

An Abundance of Holiday Giving

Holiday activities were bustling at Irving Cares during the months of November and December.

Our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive was held during the entire month of November. Irving Cares received 20,293 pounds of food donations during this month. The top three donors were: Farine Elementary School (1,670 pounds), Nimitz High School (1,295 pounds), and MJB Wood Group (988 pounds).

Our annual Christmas Food Drive was held during the entire month of December. Irving Cares received 24,623 pounds of food donations during this month. The top three donors were: Bowie Middle School (2,492 pounds), Baylor

Medical Center at Irving (1,141 pounds), and NCH Corporation (1,087 pounds).

Both holiday food drive months required extra manpower to assist Irving Cares volunteers. We are extremely grateful for the volunteer teams from Commercial Metals, G & C Direct Mail Marketing, HoltCat, Las Colinas Medical Center, Piedmont Realty Trust, and Time Warner Cable. Thanks for a job well done!

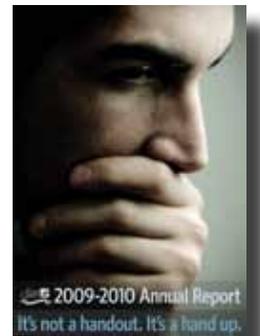
Irving Cares celebrates the gifts of food and labor that we, in turn, were able to pass onto families in need and crisis throughout the holiday season. Please see Page 7 for more information.

Annual Report Available

You can find the annual report for our fiscal year ended 3/31/10 at <http://www.irvingcares.org/ICAnnualReport2010.pdf>

Some highlights include:

2010 was a very tough year for food donations. While we experienced a 31% increase in the number of families served through the Food Pantry, donations of food decreased 16%, resulting in higher expenses for food purchased.



An increase in government funding through the Emergency Food & Shelter Program's Stimulus Funding raised our government revenue, gifts from corporations increased, and gifts from individuals and in-kind food donations decreased.

Expenses for programs that benefit our clients increased 12.8%, raising the percentage of program expenses to a very admirable 82.2% vs the industry standard of 75%. Expenses for fundraising and management & general remain frugal, a result of which we are very proud.

Please see the year-to-year comparison chart on Page 4.

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From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Once again this spring, Alan Feinstein is presenting an opportunity to leverage your contribution to the **fight against hunger**. This 14th annual \$1 million

giveaway distributes proportionately matching funds among nonprofits throughout the country that are helping feed their community.

Between March 1 and April 30, Irving Cares will report every dollar (and pound of food) collected from the use of this challenge to the Feinstein Foundation in Rhode Island which will divide the \$1 million. See Alan's personal letter (**on page 3**) to learn how you can participate in what has become the most successful grassroots campaign to fight hunger in our country!

We appreciate your past support, and we hope we can count on you again.

Even more exciting and new this year, the **Belmont Foundation** is offering a dollar-for-dollar match for monies raised through the Fiscal Year End Appeal. **Every dollar you donate between March 1 and March 31 will be doubled**; up to \$25,000 is available, and we need it all to feed our community.

Last year the average gift was \$146. This year, if 167 families donate \$150, we can maximize the generosity of the Belmont Foundation and ensure that our hungry neighbors have the nutrition they need.

Irving Cares currently feeds an average 560 families a month with approximately 85 pounds of emergency groceries per order.

Between March 1 and March 31, your generous gift of \$50, \$100, \$150 or more will double your impact on the fight against hunger in Irving. Thank you.

At Irving Cares, it's not a handout, it's a hand up.

We couldn't do it without you.

Everyday Is An Opportunity to Share Your Love And Help

For 2011, Mother's Day is May 8, and Father's Day is June 19, and of course, birthdays or anniversaries can be celebrated, too! This gift-giving opportunity was joyously celebrated during the winter holidays, as honorarium donations benefitted Irving residents facing a variety of short term challenges.

The Mother's and Father's Day Appeal benefiting Irving Cares is designed to give you another way to honor or remember men and women who have been important in your life. Brothers, Sisters, Aunts, Uncles, Mentors, Mothers, Fathers, Grandfathers or Grandmothers; all are included.

