

Iowa WINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Commission

Thursday, 11/1 at 6:30 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: Annalisa Miller, Bob Mueller, Cathryn Layer, Janet Cermak, Jeff Fager, Joanne McCabe, Johanna Crawford, Julieta Reza Silvestre, Lea Bradley, Jane Martin, Lois Crane, Lori Davis, Lynn Ellsworth, Maria Mellado, Mike Riepe, Pat Richenberger, Father Paul Connolly, Roger Farmer, Sam Riepe, Tammy Shull, Tom Ellsworth, Pastor Trey Hegar, Yesica Reza. **My apologies if you were in attendance and I missed including you.**

* **Introductions**
* **Statement from July 2016 IowaWINs Meeting –** Tammy was sorting through old IowaWINs files and found an interesting item she included on the July 2016 agenda that seems so true about the experience of the IowaWINs organization:
  + I recently read Possible: A Blueprint for Changing How We Change the World. The World Relief Organization provided our group with a copy of the book by Stephan Bauman. I found it very inspirational and I certainly need that inspiration with all the violence that we are seeing in the US and across the world. I am very thankful that our group formed from a mutual sense of wanting to welcome strangers and develop relationships to serve both locally and internationally.
  + From Possible: Change starts with real people. People like you who dare to think differently, who risk, who care; people like you who bring the possibility of collision to a community oppressed by accusation, caged in faulty beliefs, or steeped in an unjust value system. Such actions can spark a movement, one that can be sustained through networks and institutions . . . when they meet people like themselves – call them “imaginal” people – something happens. They cluster together, forming friendly little groups, resonating at similar frequencies, believing against all odds in the possibility of good no matter what the cost. They hold on to their bold vision until something new is birthed. If this is you, don’t give up. Short lived impact is easy. It feels good for a season but last only for a while. Tackling the heart of change, at its root level, restructures how we see ourselves, others and the world. And sparking that change through extraordinary deeds, those beautiful collisions, can become the first shout of Something New.
* **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 sentencing at 4 PM on 11/7 in Davenport
    - 1 is scheduled for a status conference on 1/10/2019
    - 1 is determining whether to proceed with an appeal process
* **Family support**
  + Lynn Ellsworth reminded the group that there were several volunteers who were interested in working as support people for the families but were English only speakers. We should consider how we might match them with families to provide further support and relationship building.
  + **Fresh fruits and vegetables:** Lori reported that there was much interest in the fresh potatoes and onions received recently from Catholic Charities and TeamCan out of the Quad Cities. She is looking for more options to have fresh fruits and vegetables with longer shelf lives in the Pantry.
  + **Christmas baskets:** Lori is working with a pastor at JustChurch in Iowa City on Christmas Gift Baskets for the immigrant families. Keeping with the earlier item, she is encouraging gifts of apples and oranges for the gift baskets along with other needed items.
  + **Winter clothing:** We are taking donations of winter clothing for boys’ and girls’ sizes 4T-XL youth.  Gift cards or cash will work too!  If possible, please deliver during pantry hours of:
  + Mondays from 9 to 12 Noon
  + Tuesdays from 5 to 6
* **Financial Oversight and Fundraising** – Update on funds raised
  + October 26th fundraising luncheon in Fairfield – big success with about 240 people attending and $2,567 raised at the event with additional dollars through online giving due to the publicity around the event.
  + October 26th fundraising event in Davenport – another big success with about $4,000 raised in cash, plus pantry donations and 20+ winter coats.
  + Enhance Henry County grant submitted on 10/30/2018. Decisions will be made in December about which grants are funded and for what amount.
  + IowaWINs Auction on November 8th at First Presbyterian Church starting at 6 PM
    - 100+ items/services donated
    - Thanks to Jerry’s Restaurant for donating pizza for the event – free will offering
    - Please encourage friends and family to attend.
* **Governmental contact/Updates to Google Drive**
  + Meeting with local officials on 9/28 (Notes on Google Drive)
  + Bob Mueller described the meeting with the Mt. Pleasant city officials and police as a good dialogue and a start to developing improved understanding of the issues of the immigrants in Mt. Pleasant. Notes of the meeting are on the Google Drive.
* **Events and event planning**
  + Fairfield International Events – Annalisa shared information about the September events in Fairfield where we were able to introduce IowaWINs to that community.
    - International Day of Peace Symposium, Friday, 9/21
      * Bob Mueller is moderated a panel discussion on immigration
      * IowaWINs and LULAC information tables – Annalisa and Bob staffed for IowaWINs and David Suarez staffed for LULAC
    - International Festival, Saturday, 9/22
      * IowaWINs and LULAC staffed information tables – Jane Martin, Annalisa and Tammy staffed for IowaWINS; David Suarez staffing for LULAC
  + Sam Riepe - West Union Mennonite on October 7 – Sam gave a report of his experience in talking with this group. Roger Farmer had recommended IowaWINs to this church as they are considering what response they should have in their community. Discussed the difficulties of legal immigration and the difference in pursuing legal status for highly educated people versus hourly workers.
