

Inside the Gate

SUMMER 2022



Feeding the Hungry and Homeless of Tulsa - Every Day



BOARD LIST

Paige Shelton
Chair

Josh Roby
Vice-Chair

Kaysi Moore
Chair Elect

Robert Curfman
Treasurer

Kim Grayson
Secretary

Lindsey Bristow
Development

MEMBERS

Trent Annan
Mary Ann Hille
Alana Hughes
Tom Maxwell
Ashli Sims
Mindy Morrison Taylor
Ashley Townsend
Brent Wakefield
Kevin Zerman

ADVISORY BOARD

Sarah Alfred-Cobb
Monica Barczak
Suzette Jones
Jim Langdon
Michael W. Moore
Meg Meyers Morgan
Brenda Pipestem
John Powers
Roger Randle
Shane Saunders
Andrea Schlanger
Carmelita Skeeter

FOUNDERS

Keenan Barnard
Gene Buzzard
(1946-2020)
Rev. John C. Powers
(1936-2021)

Dear Friends of Iron Gate,

Summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime! I think that is how the song goes?! It is such a joy to feel the sunshine and see people's smiles this summer. As we continue to be Covid-conscious, we are once again enjoying things we formerly took for granted.

At Iron Gate, we are DELIGHTED to have the dining room open, full of volunteers and serving plated hot meals to our guests. We have noted that many guests have never been in our dining room before, so we have been enjoying a 2nd "grand opening" and all the platitudes that come with it. Guests have told me, "This a beautiful space, the food is delicious, you'll do a good job of keeping it friendly and safe." That is all music to our ears! We work every day to make sure we are not only feeding the hungry, but making them feel like welcome guests. The simple act of having a cup of coffee or having a choice about your food is something that makes you feel human. We work to give our guests a solid start to their day. We are thrilled that our social service providers are off the patio and back in the dining room offices that provide privacy and help connect guests with services.

I met a man in our dining room, who had just arrived from out-of-town to find his unsheltered brother. He glanced around the dining room and looked at me directly in the eyes and said, "Thank you, the way you feed people is like nothing I have ever seen." Because of your generosity, we are able to feed all who enter our gates.

After a 2-year pause, we recently had our Founders Dinner to celebrate those who carry forth the vision of the Iron Gate Founders. Thank you to our generous sponsors, and to everyone that attended and donated to the wonderful match provided by Leslie and Mike Moore. We celebrated the Honorable Karen Keith, GH2 Architects, Flintco and Wallace Design Collective for their loving hearts and hands that created our wonderful new home on Archer. I am grateful every day that this group not only built a beautiful functional space – but that the deadlines were met. Any delay could have resulted in us not having a finished building before the pandemic. The challenges of the last two years proved that our building could flex and work in ways we could not have even imagined! We know that things have changed and we continue to adapt our services to best meet the needs of our guests.

As we head into summer, we become aware of children and their nutritional needs. Once school is out, food can become a challenge. At Iron Gate, we are a resource for those experiencing food insecurity due to the limited summer meal programs. Please help us make sure we have the resources to provide groceries and kid's packs to all who visit our pantry. Thank you for caring for your community and neighbors.

Enjoy the sun and be well,

Carrie Vesely Henderson, CFRE

chenderson@irongatetulsa.org | 918-879-1707



Our Gratitude Goes to ...



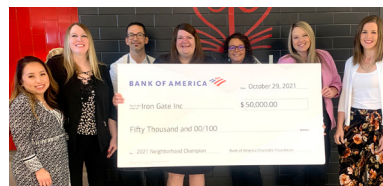
LOCAL LAWYERS PARTNER WITH IRON GATE

Lawyers Fighting Hunger partnered with Iron Gate for the 13th year of holiday food distribution. Ham dinners were provided to 1,000 Tulsa families. Included in the distribution were several of Iron Gate's partner agencies: Women in Recovery, Women's Justice Team, Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Dayspring Community Services, Life Senior Services, Youth Services of Tulsa, Emergency Infant Services, Parkside Hospital & Clinic, Veteran's Administration, EduRec, and the Tulsa Health Department, among others.

