

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

Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:00 PM

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
* **Status of men impacted by ICE raid**
  + 24 remain free on bond awaiting immigration hearings and work permits
  + Update on men held on criminal charges
    - Rosita’s husband was sentenced to time served on prior immigration charges, was held in ICE detention in Hardin County Jail in Eldora till 3/27 and he has since been deported to Honduras. He is the 7th man to be deported since the raid.
    - Yesica’s husband, Ricarldo, was sentenced to time served on prior immigration charges, currently being held in ICE detention in Hardin County Jail in Eldora.
      * Two articles on Ricardo:

Hawkeye:  <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UjyYAor5nbbYB2EkbB16hQs5sonUqLuV>

* Mt. Pleasant News:  <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1i92h9gvCfFggYR58gsXrETe2K_t5VdZR>
* **Family support**
  + Food Pantry – donations continue to be needed.
  + Work permit status
  + Transportation for immigration hearings, Contact Rodrigo for transportation needs at 319-217-8884. Several immigration hearings have been delayed. Please let Rodrigo know as soon as possible of rescheduled hearings.
* **Guatemalan Consulate Visit – volunteers needed**
  + This Saturday, 4/6 from 7 AM to 5 PM
  + Will be delivering passports/documents to individuals who requested them last summer
* **Fundraising** – Update on funds raised
  + Presbyterian Woman’s grant – will receive 70% of grant this month.
  + Divine Star Charities doing another Fairfield benefit Luncheon on 5/10. Volunteers needed on mornings prior and on 5/10.
  + St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church - Peace & Justice Commission – Iowa City – this has been submitted and we are awaiting a positive response. Thanks to Linda Albright who was the grant writer.
* **Sustainable Ministry Project**
  + Community gardens
  + Grant applications
  + food reclamation from local farmers for the pantry/ and or food production for sale
  + initiative to purchase a food truck for revenue generation
* **Leadership Development Program –** partner with LULAC
* **Events**
  + Manning Lecture at IW – Immigration speaker – Sunday, April 7th
    - 9:45 Sermon at First Presbyterian Church
    - 1:30 – 5:30 Keynote and breakouts at IW Chapel
  + Burlington Peace, Healing and Community group on April 11 at 6 PM. Tammy will be part of a panel on immigration along with Pastor Kathleen Wohlers who visited the Wall near El Paso last summer. This will be held at the Burlington Public Library and is open to the public.
  + Fairfield Unitarian Church on Sunday, 4/14 at 10:30 AM – Tammy will present the Mt. Pleasant IowaWINs story. Open to the public.
  + Rodrigo suggested we have an activity for Day of the Children – April 30th?:  <http://www.mexconnect.com/articles/3764-in-mexico-april-30-is-children-s-day-el-dia-del-ni%C3%B1o>.  Any ideas?
  + May 9th -- Mark anniversary of the raid.  Looking into premiering DREAM Iowa's film on Mount Pleasant. More details to come.  Anything else?
  + Planning for presentation of VANG at IW in the fall:  <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jKdaWN0TvRo4NPHoFiMNe5OoCjY08NkZ>
* **Governmental Contacts**
  + Iowa AIR and Erica are recommending just letting E-verify bill lie quietly in Iowa legislature and let it go away.
  + Grassley was in Mount Pleasant recently.
    - *"Steering away from health care, Grassley also addressed concerns over lack of workers in southeastern Iowa, and whether immigration laws could allow unskilled workers in to help fill jobs.*
    - *Grassley said the problem with bills that would let immigrants to fill unskilled labor positions is they can be amended.*
    - *“People on the left would amend it saying we’re going to legalize the people undocumented right now.*
    - *People on the right think you can load up all 10 million (undocumented) people and get them out of the country.  Neither one of them are realistic. That’s what keeps us from bringing it up,” Grassley said.*
    - *Grassley said bills addressing unskilled workers need “integrity” put into it like E-Verify, a web-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm the eligibility of their employees to work in the U.S."*
    - <https://www.mpnews.net/subject/news/grassley-addresses-health-care-concerns-immigration-at-hchc-qa-20190322>
* **IowaWINs Leadership Meeting on Tuesday, 4/16 at 5:30 PM**
* **Next IowaWINs May general meeting to be determined.**

Thanks,

Tammy Shull

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