

**Iowa WINS** (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors) **Commission**

Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:00 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: **Amy Clark,** **Annalisa Miller,** **Barb Stone, Bob Mueller,** **Claudia Streeter, Ed Kropa,** **Heidi Riepe, Jane Martin, Joel Uriza Lopez,** **Juan Nunez Lara,** **Maria Mellado, Mason Fraker, Father Paul Connolly**, **Sam Riepe, Tammy Shull, Pastor** **Trey Hegar**

* Introductions
* **Status of men impacted by ICE raid**
	+ 24 remain free on bond awaiting immigration hearings and work permits
	+ Update on men held on criminal charges
		- Rosita’s husband was sentenced to time served on prior immigration charges, was held in ICE detention in Hardin County Jail in Eldora till 3/27 and he has since been deported to Honduras. He is the 7th man to be deported since the raid. Note that we have reports that he has been a victim of violence since his return to Honduras.
		- Yesica’s husband, Ricardo, was sentenced to time served on prior immigration charges, currently being held in ICE detention in Hardin County Jail in Eldora. His original conviction is being appealed.
			* Two articles on Ricardo:

Hawkeye:  <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UjyYAor5nbbYB2EkbB16hQs5sonUqLuV>

* Mt. Pleasant News:  <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1i92h9gvCfFggYR58gsXrETe2K_t5VdZR>
* **Family support**
	+ Food Pantry – donations continue to be needed. Bob Mueller is looking at options with FoodBank of Iowa and wholesalers
	+ Work permit status – there are three men who have received work permits and are waiting on social security cards. Very good news!
	+ Transportation for immigration hearings, Contact Rodrigo for transportation needs at 319-217-8884. Several immigration hearings have been delayed. Please let Rodrigo know as soon as possible of rescheduled hearings.
* **Guatemalan Consulate Visit – volunteers needed**
	+ This Saturday, 4/6 from 7 AM to 5 PM
	+ Schedule for volunteers was circulated and is being emailed. Let Tammy know if you would like to assist.
	+ Will be delivering passports/documents to individuals who requested them last summer
* **Fundraising** – Update on funds raised
	+ Presbyterian Woman’s grant – received 70% of grant ($14,000) this week. Ed Kropa will get the check deposited in Martha’s absence.
	+ Divine Star Charities doing another Fairfield benefit Luncheon on 5/10. Volunteers needed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 10 AM and on Friday, 5/10. Please let Tammy know if you are able to volunteer that week.
	+ St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church - Peace & Justice Commission – Iowa City – this has been submitted for $4,000 and we are awaiting a positive response. Thanks to Linda Albright who was the grant writer.
* **Sustainable Ministry Project**
	+ Community gardens – we will have community gardens available for immigrant families and also will grow produce to be used in the food pantry or to supply our new food truck project
	+ Grant applications
	+ Henry County Master Gardeners Mini-Grant - submitted 03/35/19 - $250
	+ Farm Credit Services of America - submitted 03/27/19 - $2,000
	+ Community 1st Credit Union Grant – one paragraph – community garden $2,000
	+ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance grant - moneys for administrative costs - need grant writer
	+ moneys remaining from Presbyterian grant - deadline to apply is May 1 - areas for assistance include Spanish-American Ministries, Environmental Ministries - need grant writer
	+ Low interest loan from Community 1st Credit Union
	+ food reclamation from local farmers for the pantry/ and or food production for sale
	+ initiative to purchase a food truck for revenue generation
* **Leadership Development Program –** partnership with LULAC
	+ Nick Salazar is developing a leadership program for immigrants/refugees of Mt. Pleasant/Henry County - This event will be a locally hosted leadership program for new or emerging leaders who want to make a difference in their communities.

The participants of this program will learn their own leadership capacity.  They will also learn about the institutions, organizations, and people who make up the community and how they can engage to serve these communities.

