her husband felt "entirely stressed," and they could see the strain affecting their children. The relief provided by ICS restored calm to their lives. As Bri put it, "It shifted the energy in the home, and we could finally breathe again."

Bri is deeply appreciative of the support she received from ICS. "The people who volunteer were so kind and understanding," she said. "They did not make us feel bad for needing help; they provided so much assurance and also additional resources."

When parents worry about keeping a roof over their children's heads, it can be difficult to focus on anything else. By helping Bri and her husband through a temporary financial crisis, ICS gave them a chance to regain their footing and focus on caring for their children.

Bri would like others in the community to know that it's okay to seek help during difficult times. She said, "Everybody needs help at some point in their lives, and Issaquah is a community that cares."

Partner Corner

ICS is deeply grateful to **St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Issaquah** for its longstanding partnership and generous support. For decades, St. Joseph's has provided both donations and dedicated volunteers, and has often highlighted ICS in its media, raising awareness of our mission.



Our history runs deep: in 1985, when ICS faced closure due to a severe lack of resources, it was the vision and commitment of the St. Joseph's community that revived our organization and helped shape it into the vital resource it is today. Their enduring dedication truly embodies the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors, and we are profoundly honored to call them our partners.

Windermere Real Estate Issaquah has supported ICS for more than 8 years through generous community grants. Since establishing a presence in Issaquah decades ago, Windermere has been committed to strengthening the communities it serves, combining real estate expertise with a strong culture of giving back. Their continuing support of ICS has helped provide critical assistance to local families. We are thankful for Windermere's ongoing dedication to our shared mission of helping neighbors and building a more compassionate community.



Does your business or organization share our passion for making a difference in the Issaquah/Sammamish community? We would welcome your partnership. Please email info@issaquahcommunityservices.org to start the conversation.

An Annual Celebration
at
St Michael and
All Angels Church

All proceeds assist local families in need through Issaquah Community Services



Sunday, December 13, at 2:30 p.m.

Whether you love to sing, or simply enjoy listening, everyone is welcome to this joyful afternoon of music.

A BENEFIT FOR ICS
Issaquah Community Services

St Michael and All Angels Church
325 SE Darst St, Issaquah, Washington
www.stmichaels-issaquah.org
425-392-3215

Richard from page 2

A longtime Issaquah resident, Richard has also served on the Issaquah Development Commission and mentored students in local schools. At ICS, he finds great satisfaction in helping families pull through difficult times.

In his words: "With the time that you donate, you are making a meaningful difference. You work with skilled, engaged people from a variety of backgrounds who share a commitment. You help people in your community maintain their stability and dignity and allow their children to thrive."

Issaquah Community Services
PO Box 669
Issaquah, WA 98027

Evictions are rising sharply across King County.



Your generosity helps keep local families housed and secure.

Issaquah Community Services

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Donate by credit card, PayPal, or Venmo at our website:
www.issaquahcommunityservices.org/donate
or mail your check, payable to Issaquah Community Services, along with this form to:
Issaquah Community Services, PO Box 669, Issaquah, WA 98027

ICS is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit

NAME: _____
ADDRESS:_____
CITY/ZIP:_____
EMAIL: _____

Enclosed is my gift of $_____

My gift is in memory of _____

May we acknowledge your giving on our website? Yes __No__

Please visit our website to learn about volunteering, recurring payments, employer match, and other ways to give.

100% of your donations go to neighbors in need.

Thank you