

INTERCULTURAL SENIOR CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020



From the Director

When the Intercultural Senior Center halted in-person programming in March 2020, we had no idea what to expect next. How could we continue our mission of serving diverse seniors without welcoming them to our center with a smile and kind words? The answer presented itself the very next day when our phones started ringing non-stop. Older adults, among the most vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19, found themselves isolated and unsure how they would get food.

Do you remember the fear and uncertainty of those days? We heard it in seniors' voices as they described how the barriers of transportation, poverty, language, and culture, in addition to social distancing, made them worry about getting basic needs and surviving the pandemic.

The calls haven't stopped, and thanks to ISC's supporters and community partners, more seniors than ever have felt our community's care and generosity during the long months of 2020. This report outlines the changes and growth ISC experienced throughout the year. 2021 will bring new opportunities, and I invite you to make space in our future society for older adults to share their gifts across cultures and generations.

Warm regards,

Carolina Padilla
Executive Director

**I am truly grateful
and thankful for the
food you gave me. It
is much needed at
this terrible time.**

**--ISC food pantry
recipient, April 2020**



Intercultural
SENIOR CENTER

Meet Jesse Espinosa ISC Donor and Board Member

What attracted you to helping seniors?

Our older generation holds so much knowledge and wisdom. They helped pave the road of change for all of us and we benefit today from the hard work they put in before us.

What attracted you to the Intercultural Senior Center in particular?

ISC leads with love and caring attention. Executive Director Carolina Padilla has done an excellent job of surrounding herself with employees who share her same fervor for caring for seniors.

In your opinion, what is the most important work that ISC does?

Human interaction. Isolation can lead to depression and ISC provides an opportunity for seniors to come together each day, exchange thoughts and ideas, learn languages and teach others valuable skills. This type of interaction is making a positive impact in once isolated seniors.

Why do you donate?

I believe strongly in the honest efforts put forth by ISC and its leadership. Carolina and her team truly care and worry that a lack of funds could impact how much they can offer help to our senior community.

2020 TIMELINE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January to March 12

- Offered regular services and in-person attendance
- Established community food pantry for older adults with Food Bank for Heartland

March 13 to May



- Suspended in-person programs
- Saw rapid increase of clients seeking food pantry services and expanded that program quickly to meet demand
- Earned SAGECare credential for senior services for LGBTQIA+ individuals and their caregivers

June to August

- Launched SAVE Bus, a mobile workspace for social workers
- Started meal delivery
- Hosted several farmers markets
- Piloted limited in-person programs
- Started ISC Classroom Connect on Facebook, along with other opportunities to socialize and learn online and over the phone



September to December

- Added new staff members, including a health care coordinator and community liaisons to build relationships with new clients groups
- Held a socially-distanced Day of the Dead commemoration
- Celebrated holidays by delivering special meals, pumpkin pies, and gift bags for every senior

In August, ISC's BASH 2020 event raised over \$65,000 to support ISC's food pantry services. Thank you to these generous sponsors:

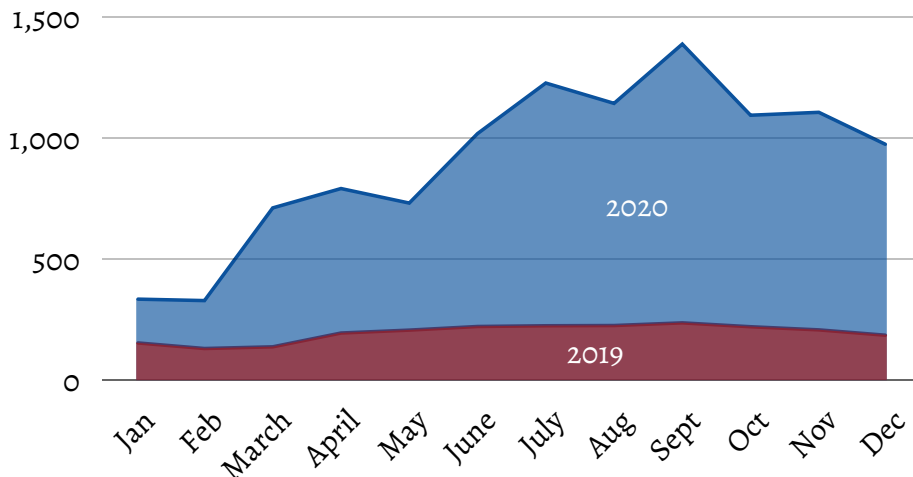
American Machine Works • Kiewit Companies Foundation • Weitz Family Foundation • Kirk and Teresa Kellner • Deborah Macdonald • FNBO • Paul and Annette Smith • Todd and Betiana Simon Foundation • Union Pacific • Wells Fargo • Richard and Jessica Thompson • Prime Choice Insurance • Blue Cross Blue Shield • Camila's Spice Inc. • Immanuel • Security National Bank • Pinnacle Bank • Orfa and David Link • Valmont • Drs. Ed and Mary Lee Fitzsimmons • Shannon and Mike Peter • Cassandra Carmicheal • Briana and David Ruhl • Daniel A. Padilla • Carol Russell • Eunice Vargas • Karla and Scott Cassels • Sisters of Mercy • State Farm/Monica Rodriguez