For each donation made to Irving Cares in honor or memory of a special person, a very special note will be mailed to your honoree or remembered family letting them know that an *empowering gift* was made in their name, and how your partnership is helping provide opportunities for low- to moderate-income residents to pursue success in their lives with dignity. Your gift gives twice!

To make a donation in honor of a special occasion, it's this easy: complete your secure gift online at www.irvingcares.org, or send a check to Irving Cares, PO Box 177425, Irving, Texas 75017-7425 with the occasion, name and address where you want your special card mailed.



Feinstein Letter

Alan Shawn Feinstein
37 Alhambra Circle
Cranston, RI 02905

Dear Friends of Irving Cares:

Please use MY money to help your neighbors in need!

My name is Alan Shawn Feinstein. For the past 13 years, I have been giving away \$1 million a year to anti hunger agencies throughout the country. This year, I am doing it again...

WHATEVER YOU DONATE TO THIS AGENCY, I WILL ADD MONEY TO IT. THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE OF MY \$1 MILLION THEY'LL GET—THANKS TO YOU!

Why am I doing this? Because we were each put here on earth to do what we can to help those in need. You got this letter because we feel that YOU believe that, too. This has become the greatest grass roots campaign ever to fight hunger in our country. Your donation makes you a partner in it with me!

My money started this campaign but it is YOU who will help decide how many needy people in your city will be fed this year. All that will matter to us someday is what we did while we were here to help those who needed us.

We Are Needed Now!

Please give whatever you can - I will gladly add some of my money to yours. (My \$1 million will be divided in full proportionately among the agencies receiving Donations toward my offer.)

Thank you for sharing my heart, and the hope that—someday—no one will ever go hungry.

Sincerely Yours,
Alan Shawn Feinstein, CEO
The Feinstein Foundation

Eat Wings, Raise Funds

At Buffalo Wild Wings, they strive to be a proud supporter of our community and the people and organizations within it. They pride themselves in not being just another restaurant chain and strongly believe that if they support our community, our community will, in-turn, support them.

Dine at Buffalo Wild Wings at 1200 Market Place (on 635 near MacArthur Blvd.) on the second Monday of each month, and they will donate 10% of food sales back to Irving Cares. No coupon or flyer is required – just tell your server you are there to support Irving Cares. It's a great way to raise money for us while enjoying some of the best wings in town!



Audit Figures

continued from Page 1

Revenue	Mar 31, 2009	Mar 31, 2010
Individual	\$340,233	\$262,636
Corporate	\$298,607	\$332,323
In Kind Food	\$249,422	\$208,121
Foundation	\$226,234	\$195,402
United Way	\$148,238	\$144,122
Government	\$48,068	\$136,820
Faith Community	\$38,342	\$42,263
Interest	\$6,374	\$3,399
Total	\$1,355,518	\$1,325,086

Expenses	Mar 31, 2009	Mar 31, 2010
Programs	\$986,206	\$1,112,713
Fundraising	\$140,560	\$129,720
Management & General	\$97,071	\$110,502
Total	\$1,223,837	\$1,352,935
Clients Served	30,288	37,530

Recent Financial Support

Donor	Amount	Category
BAE Systems	\$2,000	Client Rental Assistance
Belmont Foundation	\$15,000	Food Purchases
Dallas Mavericks Foundation	\$25,000	Food Purchases
Ginger Murchison Foundation	\$15,000	Food Purchases
Michael Huff II	\$2,400	Food Purchases
Monitronics International	\$1,500	General Operating
TXU Energy	\$68,543	Client Utility Assistance
Whataburger	\$300	General Operating honoring their new store

Mark Your Calendar

19th Annual NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Letter carriers will collect donated food as they deliver mail along their postal routes in more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions.



Irving Cares receives about half of the donations from Irving routes, and last year's food drive donated 5,110 pounds.