  + Pastor Trey, Julieta and Tammy were part of a University of Iowa Panel Discussion moderated by Nicole Novak on the ICE raids on Monday, 10/22 along with Natalia from Eastern Iowa Community Bond project and Dan Vondra, immigration attorney representing many of the Mt. Pleasant men. Pastor Trey reported that it was in part a reunion with the people who were so important after the ICE Raid. Julieta reported that she was moved to tell her story to this group that included many UI students and her hope that her children might be UI students in the future.
  + Tammy Shull spoke to the Burlington chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) about immigration on 10/25. Very sympathetic group who remembered that Hispanic workers have long been a part of the community in SE Iowa.
  + Pastor Trey is talking with the Quad Cities Unitarian Church on 11/3
  + Tammy will be talking with the local Knights of Columbus on 11/6.
  + Victor Reza, Julieta's brother, would like to do a Posada (Christmas tradition) at the church to get the immigrant community together and to say thank you to Iowa WINs. He met with Pastor Trey, Sarah, and Lynn and we decided to support him. It will be Sunday, Dec. 23 at 4:00 at the church.
  + The Catholic Church is also planning at Posada for December 19th at 6:30 PM. Having two Posadas is in keeping with the Posada tradition which shows Mary and Joseph seeking a place at the inns and being turned away. It frequently is done on different nights during the Advent season.
* **Media/Social Media**
  + Catholic Messenger article – Visit with families on October 18 at the Catholic Church. Maria Mellado was an interpreter. Julieta encouraged families to attend. Father Paul reported that it was a front page story in the Catholic Messenger today and included an editorial describing the necessity of immigration reform and the importance of supporting the immigrant families through this long legal process.
  + Dutch Public Broadcasting – Sunday 10/21 and 10/22 – Pastor Trey reported on the interest of this Netherlands news source based out of Washington, DC and their interest in reporting the impact of immigration issues in real communities, like Mt. Pleasant.
  + Bloomberg News – Pastor Trey reported that Bloomberg News is continuing to prepare a news story and has been in Guatemala to interview the parents of Walfred who was left with no family in Iowa after his father was deported. Walfred is in high school and living with a church member while his status is adjusted for permanent residency.
  + Julieta was recognized at the Dream Iowa Banquet in Des Moines on 10/27 receiving an award for an Immigrant Leader award. She was honored to be recognized and she is so deserving. Pastor Trey and Tammy wrote letters of support. She was nominated by an ISU doctoral student who heard Julieta speak at the University of Iowa Immigration forum earlier this year.
  + We have had some great media coverage in advance of the 10/26 Fairfield and Davenport fundraisers:
    - KYOU Fox News Report  <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sNINOKZYaUdgWsXfiYb6jHC74I3tugkO/view>
    - Quad City Times <http://qctimes.com/news/local/article_e8f17f75-049f-551f-9435-6de56ff661be.html>
  + **Revised list of new posts to Google Drive:** [**https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s4-fNqgl-lEx-3s\_4Js99B5vwYINjF43/view**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s4-fNqgl-lEx-3s_4Js99B5vwYINjF43/view)
    - Posted                  Title
    - 10/30/2108    Politicizing Immigration Wears Thin in Iowa
    - 10/24/2018 AUCTION Flyer
    - 10/23/2018 Unions Can Protect Workers From Deportation. This Coalition of 3.5 Million Is Showing How
    - 10/16/2018 Meeting with Local Officials
    - 10/16/2018 We Stopped ICE From Getting an Extra Billion; Now Let?s Defund It Totally
    - 10/14/2018 The only lawyer in town - a lonesome figure stands up for immigrant
    - 10/09/2018 DEVIN NUNES’S FAMILY FARM IS HIDING A POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE SECRET
    - 10/03/2018 Stymied By Waits To Seek Asylum Legally, Some Immigrants Crossed Illegally, A New Government Report Finds
    - 10/01/2018 Immigrants could be required to show credit scores if they want to stay in the U.S.
    - 10/01/2018 ICE Is Giving More Local [Police] the Powers of Immigration Agents. It?s Been a Disaster
    - 10/01/2018 Migrant  Children Moved Under  Cover of  Darkness to a Texas Tent City
    - 10/01/2018 Thousands Could Be Deported As Government Targets Asylum Mills' Clients
    - 09/26/2018 Trump?s Latest Assault on Immigrants Shreds a Half-Century of Reform
    - 09/26/2018 CLIN draft Public charge rule released
    - 09/22/2018 New Senate Bill Would Allow Indefinite Detention of Migrant Families
    - 09/22/2018 ICE arrested undocumented immigrants who came forward to take in undocumented children
    - 09/20/2018 Keep ICE Out of Iowa toolkit
    - 09/18/2018 Grassley letter of September 18, 2018
    - 09/17/2018 Iowa WINS Workbook
    - 09/16/2018 Seeking asylum in the U.S. under Trump
    - 09/13/2018 As many as 1,000 parents separated from their children are getting a second chance to stay in the US
    - 09/12/2018 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SECURITY ACT OF 2018 -- HR 6691
    - 09/11/2018 By the Numbers: Manipulation of the Appropriations Process (DHS/ICE)
    - 09/08/2018 How Much Funding Does ICE Get? Trump Wants To Bump It Up By Nearly $1 Billion
    - 09/08/2018 ICE FY18 Budget
    - 09/04/2018 Candidate Immigration Question Guide
    - 09/04/2018 How does SF 481 affect Iowans
    - 09/04/2018 Immigration in small-town Iowa: One church reaches out to the community
    - 09/01/2018 Social Justice Resource Center September Newsletter
    - Two new videos from KYOU Fox in Videos folder
* Next meeting dates are:
  + Leadership Meeting, Wednesday, 11/14 at 7:15 PM
  + December IowaWINs Meeting Date – to be determined

Thanks,

Tammy Shull

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Tammy Shull

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A Commission of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant

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