

Iowa WINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Commission

**Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 7 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: Alba Perez, Ana Lopez, Ann Clifford, Ann Klingensmith, Annalisa Miller, Bitrus Gwamna, Bob Mueller, Bob Watt, Cherry Sandeen, Cindy Delgado, Claudia Streeter, Dan Miller, Ed Kropa, Francisco Tojin, Hallie Sandeen, Janet Cermak, Jean Thomson, Jeff Fager, Jennifer Lopez, Joanne McCabe, Julieta Reza Silveste, Lea Bradley, Kay Young, Jerri Messel, Lois Crane, Lynn Ellsworth, Marcia Carthey, Martha Wiley, Mike Riepe, Nicole Novak, Nikki Bengston, Olabisi Gwamna, Father Paul Connolly, Pat Richenberger, Roger Farmer, Ron Carrillo, Tammy Shull, Tom Ellsworth, Pastor Trey Hegar, Yesica Reza. **My apologies if you were in attendance and I missed including you.**

* Introductions -I counted over 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.
* **Leanna Miller –** shared her experiences on a service learning trip to the Mexico border. Leanna has also been talking with immigrant families in Mt. Pleasant about their personal stories. We hope to be able to use these stories to increase understanding of the families and the challenges that they have been and are facing. Marcia Carthey and Bitrus Gwamna also shared their experiences and those of family members in the immigration process. Very difficult and frustrating.
* **Update on status of immigrant men detained by ICE and their families**
	+ 24 men have been released on bond
	+ Both men who were released on bail for federal charges but then immediately picked up by ICE have now been deported. That makes a total of 5 who were deported
	+ 3 are facing criminal charges related to their immigration
		- 1 is scheduled for trial on 9/4 at 9 AM in Davenport
		- 1 is scheduled for trial on 10/1 at 9 AM in Davenport
		- 1 is scheduled for a status conference on 10/26
	+ Also, the 15 year old son of one of the men who was deported is scheduled for his asylum hearing later in August.
* **Updates from sub-teams to address the following issues**
* **Family support**
	+ Due to Old Threshers, there will be no pantry hours from 8/28 – 9/3.
		- Will be open on Monday, 8/27 from 9 – 12
		- Reopening on Tuesday, 9/4 from 5 – 6 PM
* **Education support**
	+ Rosetta Stone – English/Spanish learning software is ready to go. Joanne McCabe reported that there are several people volunteering to help English/Spanish learners get familiar with the software. The volunteers are flexible on schedules and can meet with learners according to the times they are available. Contact the church or your bilingual advocate to learn more.
* **Financial Oversight and Fundraising** – Update on funds raised
	+ There continues to be a need for fundraising, so we can increase the amounts available to families affected by the raid as the months continue to pass and immigration hearings are being scheduled beginning in 2019. (Many thanks to Kate Payne from IPR who attended this meeting and aired a story on our fundraising needs on IPR!)
		- <http://www.iowapublicradio.org/post/group-running-out-donations-after-mt-pleasant-raid#stream/0>
	+ Auction to raise funds in October is being organized by Sam Riepe. We are looking for an auctioneer who would be interested in volunteering.
	+ Volunteers with grant writing experience could be very helpful. Please let us know if you could help. Possible grants include
		- St. Vincent’s grants for children in need
		- Alliant Energy grants
	+ IowaWINs pins for $2 – at First Presbyterian Church and at The Raven downtown
* **Physical donations and Food Pantry**
* **Media/Social Media**
	+ IowaWINs is now on Instagram thanks to Amy Clark. Please send photos/post to her for inclusion.
	+ The Catholic Messenger will be coming to Mt. Pleasant to feature a story on the ICE Raid and how people can help
* **Governmental contact**
	+ Google Drive has been created that is a storage space for articles, documents, minutes government contact notes, and other information about IowaWINs. You can access it at:
		- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NoULa7-bIvRdIsFzCLidl6sSyEE4y5F_>
		- No sign-ons or passwords are required
		- The first document is a “How to Use” aid
			* Calls to Senator Grassley and Senator Ernst’s staff – remarks in Google Drive
				+ 7/26/2018 Senator Ernst Call of July 25th
				+ 7/21/2018 Senator Grassley Call Remarks OF July 16th
			* Several new articles on ICE in Google Drive
				+ 8/5/2018 The Power of "Abolish ICE" - Opinion - New York Times
				+ 7/30/2018 ICEwatch: ICE Raids Tactics Map
				+ 7/30/2018 ICE has conducted hundreds of raids in New York
			* Senate hearing on immigration – 3 hours 21 minutes
				+ <https://www.c-span.org/video/?449086-1/government-officials-testify-immigration-policy-senate-hearing>
	+ Congressional candidate Chris Peters at Rotary Club lunch at IW on August 8th
	+ Rep. Loebsack at Rotary Club lunch at IW on August 15th.
	+ Planning contact with local officials.
* **Speaking engagements**
	+ Please talk with any organizations or groups that you belong to that would like to learn more about IowaWINs and the ICE raid. We are happy to send speakers.
	+ We have a box for setting up an Iowa WINs table at events -- table cloth, flyers, signup sheets, clip boards, pens. instructions, etc.  Contact Bob Mueller at mayatoddbob@aim.com.
	+ 8/11 at 11 AM – meeting with West Liberty community leaders about how to prepare for potential ICE raid (Great meeting with about 20 in attendance)
	+ 8/12 – Presbytery Meeting in Vinton, IA
	+ 8/16 – Mt. Pleasant Business and Professional Women
	+ 9/16 – Iowa City United Church of Christ
	+ 9/21 and 9/22 – Fairfield Peace Event
* **Event planning**
	+ August 25th Immigration Summit at University of Iowa. Pastor Trey and Tammy will be speaking at this event in addition to many other immigration advocates from Iowa.
		- Please let Tammy know if you plan to attend this event. We will help with organizing car pools.
	+ Potential weekend event with soccer and food on Sunday, September 9th
	+ Schedule Genesis of Exodus once school term starts
* Next meeting will be:
	+ IowaWINs – Wednesday, September 12th at 7 PM

Thanks,

Tammy

Tammy Shull

Iowa WINs (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

A Commission of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant

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<https://www.facebook.com/IowaWINs/>

<http://www.firstpresbyonline.org/iowawins.html>

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