Employment Assistance

Sarah, a middle aged lady, contacted Irving Cares for assistance with her mortgage. She had lost her job of ten years after being hospitalized for mental issues. During the time it took her to find a new job, she used up all of her savings. Her adult daughter moved in with her about this same time with her three small children, because she was also without a job and also had surgery. Irving Cares paid a portion of her mortgage payment, and the good news is Sarah's new job will pay her enough to get her finances back in order. Her daughter is also starting a new job and will be able to contribute to the household expenses. Sarah is also looking for a part-time job in addition to her full-time job to help her get ahead financially and replace the savings she had to use.

SUCCESS

Chris Avila, UTA Intern

Irving Cares became an affiliate of the UTA School of Social Work as a practicum site for undergraduate students. This gives Irving Cares the opportunity to provide a work site for social work students completing their degrees.

“One of our long-standing goals has been to host social work interns. They will increase our capacity to provide services to Irving residents, and give existing staff a window to current trends and best practices in social

work studies,” says Teddie Story, Irving Cares Executive Director.

Chris Avila, originally from Duncanville, is the Irving Cares intern in the 2010-11 academic year. Chris is a member of Episcopal Church of the Redeemer where he volunteers in youth ministry and sits on the Outreach Committee. Chris’ passion for serving others drives him to pursue a career in social work and sign language interpretation. Skills from his sign language coursework benefited an Irving Cares client as shown in the photo. With goals of extending services to at risk populations, he also plans to study the ethical integration of faith into practice.

Working at Irving Cares gives Chris the opportunity to practice theories learned in the classroom. He can observe the organizational, collaborative and leadership skills of the volunteers and experienced staff who administer a wide range of services. Chris uses his people skills while gaining valuable experience serving as a part-time Emergency Assistance Case Manager helping clients with financial assistance, food, information and referrals.

This affiliation with UTA is an example of how Irving Cares works with other agencies and organizations for greater impact and effectiveness.



Point in Time Homeless Count and Survey

The Irving Point in Time Homeless Count and Survey is a one-day event, cosponsored by the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, the City of Irving Board of Health and the Poverty and Homeless Coalition of Irving. This event is required by HUD and helps us validate the need for services.

In cities with a homeless shelter, the count is performed in the evening on a night that is usually very cold, with the thought that unsheltered persons will go to the shelter. As Irving does not have a homeless shelter, this model doesn’t work for us.

As one of the service providers that are members of the Poverty and Homeless Coalition, volunteers and staff from Irving Cares participated again this year. On January 27, we held a breakfast at First United Methodist Church. At the event, we provided a meal and some take-away resources such as clothing, hygiene products, non-perishable food and pertinent program information in backpacks or bags. Volunteers and staff assisted the homeless persons in completing

the survey. Field teams were deployed with Police and Fire support, going into the community to survey homeless persons who did not attend the event.

An estimated 20 persons completed surveys, and agencies such as Brighter Tomorrows, Housing & Human Services, Salvation Army, Urban League and various churches throughout the city that provide services to homeless persons will also tally their clients. We will report back when numbers are final, but we anticipate there will not be a great deal of change in the results for this year.

Last year’s Homeless Count and Survey showed 92 people who met HUD’s definition of homeless as persons living in places not meant for sleeping, in emergency shelters, and those in transitional or supportive housing. An additional 499 people met a broader definition of homeless which includes people living in doubled up situations, where more than one family unit shares a single residence.

Persons surveyed told many compelling

stories. George has held construction jobs for many years, and working for a local company, he was able to afford to live in his own apartment until the owner of the company closed the business. He was unable to find steady employment because he has some jail time in his history which severely limits his options for employment and for housing in Irving. He lost his apartment and now sleeps in his truck behind a business. He continues to look for a company that will hire him so that he can get back into an apartment, but in the meantime, he paints house numbers on curbs to try to save enough money for a housing deposit and first month’s rent. He is extremely humbled by his current situation. He took only one coat and one bag of supplies, because he said that was all he needed. He left the other supplies for people who need it more than he.

