



INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

*Helping seniors, disabled individuals  
and families in financial crisis achieve  
stable and independent lives.*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Thursday, November 10, 2011**  
**Interfaith Community Services**  
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## **2011 “Bag-A-Thon” Exceeds Goal: 42,088 Pounds of Food Collected for Interfaith Community Services Food Bank**

**(TUCSON, AZ)**---The 5<sup>th</sup> annual “Edward Jones Bag-A-Thon” food drive to support the Interfaith Community Services Food Bank wrapped up on Saturday, November 5 with a grand total of 42,088 pounds of food collected.

The Bag-a-Thon is ICS’s single largest food collection event of the year, but this year’s total exceeded all expectations. Ken Blanchard, a financial advisor for Edward Jones and the event’s founder, set the 2011 goal at 30,000 pounds. “When we started the Bag-a-Thon five years ago, 2,000 pounds was a real achievement,” Blanchard said. “The event has grown so much since then that we wanted to push ourselves this year. We were hopeful about the results, but I never imagined we’d see this kind of response. The community really came together; 42,000 pounds of food will help a lot of families,” he continued.

The final total resulted from the hard work of 16 Edward Jones offices, seven schools, seven scouting groups, five local businesses, the Town of Oro Valley, and the community at large.

Interfaith Community Services opened the doors of its newly expanded Food Bank at its main offices at 2820 W. Ina Road at the end of October. “The number of families coming to the ICS Food Bank is breaking records,” said Bonnie Kampa, ICS executive director. “The food collected during this year’s Bag-a-Thon will help fill the shelves of the new building and will allow us to better meet the need in the community.”

ICS provides food and emergency financial assistance to Pima County resident in need and mobilizes volunteers to assist seniors and disabled people with Mobile Meals, transportation, home repairs, calls and visits, and health and safety referrals and advocacy. ICS offers compassionate support by connecting over 600 volunteers and 58 faith communities with our community’s most vulnerable residents. From nutritious food to health evaluations to a ride to the doctor’s office, ICS assists over 20,000 people a year.

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### **Photo Identification:**

**Photos 1, 2 & 3:** Local scouting groups collected over 4,500 pounds of food during the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Edward Jones Bag-A-Thon Food Drive for ICS.

**Photos 4 & 5:** Volunteers from Interfaith Community Services, Golder Ranch Fire Department, Kohl’s, OVPD, and the OVPD Explorers sorted donations during the Bag-A-Thon wrap-up event on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Photo 5 courtesy of Guy Atchley.