SERVICE FACTS AND FIGURES

Number of older adults served in 2019: 388

Number of older adults served in 2020: 2,156

Number of older adults served by month:



**8554 Meals
Delivered**



**9763 Pantries
Delivered**



**6220 Activity
Packages Delivered**



ISC's services would not be possible without partnerships with other agencies. Thank you to the following community partners:

Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging, Food Bank of the Heartland, Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue, No More Empty Pots, Catholic Charities, International Bakery, Tri-Faith Initiative garden, Big Garden, OneWorld Community Health Centers, CHI Health, THINK, Together, Heart Ministry Center, Opera Omaha, Merry Makers, Heartland Workers Center, Immigrant Legal Center, Refugee Empowerment Center, United Way 2-1-1, Sarpy/Cass Department of Health, Douglas County Department of Health, Whispering Roots, Methodist, Alzheimer's Association, Latino Center of the Midlands, Clarkson College, Creighton University, University of Nebraska Omaha, Lending Link, Restoring Dignity, Omaha Children's Museum, Omaha Performing Arts, St. Vincent de Paul

Meet Deb Macdonald ISC Monthly Donor

What attracted you to helping seniors?

I believe every person of every age, gender, and culture is deserving of respect, but the elderly are often overlooked. Just as they have contributed all of their gifts to our society for as long as they were able, I think our society owes them thanks, at a minimum, in the form of affordable housing, health care and freedom from food insecurity.

In your opinion, what is the most important work that ISC does?

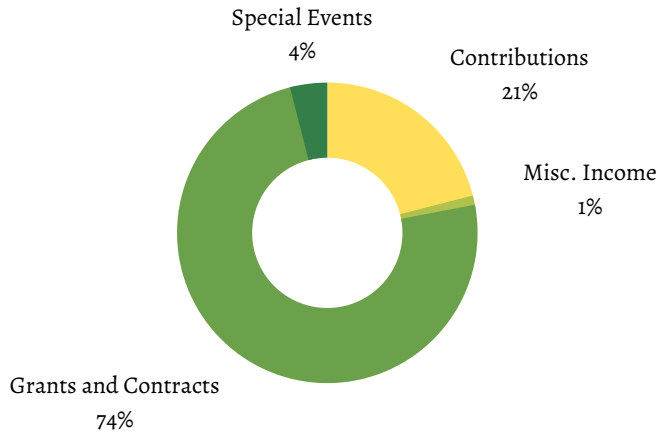
In the current environment, the food pantry and associated programs are critical to the needs of seniors in our community. Providing seniors not only with food delivered to their door, but also transportation for doctor appointments, companionship and wellness checks has provided not only food for their bodies but food for their souls.

Why do you donate every month?

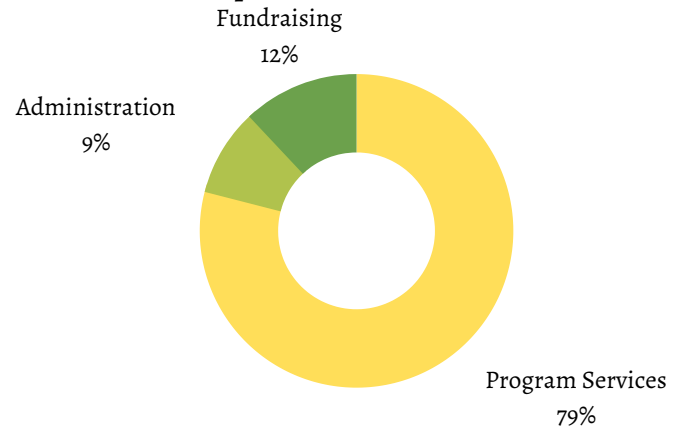
I donate monthly because the need is so great right now, and a regularly scheduled monthly donation helps the Center manage the tremendous growth in need for these services. Not many organizations see their client base grow so much in the course of a year. It is a wonderful accomplishment. I'm proud to play a small part in ISC's mission and I plan to continue my support indefinitely.

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

Revenues: \$1,813,989



Expenses: \$1,394,032



Visit www.interculturalseniorcenter.org for complete financial reports



The Best Practice Partnership designation from the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands is given to nonprofit organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to transparency, accountability and compliance.



ISC has earned a 2021 Gold Seal of Transparency on Guidestar. Our updated nonprofit profile is available online at <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/27-2460810>



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The Intercultural Senior Center improves the dignity, quality of life and physical well-being of seniors from around the world through advocacy, education, access to social services, and cultural enrichment activities that benefit the entire community.

We envision an Omaha that values the wisdom and experience of our diverse elders and creates opportunities for them to embrace and enhance their community.



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As of September 1, 2020

www.interculturalseniorcenter.org