

Iowa WINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Commission

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 7:15 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 Sebastian, Carmelina Sebastian, Annalisa Miller, Betty Lowe, Bob Mueller, Catherine Layer, Debbie Batey, Ed Kropa, Francisco Tojin, Heidi Riepe, Janet Cermak, Jeff Fager, Julieta Reza Silveste, Lea Bradley, Kay Young, Lois Crane, Lori Davis, Lynn Ellsworth, Martha Wiley, Mike Riepe, Father Paul Connolly, Roger Farmer, Sam Riepe, Tammy Shull, Todd Batey, Pastor Trey Hegar, Yesica Reza. **My apologies if you were in attendance and I missed including you.**

* **Jared Hershberger** from Rep. Loebsack’s staff introduced himself and took questions from the Iowa WINs members. He promises to set up a conference call with Rep. Loebsack and our Governmental Contacts committee and we will hold him to that promise.
* **Update on status of immigrant men detained by ICE and their families**
	+ 3 men are still detained due to prior deportation charges
		- 1 is scheduled for trial on 10/1 at 9 AM in Davenport
		- 1 is scheduled for a status conference on 10/26
		- 1 is scheduled for trial on 10/29 at 9 AM in Davenport
	+ Also, the 15-year-old son of one of the men who was deported is now on a path to having his status adjusted to allow him to stay in the US and potentially be eligible for permanent residency.
* **Need to select new weekday evening for Iowa WINs meetings. Stand up to vote!**
	+ No easy answers on what is the best week night to meet is. See the end of the minutes for the next meeting dates.
* **Updates from sub-teams to address the following issues**
* **Family support - Physical donations and Food Pantry**
	+ Lori Davis reported that they are gathering a list of specific items needed for winter clothing. They want to identify specific clothing items and sizes, so the families have just the items that they need.
	+ Betty Lowe suggested that we might work with the Quarter or More Store with some form of gift certificate so the families could find items they needed there.
	+ Lori reported that they were working closely with Quarter or More but that many of the families were reluctant to go there. The families felt safest coming to the Church Pantry for assistance.
* **Education support**
	+ Rosetta Stone – English/Spanish computers – ready to go in new locations at the church
		- 2 computers in the food pantry
		- 2 computers in the gathering space
		- A volunteer from one of the immigrant families will take a look at the computers to see if we can get all 5 up and running. One needs a new hard drive and another is playing audio.
		- Appointments are available at the learners’ convenience since we have several flexible volunteers to get the learners familiar with the software.
		- Betty Lowe encouraged everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to improve their Spanish and/or English skills.
* **Financial Oversight and Fundraising** – Update on funds raised
	+ Many thanks for the donations at this meeting to help us achieve our goal of raising the dollar amount for living and legal expenses for the families.
	+ Sam reported that he was still looking for an October date for an Auction to raise funds for Iowa WINs. He also reported that handmade items or the offer to prepare a meal are some great items to be auctioned off. Please let us know if you have items or services that you would like to contribute.
	+ A group in Fairfield will be holding a **fundraiser for IowaWINs** on **October 26th** fundraising luncheon in Fairfield – need volunteers and paper plates/utensils. We expect about 150-200 people to attend. Let Annalisa know if you can volunteer.
	+ IowaWINs pins for $2 – at First Presbyterian Church and at The Raven downtown
	+ Letters being sent to about 400 previous donors to IowaWINs to acknowledge their gifts, update them on the status of IowaWINs and the families and encourage additional donations.
	+ One grant has been submitted to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and another will be submitted this month to the national Presbyterian Women organization. (update: PDA grant received Presbytery approval and is awaiting the national PDA review and the PW Grant was submitted on 9/15.)