We thank the many volunteers who helped at the event. This effort is the only way we can validate the needs of this population, and help us find ways to create programs to meet those needs.

Now Hiring for a Paid Summer Internship

Irving Cares has been selected to participate in the **2011 ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program**. Funded by ExxonMobil and administered through the Volunteer Center of North Texas, each year the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program provides full-time college students with eight-week paid internships to gain experience in a wide range of nonprofit community organizations. Our Employment Service Manager, Mary Shelton is now accepting applications for an Employment Services Case Worker Intern.

During eight weeks this summer the intern will be responsible for learning about the Employment Services Program at Irving Cares, working with clients to help them obtain employment, building community partnerships, brainstorming marketing ideas, and conducting a Job Search Seminar. The applicant must be willing to commit to Irving Cares for eight weeks this summer and be a full-time (minimum 12 credit hours per semester) college sophomore, junior, or senior - in the fall of 2011.

This is a terrific opportunity for the right candidate to gain practical experience in a busy social service agency environment. "As a case management intern for the Irving Cares Jobs Program, I considered it a welcome challenge to be a resource for clients during their time of personal crisis. Also, through my internship, I was fortunate enough to gain valuable insight into the inner workings of a non-profit organization," remarked a former intern. "I have no doubt that it'll be a great experience for the student chosen this year!"



If you, or someone you know, wants to make a difference in the lives of needy families and do more this summer than answer the phones, call Mary Shelton at 972-721-9181 ext. 207 or email mshelton@irvingcares.org. **The deadline for submitting a cover letter with resume and writing sample is March 11, 2011.**

Easy Ways to Make a Difference

Now and in Perpetuity

Did you know that online giving can be set up as a recurring gift opportunity? Some donors have chosen to make gifts to Irving Cares on a monthly basis. It's simple to do

at www.irvingcares.org and it adds up to making a huge difference for the neediest residents in our community. Another option for ensuring that Irving Cares is able to continue meeting needs in the future is to include the agency in your will

or estate planning. If you would like to learn more about this or to discuss other ways to leave a legacy, please contact Teddie Story at tstory@irvingcares.org, or Kimberly Humphries at khumphries@irvingcares.org.

Financial Assistance

Mr. Green called Irving Cares after receiving a disconnection notice on his water bill. He works and also attends school full time. He heard about the financial assistance program from his job at ATI where he works in the Student Learning Center. Irving Cares is shown on a list of student resources. Mr. Green is going to school to be a mechanic and will graduate at the end of January. He goes to school every day, has good grades, and is confident he will be able to secure a job at a car dealership in the next 30 days. Mr. Green also does odd jobs to supplement his income. He does tattoos or mechanical work, but because of the holidays, not many people have work for him. He said the holidays are supposed to be better, but for him this year, they're not better.

Irving Cares was able to assist Mr. Green with a portion of his water bill, and the disconnection was prevented. As part of the financial assistance program, he attended a Money Management Class at Irving Cares. On his Financial Education Evaluation, Mr. Green stated that he thinks he is on the right track, but that he does need a "savings plan." He also noted that he feels more confident that he will be able to pay his bills on time. When he left, Mr. Green was certain that he was going to be able to get through this difficult time.

SUCCESS STORY

Food Demand Remains High, Donations Lag

A Food Pantry order at Irving Cares contains approximately 85 pounds of nutritionally balanced groceries for a family in need. Current results show we serve an average of 560 families per month.

A long-standing goal in the Food Pantry is that 50% of the product distributed comes from food drives from the community.

Please consider supporting the Food Pantry by either hosting a food drive in your office, place of worship, or civic club. Find our grocery list at

Year	Pounds Needed	Percent Donated
2009	383,700	43%
2010	503,325	27%
2011 (estimated)	570,095	28%

<http://www.irvingcares.org/foodpantry.htm> and pick up a few items for our Pantry while you're shopping for your family, or make a financial gift that we can use to purchase items not donated. The annual budget for the Food Pantry includes \$184,000 in cash expenses for items not donated. Every gift counts!

