

Iowa WINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

Thursday, 1/17 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: **Bob Mueller**, **Catherine Benitz, Janet Cermak, Joanne McCabe,** **Julieta Reza Silvestre**, **Pastor Kathleen Wohlers**, **Kay Young,** **Lois Crane,** **Mason Fraker,** **Mike Riepe,** **Nicole Novak, Rodrigo Noris, Sue Morrison**, **Tammy Shull,** **Pastor Trey Hegar, Yesica Reza.**

**Introductions**

* Introductions -We welcomed several new participants including 3 women from Burlington who came bearing gifts for the food pantry!
* **2018 Year in Review – Many thanks to Bob Mueller for preparing!**
	+ <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UA1cv1qRG3TFs6BVXkn5sPP31niuKWfG>
* Also, thanks to Diane Collet who assembled two binders with IowaWINs related clippings.
* Nicole Novak shared a Public Health Research project that she is working on with other University of Iowa staff. They are interviewing people from towns affected by ICE Raids to determine the impact the raids had on community response and community health. They are including larger raids that happened in Tennessee and in Nebraska but Nicole advocated that Mount Pleasant also be included. (Nicole was active in Mt. Pleasant from the day of the raid in her roles as a volunteer with the Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project.) They will be conducting interviews the weekend of 2/2 and 2/3 with any people who were affected by the raid personally whether due to detention of family members or in providing a response to the community. They would like to talk with school staff, legal responders, church members and immigration advocates. Please contact Nicole at (319) 930-9886 if you would like to be included. Both English and Spanish speakers will be included. The interview results will be published but the names of the participants will remain anonymous.
* **2019 Volunteer Sign-up**
* We are looking to update our volunteer lists so those present had the opportunity to volunteer in particular areas. Please contact Tammy if you would like to volunteer in any of the following areas:
	+ Providing transportation for families to immigration hearings (Iowa City, Des Moines, Omaha, etc.)
	+ Preparing  foods for events – Note the need for volunteers to help with Indian Luncheon fundraiser being held in Fairfield that is coming up in February
	+ Helping with food pantry - taking deliveries and stocking
	+ Helping on the events teams
	+ Interpreting for immigrant families
	+ Providing child care during events
	+ Contacting governmental officials
	+ Speaking to community groups about IowaWIN
	+ Helping on the fundraising team
* **Family support**
	+ Rent/Utilities increased by $1,000 per family. For families impacted from the beginning, the total is now $6,500
	+ Food Pantry - We would appreciate donations of the following:
		- Laundry Detergent
		- Dish Soap
		- Shampoo
		- Tooth Paste
		- Soap
		- Paper Towels
		- Vegetable Oil
		- White Rice
		- White Corn Tortillas
		- Canned Meats
		- Canned Fruits
		- Fresh Fruits
		- Fresh Vegetables
		- Plain Pasta
		- Raw Black Beans

Donations can be taken to the First Presbyterian Church till 2 PM from Monday to Friday.  For larger donations, please email us to arrange a time.

