

**Iowa WINS** (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors) **Commission**

Thursday, 1/17 at 6:30 PM

Conference Call option: Call (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 530-244-389

First Presbyterian Church

902 S. Walnut St

Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

OUR VISION:

That the greater Mount Pleasant community would be an inclusive and hospitable community that welcomes people from across the world looking for a new home.

In order to achieve that vision, the MISSION OF IowaWINs is to:

* Identify the issues that newcomers face here, to provide solutions and help integrate them with the community at large.
* Build relationships among the diverse members of our community.
* Build and maintain the infrastructures and sustainable programs that improve opportunity and services now and for future generations of immigrants.
* Provide educational and cultural outlets to the community to learn more about the people (and their needs) who come to Mount Pleasant.

**Agenda**

* Introductions
* **2018 Year in Review – Many thanks to Bob Mueller for preparing!**
  + <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UA1cv1qRG3TFs6BVXkn5sPP31niuKWfG>
* **2019 Volunteer Sign-up**
* **Family support**
  + Rent/Utilities increased by $1,000 per family. For families impacted from the beginning, the total is now $6,500
  + Food Pantry
  + Transportation for immigration hearings, Contact Rodrigo for transportation needs
  + Local translation assistance available from Johanna Crawford
  + Youth leadership development program to encourage continued education, financial literacy, and building social relationships
* **Fundraising** – Update on funds raised
  + Fairfield Vaju Luncheon on 2/22
    - 4 volunteers from 8am - 10:30 on Tues, Wed and Thurs
    - 8 volunteers on Friday – either 8 AM – 11AM or 11 AM to 2 PM
* **Freedom for Immigrants/Eastern Iowa Committee – Report from Victor Rodrigo Reza**
* **Events**
  + Kent Ferris shared information about a Social Action Saturday, 1/26 event in Riverside that will feature Dr. Kristy Nabhan-Warren, Professor in the Religious Studies and Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies Departments and the V.O. and Elizabeth Kahl Figge Chair in Catholic Studies at the University of Iowa.    
    Dr. Kristy will share stories and insights from her Iowa-based, ethnographic fieldwork, conducted for her newest book project, Cornbelt America: Work, Food and Faith in the Heartland. She will speak about patterns of migration, work in meatpacking plants and religion in our Hawkeye State.
    - Kent asked if one of the immigrant families would participate for a few minutes to share their story. Julieta and Rodrigo will plan to participate.
    - Any IowaWINs member is also welcome to come to this event. Let me know if you would like more information.
  + Gayle Olson shared that the Swedesburg Lutheran Church is holding concerts in support of their partnership with a Tanzanian partner congregation. Concerts are no charge with a free will offering to support their projects in Tanzania. Upcoming events are:
    - Sunday, 2/3, Love Songs
    - Sunday, 3/3, Celtic Hymns and Irish Jigs
  + African American History Celebration
    - Saturday, 2/09/2019
    - Meal @ noon, free will offering
    - Program @ 1 pm
    - Usually concludes around 3 PM.
    - Great music, food and fellowship
    - Second Baptist Ministries
    - 801 E Winfield Ave
    - Mt. Pleasant, IA
    - It is actually accessed through a lane off Winfield Ave that runs north of the north side of the Wal-Mart Parking lot.  There used to be a car lot by the lane but I’m not sure if they are still open.  If you drive north on the lane about a block, you will see a brick building where the church is located.
* Governmental Contacts
  + There is a [Survey (in Spanish)](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1R8_bZfC6Hg7YwpavUBwr3O_lY00Q4f56Lnab4vQXiDg) to help determine the direction to take legislatively. Please encourage the families to respond.
  + There is an [Immigrant Advocacy Day](https://www.facebook.com/events/1044354945724503/) scheduled for February 4th in Des Moines. This will be a good chance to meet with others working around the state and meet with state legislators.
  + Also a Latino Day on the Hill on January 25th from 9 to 12 Noon.
* Media
  + Article on Elmer and Walfred and Kay Young in Bloomberg News
    - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-12-27/two-towns-forged-an-unlikely-bond-now-ice-is-severing-the-connection?fbclid=IwAR3HmgsHxQ5jwc1FCysgYBgdDNmDRV80gqNcMC7SwuXI5wUgHKEHyDWKZ0o>
  + Catholic Messenger article on IowaWINs – follow up article just before Christmas
    - <https://www.catholicmessenger.net/2018/12/ice-impacted-families-will-open-presents-sealed-with-love/?fbclid=IwAR0mg9_snw9Ks53XMtgqKO1ptQ_ViIk9NIFkfCTqp8hwayIxU7tUO3hgFg0>
  + Christmas Posada article in Mt. Pleasant News
    - <https://mpnews.net/subject/news/immigrant-families-host-posada-as-thank-you-to-iowa-wins-community-20181224>
  + Year In Review articles
    - Burlington Hawkeye
      * <https://www.thehawkeye.com/news/20181223/2018-year-in-review-ice-raid-leaves-mark-on-mount-pleasant>
    - Mt. Pleasant News 1/3 Special Supplement
  + Acting Attorney General’s involvement in Marshalltown ICE Raid
    - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/whitakers-role-in-2006-immigration-raid-foreshadowed-aggressive-stance-as-acting-attorney-general/2018/12/29/6836395e-f4e0-11e8-80d0-f7e1948d55f4_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.2772f11c0d8e>
* Next meeting date to be determined.

Thanks,

Tammy Shull

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