"We are happy to provide a complete Easter ham meal to those in need," Lawyers Fighting Hunger founder Hugh Robert said. "We know the need is great and we are glad to provide the funds and volunteers to make it a reality."

BANK OF AMERICA VISITS IRON GATE

Iron Gate is one of 42 organizations chosen nationwide as a Bank of America Charitable Foundation Neighborhood Champion participant. Through Neighborhood Champions, Bank of America empowers nonprofit leaders to more effectively address pressing community needs by providing leadership development and \$50,000 in flexible funding. Bank of America staff visited Iron Gate for a tour and a check presentation. Thank you Bank of America!



Pictured left to right:
Angel Thomas, Michelle King, Chef Jeff Stark, Executive Director Carrie Vesely Henderson, Mary Burchett, Taylor Burn, and Kathryn Hall



PANCHO ANAYA CONTRIBUTES

Tulsa businesses turn to Iron Gate to utilize excess food products. Recently, Pancho Anaya Bakery had multiple pallets of bagel bites that needed to be used. That turned into 1,955 pounds donated to Iron Gate. We received savory ones, sweet ones and even some spicy ones! These were distributed through

our grocery pantry and served with our community meal. Thank you to Pancho Anaya for thinking of your hungry neighbors and making sure no food goes to waste.

STAFF

Carrie Vesely Henderson, CFRE
Executive Director

Matt Mitchell
Director of Operations

Rochelle W. Dowdell
Director of Advancement

Jeff Stark
Director of Culinary Services

Caroline Kitalong
Kitchen Manager

Carissa Gutierrez
Development Coordinator

Christina Maxwell
Volunteer Coordinator

Jamie Blocker

Terryce Boxley

Colton Cooper

Kia Davis

Mike Fritz

McKenna Kolb

Hosei Madracheluib

Brandon Piercy

Jerrod Piercy

Will Powell

Sherwood Siskind

INSIDE THE GATE

Rochelle W. Dowdell

Carissa Gutierrez

Christina Maxwell

Carrie Vesely Henderson
Writer/Editor

Tina Fincher
Designer

Celebrating Our History and Our Future.



Top photos left to right: Iron Gate's Director of Culinary Services, Chef Jeff Stark; Leslie Moore clapping for Iron Gate's Culinary Service Team; Reid Burton, Alex Holt, Carrie Vesely Henderson, and Jeremy Carlisle **Bottom photos left to right:** Tim Schulz, Max McDaniel, Tom Maxwell; Lindsey Bristow and Keenan Barnard; Guests during cocktail hour

Iron Gate recently celebrated our Annual Founders Dinner, and the first in our new building. Recognized, was a group of individuals that several years ago embraced the vision of a new Iron Gate facility and then worked tirelessly to turn it into a reality.

Receiving the Founders Award for their significant contributions to the new building were the Honorable Karen Keith, GH2 Architects, Flintco Construction, and Wallace Design Collective. All contributed their talent and effort to the task of overseeing the location, design and construction of Iron Gate on Archer.

Founders Dinner, is a night of celebration, a reflection on beginnings, and a cultivation of the future. As many know, Iron Gate started because of a simple act of generosity. Founders Keenan Barnard, Gene Buzzard and Father Jack Powers stepped out of a Bible study at Trinity Episcopal

Church to make a homeless man a sandwich. That simple act launched an organization that now feeds hundreds of people every day. Founders Dinner honors the vision of the original three, along with the many that carry on the mission today.

The evening began on the patio with music provided by the Tulsa Symphony. Dinner was Mediterranean-themed and prepared by Iron Gate's culinary services team. Following the presentation of awards, Executive Director Carrie Vesely Henderson spoke of the 2019 opening of Iron Gate on Archer.

ANNUAL FOUNDERS DINNER

*"It's hard to truly describe how grateful I am for Iron Gate.
Never would I imagine my kids going hungry. Thank you for helping."*

- KRISTEN, IRON GATE GUEST

Henderson noted, "The new building isn't just beautiful, it is functional and it allows us to better serve our guests. Our new dining room took us from 73 to 237 seats. The new 17-thousand square foot building features a covered patio, so our guests can wait out of the elements, there are kennels for guests to house their pets and rooms for community partners to provide services. The facility features more storage, so we can take advantage of buying in bulk, and includes a dedicated grocery pantry where guests have the option to self-select and shop for what they need."