Holiday Assistance Program Brings Results

Pam is 43 years old, single and was living on her own when her sister called and said she needed a place to stay. Her sister moved in with her two children, a boy and girl, ages 12 and 7. Pam receives a monthly Social Security check that provides the bulk of her income. She also works part-time as a home health aide to supplement her Social Security.

One day her sister left, and Pam has been trying to get legal custody her niece and nephew ever since. The paperwork can't be completed because Pam can't locate her sister to sign the papers. The unexpected expense of caring for two children on a limited income made Pam worried about the holidays. A counselor from John Haley Elementary

school referred the family to Irving Cares. Pam met with the case manager in November, and returned to attend money management class where she received \$300 holiday assistance toward her December rent and a \$50 Kroger gift card.

This program allows families with unexpected expenses during the holiday season to have the opportunity to still provide gifts for their kids. 44 different families were helped this year, a total of 69 adults and 136 children. The Money Management class they attend teaches them basic financial principles that will help guide them to be able to provide for themselves in the future.

Good Neighbors, Great Corporate Citizens!

Wells Real Estate Funds and Piedmont Office Management facilitate several donations annually to Irving Cares by forwarding 10% of vendor sales that occur in their building. These donations add up to a significant impact and give hope to needy Irving residents. Additionally, the building management team hosts a food drive during the holidays, and they bring in volunteers to help process donated goods. Irving Cares is grateful to the owners and managers of Sterling Commerce for their partnership. If you'd like to learn how you can host a food drive through your business or organization, contact Leigh Eitson at Leitson@irvingcares.org.

Mark your Calendars! The Great Harvest ~ An Evening to Care is Set

Many of you attended the very special first event at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas for the State of the City presentation. Make plans now to return to the fantastic Grand Ballroom on the top floor of the Center on Friday, September 16, 2011 for this year's gala benefiting Irving Cares. Co-chairpersons Nancy and Chris Heckman promise a night to remember in a very special venue. Sponsorships will soon be available, and anyone interested in volunteering on the Steering Committee should contact Teddie Story at 972-721-9181 x 203 or tstory@irvingcares.org.

THE GREAT HARVEST



Volunteer Spotlight

Irving Cares would like to introduce you to our volunteers who pick up food from the North Texas Food Bank. On a monthly average, they haul in approximately 12,500 pounds of food from the North Texas Food bank.

David Pekrul picks up our North Texas Food Bank food order every Tuesday morning. In addition to this volunteer responsibility, he also drives the Irving Cares van in city parades, and makes other pick-up runs as needed. He is a native Oklahoman, as well as an 11 year resident of Irving. David's other volunteer experiences include Irving North Christian Church and the Irving Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. He originally retired from the Navy after 20 years of service. He retired again from H & R Block. David finds "always being busy" the most rewarding part of his volunteer experience. He attends Irving North Christian Church and considers volunteering his favorite hobby.



Knowing he has "helped someone in need" in the community is what motivates **Darrel Story** to volunteer at Irving Cares. Darrel picks up free food donations from the North Texas Food Bank every



Food pantry drivers David Pekrul (left) and Darrel Story (above).

Monday. Darrel also is originally from Oklahoma and has lived in Irving for 50 years. He retired from Borden Milk Company after 47 years of employment. His other volunteer experience includes "wherever needed", and he attends Oak View Baptist Church. His favorite hobby is being a baseball fan of his two grandsons, Tyler and Trevor. He also enjoys antiquing and golf.

"Having volunteers who will make the commitment to serve on a regular basis is such a tremendous asset. These two drivers help ensure our Food Pantry orders have a sufficient volume of nutritious groceries, and that directly impacts our ability to serve our clients well," said Teddie Story, Irving Cares Executive Director.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.irvingcares.org

TEL (972) 721-9181
FAX (972) 438-7345

Irving Cares, Inc.
440 South Nursery Road, Suite 101
P.O. Box 177425
Irving, TX 75060

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