

Goodbye Dear Friend

Last month, we unexpectedly lost a beloved member of our ICS family. **Dave Saluskin, Hygiene Center Coordinator**, cherished colleague and dear friend to many, passed away after a sudden illness.

Dave was a cherished member of our community for over 25 years, caring for our neighbors experiencing homelessness in the ICS Hygiene Center and making a lasting impact on all who knew him.

Dave originally came to ICS as a guest in our Hygiene Center. He grew up on the reservation in Yakima and lived on the streets for many years before making his way to ICS where he found a home and a purpose.

He helped out around Hygiene, cleaning each day after it closed. Later, he assisted around the building— always ready to change a lightbulb or fix a door - and eventually started living onsite as caretaker until he moved into his own apartment.

Dave's unwavering compassion for members of our Hygiene Center and Recovery Shelter communities exemplified the best of who we are as an organization.

This has been a very difficult time for his friends and "family" in the ICS Hygiene Center, ICS Recovery Shelter and entire Immanuel Community Services & Immanuel Lutheran communities.

A memorial service to honor Dave will be held, **Sunday, September 22nd, 1pm.** (Immanuel Lutheran Church—1215 Thomas Street, Seattle, WA 98109).

Dave, you are deeply missed, but your spirit of compassion will live on at ICS forever. We hope to continue your legacy of kindness and service.



Thank You Dave.....

Messages to Dave from Hygiene Center guests & Recovery Shelter residents:

"Rest in peace Dave. Thank you for helping me all these years. Never will forget the joy, laughs and humor you brought to all of us. Love you, Dave. You take care up there. Will always miss your smile"

"Freakin' Dave. I'm sorry but I'm still going to respect your (like always). I'm really, really going to miss your face. It's not going to be the same around here at all without you.... Real love you did have thought, and thank you for keeping me grounded as long as your did!"

"Dave, I shall never forget the friendship we shared. You helped me more than you might know. Your friendship & support and encouragement helped me through some very dark and difficult times in my life. I wish you peace.... You will be remembered as a good man, humble and helpful to the many that you came across at your time at ICS. I wish I would have been able to see you before your departure to let you know how much your friendship meant to me, but I think you know."

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**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Community of
Hope
Thursday,
October 24th



Save the Date!!



Join us at the **2024 Community of Hope Luncheon** celebrating **45 years** of unwavering service and commitment to our community!

Since 1979, Immanuel Community Services has served the most vulnerable in our community providing food, shelter and basic human needs.

Help us celebrate 45 years of caring for our neighbors experiencing hunger & homelessness.

*Mark your calendars for **Thursday, October 24th** for the **Community of Hope Luncheon** !!*

Be a part of the celebration!!

- Be a table host and invite your family, colleagues and friends to know more about ICS.
- Help plan or set-up for the event.
- Sponsor the event!!



You won't want to miss this event! We will hear stories & music from former clients, welcome a special guest speaker and honor our 2024 Spirit of Hope recipient!

Please email Natalie to Sponsor, be a Table Host or volunteering! natalie@icsseattle.org

Urgent Action Alert: Say No to SODA/SOAP Laws!

Two harmful laws are before the Seattle City Council and we need your help!

One would create two large **"Stay Out of Drug Areas" (SODAs)** in Downtown Seattle & International District.

The other would reinstate the old prostitution loitering law and establish a

"Stay Out of Area Prostitution" (SOAP) zone on Aurora Ave.

These laws will disproportionately harm people experiencing homelessness, low-income individuals and people of color, without providing resources for real solutions like housing, addiction treatment or mental health support.

We urge Seattle residents and workers to contact their city council members.

Make your voice heard here: <https://bit.ly/NOSOAPSODA> and <https://bit.ly/noSODASOAP>

Welcome New ICS Staff!

Kayla Mildren—Homeless Services Manager



Kayla has worked in the social services sector for over 10 years & served diverse populations across different areas of need, including foster care and domestic violence. She has a Masters in Human Services from Liberty University and is bilingual in Spanish having spent many years living abroad in Mexico and Guatemala. In her personal time, she loves to cook, kayak, swim, travel and sing. Kayla says she loves "serving my community and helping bridge the gap for people to get the help they need"!

Caroline Roers—Food Services Coordinator



Caroline joins this role after volunteering in the food bank & revitalizing the volunteer program. Previously, she worked in public relations and as a Senior Program Manager at Amazon, focusing on leadership development. Passionate about service, Caroline is thrilled to dedicate her efforts entirely to supporting the community. She holds a BA in Corporate Communications from Marquette University and a Program Management Certificate from the University of Washington. In her free time, Caroline enjoys swimming at Greenlake, hiking with her dog, and reading.

Volunteer Spotlight

Sherianne (Sam) Caldwell is a dedicated volunteer at ICS, contributing her time and energy every week. On Mondays, she helps out in the Food Bank, and on Thursdays, she cooks breakfast and lunch for guests at the ICS Hygiene Center. Sam is known for her willingness to go above and beyond, always ready to lend a hand wherever needed.

