

Iowa WINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Commission

**Wednesday, June 6th at 7:00 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.

Minutes

In attendance: Sam Riepe, Lynn Ellsworth, Jeff Fager, Tom Ellsworth, Kathryn Duarte, Adam Robinson, Mike Riepe, Heide Riepe, Don Jones, Holly Jones, Robin Clark Bennett, Jamie Cranston, Lori Davis, Roger Farmer, Macy Stormont, Sumner Pitt, Charlie Paul, Nelson Lopez, Diane Collett, Mary Jane Kauffman, Bob Mueller, Ed Kropa, Lois Crane, Roger Farmer, Pastor Deb Stowers, Mary Elgar, Joanne McCabe, Bob Watt, Ann Klingensmith, Janet Cermak, Jean Thomson, Kay Young, Claudia Streeter, Ruth Ann Lapp, Annalisa Miller, Martha Wiley, Aimee Goldmeyer, Daryl Rogers, Father Paul Connolly, Tammy Shull, Pastor Trey Hegar, Nora Reza, Rosita Oliva, Magaly Carrillo, Julieta Silveste Reza, Yesica Reza, apologies if you were in attendance and I missed including you.

* Introductions -nearly 50 were in attendance to show support for the families affected by the ICE raid. Thanks so much to everyone for your attendance and participation in Iowa WINs.
* Update on status of immigrant men detained by ICE and their families
	+ As of 6/6/2018
		- 32 men were detained
		- 16 were released on bond
		- 3 scheduled for bond hearings this week
		- 5 criminal bail hearings this week
		- 2 bond hearings in Omaha next week
		- 1 bond hearing in Omaha on 6/19
		- 2 bond hearings yet to be scheduled
* Reports from sub-teams on the following issues
* Family support/School support/Transportation
	+ Focus on matching each family with a bilingual family support person
	+ The bilingual family support will report family needs to leadership so we can match volunteers with individual families
* Event planning
	+ First event will be a Fathers” Day Potluck at IW Social Hall. Gathering starts at 4 PM with a 5 PM potluck meal and program afterwards.
	+ An immigration rally will be happening at the General Assembly of the PCUSA (Presbyterian Church USA) on June 19th in St. Louis, MO. Pastor Trey Hegar will be one of the speakers and will share the story of the impact of the ICE Raid on the Mt. Pleasant community.
* Media/Social Media
	+ Press release for Fathers’ Day event
	+ 6/27 Burlington Hawkeye panel on Immigration at 6 PM. Pastor Trey will be a panelist. One member of the immigrant community will also be a panelist.
	+ New York Times reporter and photojournalist were in Mt. Pleasant to prepare for a story on the impact of the ICE raid
	+ Pew Charitable Trusts researcher was in Mt. Pleasant with a focus on the impact on families.
	+ Wall Street Journal reporter has been in touch as well.
	+ Vice Video has also expressed an interest
* Governmental contacts
	+ Bob Mueller will head this group that will be focused on communication and advocacy.
* Fundraising – no report yet
* Donations – collection and distribution – pantry open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 AM – 12 Noon.
* Financial tracking – Martha Wiley is chairing the Financial Oversight Committee and is in process of setting up separate checking account and procedures for distributing funds.
* Next meeting will be:
	+ IowaWINs – Thursday, July 5th at 6 PM

Thanks,

Tammy Shull

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