* **Media/Social Media**
	+ IowaWINs is now on Instagram thanks to Amy Clark. Please send photos/post to her for inclusion.
	+ Thanks to Leanna Miller we have collected several stories from the families affected by the ICE Raid.
		- Potential to have family photos taken to be given to the families and potentially to be used with permission in media stories
		- Sherril Gibbs is a talented amateur photographer and is volunteering to take photos.
		- Input on photography, when, where? Julieta will share this ideas with the families to consider and we can discuss at the next meeting.
	+ See below for recent articles/videos on Immigration. You can access all these items and more on our Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NoULa7-bIvRdIsFzCLidl6sSyEE4y5F_> (Please note that the last character in this link is an underscore “\_”. )
		- September 2018
			* 9/04/2018 Candidate Immigration Question Guide
			* 9/04/2018 How does SF 481 affect Iowans
			* 9/04/2018 Immigration in small-town Iowa: One church reaches out to the community
			* 9/01/2018 Social Justice Resource Center September Newsletter
		- August 2018
			* 8/31/2018 Border: Miller wants to continue working with immigrants
			* 8/31/2018 Fairfield native visits U.S.-Mexico border
			* 8/31/2018 Building a Regime of Restrictive Immigration Laws, 1840-1945
			* 8/27/2018 Boy foregoes birthday presents, donates supplies to immigrants
			* 8/26/2008 Know Your Rights Red Card (Spanish and English) -- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
			* 8/26/2018 Racial and Ethnic profiling -- an Illinois example
			* 8/25/2008 Iowa slaying focuses attention on immigrants in agriculture
			* 8/24/2018 Iowa WINs brochure -- Final Aug 23 (pdf and WORD)
			* 8/21/2018 Cuando ICE se presenta en su Negocio (ICE in business -- Spanish)
			* 8/21/2018 ICE in business (English)
			* 8/20/2018 Turning Back the Tide of Hate in Iowa and Beyond
			* 8/20/2018 Welcoming Immigrant Children in School
			* 8/18/2018 Building a Rapid-Response Network to Defend Immigrant Workers
			* 8/17/2018 Lingo Lessons -- ESL at SCC
			* 8/08/2018 ICE strategic plan 2016-2020
			* 8/05/2018 The Power of Abolish ICE - Opinion - New York Times
			* 8/01/2018 Link to Senate Immigration Hearing on July 31, 2018
		- New Videos
			* 8/26/2018 Iowans gathered at the State Capitol on April 11th to protest the anti-immigrant law (Dream Iowa)
			* 8/25/2018 SF 481 United, we are all Iowa. Unidos, todos somos Iowa (Dream Iowa)
* **Governmental contact**
	+ Local government contacts – next steps to build relationships. Tom Ellsworth will be reaching out to the City Manager and the Mt. Pleasant Police to set up an initial meeting to discuss how to improve relationships with the immigrant community. Julieta is reaching out to members of the immigrant community to determine their questions and concerns. One item that we need to discuss is what policies the local police will be putting in place because of SF481. There is more information about SF481 on the Google Drive – see the article How Does SF481 Affect Iowans for more information.
	+ ACLU Representative, Kylie Gottschalk – discussed ACLU work on behalf of immigrants at recent Iowa WINs Leadership meeting. The ACLU is not able to take on individual cases unless they could have a positive impact on a larger group of people but are happy to receive input on individual challenges, so they can observe any trends. Any unfair treatment that immigrants experience with law enforcement should be shared with the ACLU. Information and questions can be sent to the email below and a variety of resources are available at the ACLU Iowa website listed below.
		- legal.program@aclu-ia.org
		- <https://www.aclu-ia.org/>
* **Events and event planning**

Iowa WINs has numerous opportunities to share our Lessons Learned from the ICE Raid. See the list of recent and upcoming events below. Please let us know if you are interested in being part of the Iowa WINs speakers bureau!