While the opening of Iron Gate on Archer was met with excitement and hope, changes came quickly as Covid and safety restrictions led to new designs in service. While

adjustments were made, the mission was never halted. For the last two years, Iron Gate has been open and serving every day, 365 days a year. When downtown became quiet, Iron Gate was open. When buildings emptied out and workers transitioned to remote, Iron Gate was open. Iron Gate is a constant and a needed security to the insecure.

The last two years have seen a substantial and unsettling increase in need. While we are hopeful the pandemic is subsiding, the need is not. From gas, to rent, to food, many fellow Oklahomans are challenged to provide for themselves and their families; they struggle to get through the day and to the end of the month. Iron Gate's founders, donors, leadership, volunteers and many supporters make the difference. Thank you for your commitment.

PRESENTING SPONSORS

DeKraai Family
Ruth Nelson

GOLD SPONSORS

Tim and Kelly Heuback
The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation

SILVER SPONSORS

The Bama Companies
The Chicksaw Nation
Mr. and Mrs. James Hawkins
Mary Ann Hille
Indian Healthcare Resource Center
Scott and Suzette Werner Jones
Tom and Pat Maxwell & Mike and Leslie Moore
Mindy and John Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Soder & Mr. and Mrs. Richard Young

BRONZE SPONSORS

Keenan and Starre Barnard & Christine Buzzard
Michael Christian and Paige Shelton
Flintco
GH2 Architects
Buddy Kleemeier

Larry and Linda Laster
Meshri Family
Tom and Betty Rains
Richard Robertson
Drs. John and Sarah-Anne Schumann
James and Sabrina Taylor
Trust Company of Oklahoma
Ken Underwood and Leslie Paris
Wallace Design Collective

DONATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Abboud
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Trent Annan
Mr. Robert Babcock and Mr. Bill Major
Mr. and Mrs. John Barker
Mr. and Mrs. Keenan Barnard
Mr. Kurt Barron and Ms. Lenice Stanford
Kate Jones Bohanon and Ray Bohanon
Mr. and Mr. Norman Bryant
Ms. Mary Burchett
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burton
Ms. Christine Buzzard
Mr. Craig Caldwell and Ms. Cristen Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Carlisle
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Alfred-Cobb
Ms. Caroline Crain

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crockett
Mr. Alondo Edwards
John and Sarah Everett
Ms. Jane Frates
Ms. Linda Greaves
Ms. Debbi Guilfoyle
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Henderson
Ms. Mary Ann Hille
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Hoster
Mrs. Meredith Howard
Drs. John and Michelle Hubner
Mr. and Mrs. Derrick Huisenga
Ms. Karen Keith
Kevin and Tani Kelley
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Kindrick
Judy Kishner
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Knoblock
Mr. Jim Langdon
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Loving
Mr. and Mrs. James Maddux
Ms. Marie Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Maxwell
Mr. and Mrs. Paul McDowell
Ms. Brenda McLaughlin
Dr. and Mrs. John A. Minielly
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Rocky Moore
Mr. Martin Newman
Mr. and Mrs. Ron S. Nofziger

Ms. Leslie Paris
Ron and Katie Petrikin
Mrs. Carolyn Phillips
Deborah and Sam Joyner
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Powers
Mr. and Mrs. Britt Radford
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Ramsey
Ms. Joann Gross Ryan
Stan and Kim Sallee
Mr. and Mrs. Doc Shannon
Ms. Ashli Sims
Paul L. and Helen I. Sisk Charitable Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Skeeter
Mr. and Mrs. Val Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Soder
Mr. Bert Fisher and Ms. Laura Stauffer
Mr. Ross Swimmer
Barbara Sylvan
Mindy and John Taylor
Mr. Ken Underwood
Ms. Donna Vanderslice
Mr. David Walter
Dr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Waters, IV
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Woodrum
Ms. Cynthia Wright
Mr. and Mrs. A. Michael Wright
Rick and Becky Young

You make it possible for us to feed the hungry and homeless every day and we can't celebrate your generosity enough.