Sam began volunteering with ICS after learning more about the vital work we do. When she retired, she knew she wanted to give back and be of service to others. Her desire to be useful led her to ICS, where she found a way to make a meaningful impact.

When asked what she loves most about volunteering with ICS, Sam shared, ***"Watching the reactions of people who realize that we care, no strings attached, and that we're here to help."*** This genuine connection and sense of purpose keep her coming back each week.

Sam encourages others to get involved, saying, "There is something for everyone to do, no matter your skill set—you'll always be useful." And we couldn't agree more! She adds with a smile, "It's more fun than any retired person should be allowed to have!"



Healing Power of Community

By Shawna McMahon, Executive Director



Community.

People talk about community a lot - about the importance of Community. Connection. Belonging.

Here at ICS, Community is one of our core values and reflected in all our programs. We strive to build relationships and be a place where people can become connected and involved, working together to rekindle hope, maintain dignity and create a community of belonging. Hope. Dignity. Community.

Community comes to life in many ways around ICS:

- For the Hygiene Center guests who have no stable home, ICS is their community. By providing a safe and welcoming environment, they have a place where they feel like they belong. We meet them where they are and support them in whatever way they need and they support one another the way that families do.
- For the shelter residents struggling to overcome addiction to drugs & alcohol, the ICS Recovery Shelter provides a safe and sober community of people that support one another and holds one another accountable, while working on their recovery and building a new life for themselves.
- Through all of our amazing community of volunteers who collect, sort, pack & distribute food and support the SLU Food Bank at ICS, shoppers have access to healthy nutritious food to fill their pantries and feed their families.
- In partnership with a large community of neighbors, partners, groups of volunteers and local grocery stores, we work together to provide over 33,000 meals a year to our neighbors experiencing hunger and those needing a hot nutritious meal and friendly conversation.

We believe in this commitment to Community and work for it every day to help folks imagine a different life for themselves without hunger or homelessness.

But recently, when Dave became sick and unexpectedly passed away (*see page 1*), we experienced Community in a whole new way.

The first few days when Dave was absent from the Hygiene Center, we were extremely short-handed and didn't know how we were going to manage. We also couldn't get the washing

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August is Make-a-Will Month!!

Did you know that August is dedicated to planning for the future? As you consider your legacy, we encourage you to think about including **Immanuel Community Services** in your will.

Your generosity can help ensure that we continue to provide vital support to those in need for years to come. A gift in your will, no matter the size, can make a lasting impact on our community. For more information, including links to free resources, email Natalie at natalie@icsseattle.org

Thank You! ICS Putt Putt 2024

THANK YOU so much to all who attended, volunteered, sponsored or donated to the ICS Annual Putt Putt Tournament!

Thanks to your support we raised \$19,365!

Congratulations to Team: *It's a (Sand) Trap!* for winning the Grand Prize of Most Funds Raised by a team!



Urgent: Volunteers Needed!!!

We urgently need volunteers to help prepare and serve meals to guests in our Hygiene Center on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The shift is from 10:30am-1:30pm and involves light cooking for about 30-50 people. If you are available or know someone who might be interested, please email Caroline Roers, Food Services Manager, at foodbank@icsseattle.org.

Thank you for helping us spread the word!

Needs List

- Regular & travel size deodorant
- T-shirts—Men's L-XL
- New men's underwear (M-XL)
- Full size shampoo & conditioner
- Lotion & Sunscreen
- Twin-size twin bed sheet sets

Healing Power of Community, *continued from page 3*

machine to work correctly. A Hygiene Center guest volunteered to sit in the laundry room to take care of all the laundry for everyone. He ended up wringing all the laundry out—by hand, all day.

Another guest, who used to have the hardest time packing up and leaving on time when the Center closed, took it upon himself to become the timekeeper each day. He started waking people up, giving regular warnings and then helped guests pack up and leave on time.

When the shower clogged, causing water to spill all over, one of our long-time guests shooed the staff out of the bathroom. He unclogged the shower and then cleaned up all the water that had flooded the bathroom and gym floor.

A former resident of our Recovery Shelter volunteered to come every day to staff the front door, greet guests and walked around to make sure people signed in. Still other guests set up tables and the hand washing station for lunch and helped staff with whatever was needed. Current shelter residents mopped the floors and cleaned the bathroom every day.

This continued for over a month.

We work every day to create a safe welcoming community for the people we serve at ICS. A place where they are seen and known. A place where they feel welcome and safe while receiving the basic human services they need to survive. But at this challenging time filled with uncertainty and grief, the guests and residents stepped up for us and wrapped us in community. The entire ICS Hygiene Center & Recovery Shelter community came together and made sure that we could still operate, despite Dave's absence. It was healing, beautiful, moving and is something that taught me even more about the healing power of Community. I will be forever grateful for this community.

Shawna