

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

ICM Food and Clothing Bank will kick off its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with a Founder's Day celebration at the food bank on February 10, at 1:00 pm.

In 1983, ICM, previously known as Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, was established downtown by about 30 collaborating congregations to meet the needs of the poorest individuals and families in the Valley. Over the past 30 years, the agency has grown so much that last year, 112,683 individuals were provided food, clothing, and household goods. A free monthly medical clinic is also part of ICM's menu of services.

The Founder's Day celebration will honor many of the early ICM volunteers who drove their own vehicles to St. Mary's Food Bank to get food for hungry people. Most are elderly now, and transportation will be arranged for them to come to ICM to visit old friends and see what their beloved agency has become. Some who attend are clergy who had a hand in the founding, but many more are volunteers who cared about giving back in the early days, and might still volunteer today.

Food will be served, as well as a short program to highlight the agency's history. Since its inception, hundreds of thousands of clients have benefitted from the dream of a few.

"Founder's Day will be a joyful time for the ICM board and staff. We haven't met some of the earliest volunteers, and we look forward to hearing wonderful stories from them," said Renea Gentry, Executive Director.

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