* + West Liberty ICE Raid Preparation Meeting – August 11 – Pastor Trey and Tammy participated and there was a great deal of interest in learning about our experience, so they can prepare their community for potential ICE raids.
	+ Presbytery Meeting – August 12 – Pastor Trey, Lynn Ellsworth and Janet Cermak were able to present our experience with the ICE raid.
	+ Business and Professional Women – August 16 – Tammy Shull presented to this organization who were very interested in learning what had and is happening.
	+ Immigration Summit on August 25
		- Attendees: Pastor Trey Hegar, Tammy Shull, Bob Mueller, Jean Thomson, Joy Lapp, Julieta Reza, Yesica Reza, Annalisa Miller, Lois Crane.
		- Pastor Trey and Julietta were part of the panel discussing Rapid Response: Lessons from Mt. Pleasant.
		- Pastor Trey and Tammy co-presented the concurrent workshop on coordinating human needs support. We shared a workbook that Pastor Trey developed to help other communities prepare for and respond to ICE crises. Workbook attached!
		- Brochure – Bob Mueller developed a brochure for IowaWINs for distribution at the Immigration Summit this weekend and other future events. Thanks Bob! Brochure attached!
	+ IW Global Issues Classes – September 5th – Pastor Trey and Tammy shared the Mt. Pleasant ICE raid story with the students. Thanks to Dr. Joy Lapp for inviting us to present.
	+ Fairfield Labor Day Event – 9/3/2018 – Annalisa Miller was our representative and there was significant interest in Iowa WINs.
	+ United Church of Christ – Iowa City – 9/16
		- Tammy spoke to the Adult Ed Forum about Iowa WINs and continuing needs.
		- This church donated to IowaWINs and the Eastern Iowa Community Bonds project right after the ICE Raid.
	+ Washington Mennonite Church – Wednesday, 9/19 – Pastor Trey will speak with them as they prepare to respond to future ICE events in their community.
	+ Conference Call with Iowa-AIR (Alliance for Immigration Reform)– Thursday, 9/20 – Bob Mueller and Tammy will be sharing the Mt. Pleasant story along with other speakers who will be sharing the O’Neil Nebraska ICE raid story.
	+ Upcoming events:
		- Fairfield International Events
			* International Day of Peace Symposium, Friday, 9/21
				+ Bob Mueller is moderating a panel discussion on immigration
				+ IowaWINs and LULAC information tables – Annalisa and Bob staffing for IowaWINs and David Suarez staffing for LULAC
			* International Festival, Saturday, 9/22
				+ IowaWINs and LULAC staffing information tables – Annalisa and Tammy staffing for IowaWINS; David Suarez staffing for LULAC
			* See attached schedule of events, please consider volunteering some time at the table and enjoying the event.
		- Ottumwa International Festival, Saturday, September 29th from 3:00pm-8:00pm.
			* LULAC will have a table
			* Jeff Fager has volunteered to staff an IowaWINs both for a portion of the time. Let us know if you can help as well.
		- Sam Riepe volunteered to speak at West Union Mennonite on October 7
		- Pastor Trey and Tammy will be part of a University of Iowa Panel Discussion on the ICE raids on Monday, 10/22 at 4:30 PM.
		- Tammy Shull will be speaking to the Burlington chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) about immigration on 10/25 at 6 PM.
		- Schedule Genesis of Exodus – this is an important documentary film and we would like to schedule a public screening this fall.
	+ We have a box for setting up an Iowa WINs table at events -- table cloth, brochures, flyers, signup sheets, clip boards, pens. instructions, etc.  Contact Bob Mueller at mayatoddbob@aim.com
* Next meeting dates are:
	+ We will not have a full Iowa WINs meeting in October due to conflicts
	+ Iowa WINs Leadership Meeting – Thursday, 9/27 at 6:30 PM
	+ Iowa WINs Leadership Meeting – Monday, 10/15 at 6:30 PM
	+ November full Iowa WINs meeting will be Thursday, 11/1 at 6:30 PM

Thanks,

Tammy Shull

tammyshull@windstream.net

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/>

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