

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

Thursday, May 9, 2019 – **One year anniversary of ICE Raid in Mt. Pleasant** at 5:30 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: Adam Robinson, Annalisa Miller, Bella Reyes, Betty Lowe, Bob Mueller, Claudia Streeter, Ed Kropa, Felipe Ramos Rodriguez, Franciso Tojin Chivalan, Jane Martin, Jean Thompson, Jeff Fager, Joel Uriza Lopez, Juan Nunez Lara, Juan Gudino, Julieta Reza, Linda Albright, Lynn Ellsworth, Sister Lynn Mousel, Magaly Carrillo, Maria Mellado, Sister Mary Bea Snyder, Nicole Novak, Father Paul Connolly, Ron Carrillo, Tammy Shull, Pastor Trey Hegar, Victor Rodrigo Noris, Yesica Reza ---Apologies if you were in attendance and not included on this list, please let me know.

* Introductions
* Pastor Hegar – Reflections - Matthew 25, the sheep and the goats and how we treat others in need.
* The last year in video and photographs – many thanks to Bob Mueller for putting together this series of videos that tell the story of the ICE Raid in Mt. Pleasant on May 9, 2018. And we continue to wait, as we did a year ago for immigration hearings.
* Report on impact of ICE Raids on community health – Nicole Novak, University of Iowa
	+ Nicole and her team conducted interviews in communities across the US who were subject to ICE Raids, including members of the Mt. Pleasant community
	+ Nicole and two of the interviewers, Juan Gudino (Masters in Public Health epidemiology student) and Bella Reyes (undergraduate senior) shared an overview of the initial findings with IowaWINs.
	+ The comparison of an ICE Raid as a disaster (flood, tornado, fire) in the community was a repeated theme that was heard along with the compassion of community members to help those impacted.
* Relationships and Hope keep us moving forward
	+ Sunday’s Ecumenical Prayer Service and Fellowship at St Alphonsus – many thanks to the Diocese of Davenport, the Catholic clergy, the local St. Alphonsus parish, and all the support that we have received from many different faith communities over the last year.
	+ We are thankful 24 men are still with their families one year after the ICE Raid. They continue to wait for their immigration hearings. A few have been granted work permits but continue to wait for social security cards so they can return to work as breadwinners for their families.
	+ We stand with the families of the men who were deported and wait as appeal processes continue to work through the immigration court system.
	+ Partnership with IowaWINs and LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) continues as we seek to give voice to issues and challenges that faced the Latin American community.
	+ We are grateful for the recognition of IowaWINs by Iowa Disaster Council and Iowa Homeland Security. Again, note that the comparison of the ICE Raid is to a natural disaster in a community and the focus must be on a compassionate and humane response.
* Family support
	+ Food Pantry – moving to wholesale supplier to customize and make donations go further
	+ New hours for Food Pantry and Financial Assistance: 9 AM – 11 AM on Mondays
	+ Transportation for immigration hearings, Contact Rodrigo for transportation needs at 319-217-8884
* Sustainable Ministry Project – Nutrimos – We Nourish
* The goal is to nourish physically, mentally, and spiritually through working and learning together and respecting the dignity of everyone.  This project is being led by Annalisa Miller and Morgan Hoenig. They are both amazing leaders and this project has grown from a glimmer of an idea to a reality due to their knowledge and skills.  The project has three components:  community gardening, education and training, and the potential of a food truck business start-up this summer.
	+ The community gardening is off to a great start.  Thanks to grants from Farm Credit Services and Henry County Master Gardeners, IowaWINs was able to purchase potting soil and seedlings for use in the community gardens.  Through a grant application to Herman’s Garden Seed Donation, 50 packets of organic heirloom seeds were donated and shipped to the church for the community gardens!  Planting at the Fellowship Cup Community Garden space with plant seedlings and seeds will begin on May 15th.
	+ The next component is education and training.  Six people will participate in the Safe Serve training/certification offered in Spanish in Iowa City by ISU Extension on May 10th.  It is a full day class covering significant requirements for operating a safe kitchen for public food consumption.  At the end of the day, the participants take the certification exam.  Other education/training plans include budgeting, preserving foods, customer service skills, and leadership skills.
	+ We are very pleased to announce that the third component of the project, “Just” Tacos food truck is very close to being kicked off this summer.  We have received a $30,000 grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help cover the cost of a chef/food truck manager and other start-up expenses.  We are waiting on a second grant that would cover the cost to buy or lease the food trailer.  And there actually is a custom made taco trailer for sale in the local area.  Volunteers will help staff the food truck and gain valuable experience and skills  to help them in seeking employment.  We will use local foods to prepare the tacos and the profits will be returned to IowaWINs for continued assistance to the immigrant families as they wait for immigration hearings and work permits.

Thanks,

Tammy Shull

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A Commission of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant

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