The Dining Room is Back!



Through the last two years of pandemic adjustments, Iron Gate has continued to serve daily, 365 days a year, providing meals to those who are hungry. However, because of Covid, we altered the meal service to best fit the needs of our guests and the safety of both guests and staff. Ultimately, we moved from our traditional full-plate service to a packaged, take-away meal and snack distributed every morning.

While the take-away system worked well for guests, we have looked forward to returning to traditional service. The dining room made the full switch back in mid-May and the transition has been smooth and well-received. It's great watching guests become acquainted with one another as they go through the serving line and settle in together at tables. Guests are free to have as many plates as they want and coffee is a welcome return.

Matt Mitchell, Director of Operations, stated, "Guests are re-familiarizing themselves with the new routine. It's good to see them back in the dining room visiting with each other. I'm glad to be a part of Iron Gate's mission that goes beyond providing food, to providing a space for community."

Moving ahead, we will continue to evaluate and set procedures to best meet the needs of our guests. For now, it's great to have the dining room full. Welcome back!

Volunteers Make the Difference

One of Iron Gate's most valuable assets is our volunteers. We are excited to reopen full dining room service and soon the self-select pantry, providing more opportunities to welcome our volunteers back into the building. The best part of having our volunteers back is finding new and returning opportunities for volunteers of all types. Whether it is serving our Community Meal, preparing or distributing our Grocery Pantry, preparing Kid's Packs or manning our front reception desk, there is something for everyone. Scan the code to sign up today!

Questions? Contact Christina Maxwell, Volunteer Coordinator - volunteers@irongatetulsa.org. 918-879-1714



Explorer Volunteers



Williams Volunteers



Oxley Volunteers



"Feeding the homeless, or the food insecure, is an easy way to interest anyone who would like to reach out to someone in need. The need is endless, the benefit is obvious, and the unconditional way that Iron Gate accepts everyone who would like to share a meal with us makes that action a particularly satisfying way to give back to others some of what we have received. What I don't think that volunteers realize before they get started is that they will benefit every bit as much as our guests! We all come in with our own burdens and problems, and for a few hours we set them aside and are graced by the expressions of gratitude that we receive—both in words and in smiles!! We get to hear their stories, learn their faces, and be filled with a thankfulness that we didn't expect. We learn the real meaning of that saying - there but for the grace of God - really means. We learn from them, and from the employees of Iron Gate, what it is really like to not know where your next meal will come from. And yet they continue to smile and say thank you despite situations I will probably never have to experience. And for that I am thankful to have discovered Iron Gate!"

- KATIE HAMILTON, IRON GATE VOLUNTEER



501 W. Archer
Tulsa, OK 74103
irongatetulsa.org

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TULSA, OK
PERMIT NO. 637



During the summer at Iron Gate, we see more children in the dining room for our daily Community Meal and we host more families with children in our Grocery Pantry. Additionally, we distribute a higher number of healthy, snack-filled, Kid's Packs.

LAST YEAR, IRON GATE DISTRIBUTED 20,538 KID'S PACKS AND PROVIDED GROCERIES TO OVER THIRTY THOUSAND HOUSEHOLDS, WITH 40% OF GROCERY RECIPIENTS BEING CHILDREN.

One in five Oklahoma children don't get the food they need.

You can help children and their families receive food. You can make a difference. Gifts up to \$5,000 will be matched by the Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies. Please give to Iron Gate and help us have a No-Hunger Summer for Kids. **Help children to be happy, to be healthy and to grow strong.**

WAYS TO GIVE:

► Donate -

\$25
will provide 10
Kid's Packs

\$100
will provide 400
Juice Boxes

\$250
will provide 514
Apple Sauces

*Please mark on enclosed donation envelope if you want your contribution to go towards our No-Hunger Summer.

► Shop our Amazon Smile Wishlist:

Scan the QR code to send food straight to us.

Donate items
from our
amazon wishlist