We are looking for local leaders who can lead some of these workshops/forums that are centered around the following

* getting to know the community
* identifying leadership styles
* leading through communication
* exploring diversity
* conflict management
* how to get involved in the community
* exploring issues in the community
* learning how the local/state government works
* building a healthy inclusive community

In addition, officials and political leaders would also be invited to participate. This program could fit nicely with our desire for a youth leadership program and our food initiative training programs. Nick has already talked with Himar Hernandez and Victor Oyervides who have volunteered to lead training sessions. We also discussed having Oscar Argueta as an inspirational entrepreneur speak if we can time it when he will be in Mt. Pleasant. Stay tuned, this sounds very promising.

* **Events**
	+ Manning Lecture at IW – Immigration speaker – Sunday, April 7th
		- 9:45 Sermon at First Presbyterian Church
		- 1:30 – 5:30 Keynote and breakouts at IW Chapel

Will be an amazing keynote with great breakouts – see below for details:

* + Rev. Alexia Salvatierra
	[www.alexiasalvatierra.com](http://www.alexiasalvatierra.com)
	Dynamic, sought-after speaker on the topics of working poverty and immigration
	Lutheran Pastor with over 35 years of experience in congregational and community organizing and legislative advocacy
	Co-Author of Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World
	+ Immigration 101: Understanding Immigration Law
	+ Community Voices: The Impact of Migration in Mount Pleasant
	+ Nuts and Bolts of Organizing: Lessons from Mount Pleasant
	+ Child Trafficking and Migration: How to Help
	+ Migrant Advocacy and Support
	+ Stories of Migration
	+ Why Do They Come? Push and Pull Factors in Iowa’s Migration Story
	+ Welcoming New Americans in Your Community
	+ Burlington Peace, Healing and Community group on April 11 at 6 PM. Tammy will be part of a panel on immigration along with Pastor Kathleen Wohlers who visited the Wall near El Paso last summer. This will be held at the Burlington Public Library and is open to the public. They will also be collecting donations for our food pantry. Let Tammy know if you are interested in carpooling to this event.
	+ Fairfield Unitarian Church on Sunday, 4/14 at 10:30 AM – Tammy will present the Mt. Pleasant IowaWINs story. Open to the public.
	+ Rodrigo suggested we have an activity for Day of the Children – April 30th?:  <http://www.mexconnect.com/articles/3764-in-mexico-april-30-is-children-s-day-el-dia-del-ni%C3%B1o>.  Any ideas?
	+ May 9th -- Mark anniversary of the raid.  Looking into premiering DREAM Iowa's film on Mount Pleasant. More details to come.  Anything else?
	+ Planning for presentation of VANG play on immigrant farmers at IW in the fall:  <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jKdaWN0TvRo4NPHoFiMNe5OoCjY08NkZ>
* **Governmental Contacts**
	+ Iowa AIR and Erica are now recommending contacting your state senator about opposition to the current E-verify bill that will increase costs for business and taxpayers and is a systems with significant inaccuracies.
	+ Grassley was in Mount Pleasant recently. From the local paper:
		- *"Steering away from health care, Grassley also addressed concerns over lack of workers in southeastern Iowa, and whether immigration laws could allow unskilled workers in to help fill jobs.*
		- *Grassley said the problem with bills that would let immigrants to fill unskilled labor positions is they can be amended.*
		- *“People on the left would amend it saying we’re going to legalize the people undocumented right now.*
		- *People on the right think you can load up all 10 million (undocumented) people and get them out of the country.  Neither one of them are realistic. That’s what keeps us from bringing it up,” Grassley said.*
		- *Grassley said bills addressing unskilled workers need “integrity” put into it like E-Verify, a web-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm the eligibility of their employees to work in the U.S."*
		- <https://www.mpnews.net/subject/news/grassley-addresses-health-care-concerns-immigration-at-hchc-qa-20190322>

* **IowaWINs Leadership Meeting on Tuesday, 4/16 at 5:30 PM**
* **Next IowaWINs May general meeting 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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