* + Transportation for immigration hearings will be needed starting in February, Contact Rodrigo for transportation needs at 319-217-8884. Note that federal immigration hearings are not being held during the government shutdown which likely will result in delays.
	+ Also discussed local transportation requests. We do have people who have volunteered to drive others to local destinations. Rodrigo expressed concern about people expecting rides without advance notice when they may have other means. Will continue to assess needs and ask for more advance notice of transportation requests. If any bi-lingual people would be interested in helping coordinate local transportation, please let Rodrigo know.
	+ Local translation assistance available from Johanna Crawford
	+ Youth leadership development program to encourage continued education, financial literacy, and building social relationships. Let Tammy know if you are interested in planning and delivering this program which could contain both individual appointments and group events.
* **Fundraising** – Update on funds raised
	+ Fairfield Vaju Luncheon on 2/22 – Many thanks to Vaju for hosting another fundraising dinner for IowaWINs. Vaju is a gourmet Indian chef and her luncheons are quite popular in Fairfield. We need:
		- 4 volunteers from 8am - 10:30 on Tues, Wed and Thurs
		- 8 volunteers on Friday – either 8 AM – 11AM or 11 AM to 2 PM
		- Please let Annalisa Miller, Lynn Ellsworth or Tammy Shull know if you can volunteer on any of these days. Reports from the last luncheon was that it was a fun event for the volunteers and very tasty too!
* **Freedom for Immigrants/Eastern Iowa Committee – Report from Victor Rodrigo Reza**
	+ <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/>
	+ A SE Iowa chapter of this group is being formed to visit ICE detention centers to monitor conditions and to provide human contact with the detainees. Henry County is currently building a new jail facility and it is possible that they will house ICE detainees. So participation in visitation programs could be very important here. Rodrigo has been attending the meetings of this group. Please contact Rodrigo or Tammy if you would like to be a part of this effort.
* **Events**
	+ Kent Ferris shared information about a Social Action Saturday, 1/26 event in Riverside from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM that will feature Dr. Kristy Nabhan-Warren, Professor in the Religious Studies and Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies Departments and the V.O. and Elizabeth Kahl Figge Chair in Catholic Studies at the University of Iowa.
	Dr. Kristy will share stories and insights from her Iowa-based, ethnographic fieldwork, conducted for her newest book project, Cornbelt America: Work, Food and Faith in the Heartland. She will speak about patterns of migration, work in meatpacking plants and religion in our Hawkeye State.
		- Kent asked if one of the immigrant families would participate for a few minutes to share their story. Julieta and Rodrigo will plan to participate.
		- Any IowaWINs member is also welcome to come to this event. Let Tammy know if you would like more details and registration information.
	+ Gayle Olson shared that the Swedesburg Lutheran Church is holding concerts in support of their partnership with a Tanzanian partner congregation. Concerts are no charge with a free will offering to support their projects in Tanzania. Upcoming events are:
		- Sunday, 2/3, Love Songs
		- Sunday, 3/3, Celtic Hymns and Irish Jigs
	+ African American History Celebration
		- Saturday, 2/09/2019
		- Meal @ noon, free will offering
		- Program @ 1 pm
		- Usually concludes around 3 PM.
		- Great music, food and fellowship
		- Second Baptist Ministries
		- 801 E Winfield Ave
		- Mt. Pleasant, IA
		- It is actually accessed through a lane off Winfield Ave that runs north of the north side of the Wal-Mart Parking lot.  There used to be a car lot by the lane but it has since closed.  If you drive north on the lane about a block, you will see a brick building where the church is located.
* Governmental Contacts
	+ There is a [Survey (in Spanish)](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1R8_bZfC6Hg7YwpavUBwr3O_lY00Q4f56Lnab4vQXiDg) to help determine the direction to take legislatively. Please encourage the families to respond.
	+ There is an [Immigrant Advocacy Day](https://www.facebook.com/events/1044354945724503/) scheduled for February 4th in Des Moines. This will be a good chance to meet with others working around the state and meet with state legislators.
	+ Also a Latino Day on the Hill on January 25th from 9 to 12 Noon.
	+ Please contact Bob Mueller if you are interested in participating.
* Media
	+ Pastor Trey noted that there are two upcoming TV News follow-up stories
		- 1/22 5:00 PM interview with Channel 6 out of Davenport
		- 1/29 4:30 PM interview with KCCI News out of Des Moines
	+ Article on Elmer and Walfred and Kay Young in Bloomberg News
		- <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-12-27/two-towns-forged-an-unlikely-bond-now-ice-is-severing-the-connection?fbclid=IwAR3HmgsHxQ5jwc1FCysgYBgdDNmDRV80gqNcMC7SwuXI5wUgHKEHyDWKZ0o>
	+ Catholic Messenger article on IowaWINs – follow up article just before Christmas
		- <https://www.catholicmessenger.net/2018/12/ice-impacted-families-will-open-presents-sealed-with-love/?fbclid=IwAR0mg9_snw9Ks53XMtgqKO1ptQ_ViIk9NIFkfCTqp8hwayIxU7tUO3hgFg0>
	+ Christmas Posada article in Mt. Pleasant News
		- <https://mpnews.net/subject/news/immigrant-families-host-posada-as-thank-you-to-iowa-wins-community-20181224>
	+ Year In Review articles
		- Burlington Hawkeye
			* <https://www.thehawkeye.com/news/20181223/2018-year-in-review-ice-raid-leaves-mark-on-mount-pleasant>
		- Mt. Pleasant News 1/3 Special Supplement
	+ Acting Attorney General’s involvement in Marshalltown ICE Raid

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/whitakers-role-in-2006-immigration-raid-foreshadowed-aggressive-stance-as-acting-attorney-general/2018/12/29/6836395e-f4e0-11e8-80d0-f7e1948d55f4_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.2772f11c0d8e>

* Next meeting dates are:
	+ Leadership Meeting, Tuesday, 2/12 at 5:30 PM
	+ Feburary IowaWINs Meeting Date – to be determined

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/>

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

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