



2021 has been an amazing year at IowaWINS

Please scroll down to read about our latest news:

2021 Iowa WINS Update

Thanks to all our supporters who have made it possible to build stronger caring communities!



The idea of “Giving Tuesday” began in 2012 and is now an international movement intended to spur generosity locally

OUR VISION:

Our communities will be inclusive and hospitable, welcoming people from across the world who chose to live, work, study and seek happiness here.

The purpose of IowaWINS is to establish a connection between immigrant families and other Mount Pleasant and Southeast Iowa neighbors.

In order to achieve that vision, the MISSION of

and globally. This is based on the belief that humans want to help each other, and given the opportunity, they will display radical kindness for others. (For more information about Giving Tuesday, see the website at <https://www.givingtuesday.org/>.)

Giving Tuesday hopes to inspire people to perform some act of charity every Tuesday; however, the last Tuesday in November (30th) is designated “The Biggest Day of Generosity.” This could be a simple act of kindness for a neighbor or stranger, volunteering for a project, or sharing from your own bounty for those that have less. We at IowaWINs suggest thinking about our neighbors who have arrived—and are still arriving—from other lands. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 30, as a time to reflectively give of yourself.



IowaWINs Presents Vang

Three years ago Joanne McCabe brought our attention to Mary Swander’s play Vang. On Thursday, November 18, the play was performed at the Heatilator Performing Arts Center after a long interruption of plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

IowaWINs is to:

Develop relationships and partnerships within our communities and beyond to develop and implement solutions to common problems that immigrant residents face.

Support the self-development of people in the immigrant community through connecting groups seeking to take initiative with resources.

Build inclusive and hospitable relationships, providing educational, cultural, and service opportunities for all members of the community.

Support children and people who came to the US as children in seeking to establish legal status in the US through assistance with application and legal fees to the degree possible with resources available.

Advocate on behalf of immigrant rights to Iowa residents, government officials, office seekers and those developing public policy.

Thanks so much for all of your support of

About seventy people attended this play, which depicted the stories of four immigrant families—one from Asia, one from Africa, one from Mexico, and one from northern Europe. The stories differed based on the circumstances from which the families came, but all were involved in agriculture in Iowa and shared a commitment to integrate into their new homes.

Committee members during the three year period included Joanne McCabe, Linda Albright, Mike Heaton, Tammy Shull, Ann Klingensmith, and Bob Mueller. In addition, Robbie Heaton and Cole Smith helped with the production that evening. A free will offering brought in over \$1,000 to be added to the over \$800 in sponsorships. These resources will aid IowaWINS in its service to our new neighbors in Henry County.

IowaWINS. It is through your support that we are able to provide assistance for our immigrant community.

***Click to make a
tax-deductible
donation***

Your tax-deductible donation helps our immigrant families with:

- legal fees
- food
- rent
- utilities
- education

New Officers and Bylaws for IowaWINS

Many thanks to the Bylaws Committee who created Bylaws for IowaWINS that were adopted this year. In accordance with the bylaws, we announced the following new officers and board members at our annual meeting in October:

President: Jeff Fager

Vice President: Sam Riepe

Secretary: Bob Mueller

Treasurer, IowaWINS: Martha Wiley

Treasurer, Nutrimos: Tammy Shull

Executive Committee Board Members: David Suarez and Ed Kropa

Board Members include Anne Walton, Diana Sanchez, Jane Martin, Mike

Linnenbrink, Paula Wiley, Ruth Anne Lapp, Pastor Trey Hegar.

Many thanks to the officers who bring years of dedicated service with IowaWINS and also to the continuing and new board members who bring such energy and enthusiasm to the organization.

IowaWINS Food Pantry Update



Maria and Alberto, Yolanda, Silvia (secretary), and Beatriz (president)

In June we started the transition of food pantry operations to a new management made up of immigrants using the Food Pantry. The food pantry has been a major hub for interacting with the immigrant community since its inception shortly after the ICE raid here in May, 2018.

The families have now formed a board that will govern what products and services will be offered. Beatriz Toscano is the president, Silvia Chacon is secretary, and Rocio Gregorio is treasurer of the new board. IowaWINS will continue to be the major source of funding through grants and donations, with these funds being transferred to the new leadership group to decide how the funds are spent.

This new board now sets the guidelines for who can use the pantry, sets pantry hours, recruits volunteers, and orders supplies. The families served dropped from 23 to 12 during the first year, but, when COVID-19 hit, the need for expansion of families being served brought the current number to 43.

The Story of Nutrimos



Nutrimos was created as a sustaining ministry of IowaWINS in February 2019

- to help provide ongoing funding to IowaWINS
- to reach out to the wider immigrant community in the Mt Pleasant area to (1) provide education and training courses and to (2) assist immigrants in growing their own food by providing seeds and starter plants for their home gardens or plots at The Fellowship Cup Community Garden

Over the last 32 months, Nutrimos has been involved in the following projects:

Sustaining Business Opportunities:

- Just Tacos Justos - provided tacos and burritos at local events and RAGBRAI in 2019
- Microloan Program - in research and planning stage – will provide microloans along with various financial and business training programs to the underserved in the immigrant community
- Meals by Nutrimos - began in March, 2021 – provides frozen meals to Mt Pleasant area with 90% of profits going to the IowaWINS Food Pantry and 10% tithed to the First Presbyterian Church of Mt Pleasant. This business currently uses the Church kitchen to prepare and sell the frozen meals - so, Nutrimos donated funds to upgrade the Church kitchen to Certified status since we knew

this would be needed to go forward with sustaining business opportunities

Garden Projects:

- Seeds, Plants and Garden Kits – provided seeds and plants in 2019 and garden kits in 2020 and 2021 to Immigrant Families to help them start home gardens or plots in The Fellowship Community Garden
- Garden Plots at Fellowship Cup Community Garden – Nutrimos maintained the plots and harvested fresh produce in 2020 and 2021 for the IowaWINS Food Pantry

Education & Training

- Garden Classes – provided basic training in starting, maintaining and harvesting a garden in 2019 and 2020
- ServSafe Manager Class - provided registration and course fees in 2019, 2020 and 2021 to eight from the immigrant community and the person now managing Meals by Nutrimos
- Tomato Canning Classes – provided this class in 2019 and 2020 to teach canning techniques for produce grown in local gardens
- 2019 Visit to local Greenhouse in Fairfield, IA owned by an Immigrant – to provide inspiration from another immigrant and information on possible paths of employment to pursue

Current - Merging Nutrimos into IowaWINS

In the Summer of 2021, the committee creating the Bylaws for IowaWINS and Nutrimos realized that both organizations had many overlapping purposes. It was determined that merging Nutrimos into IowaWINS would create one stronger and more productive organization.

- Nutrimos merged into IowaWINS on October 1, 2021
- All Nutrimos current projects became Committees under IowaWINS - i.e., Nutrimos Microloan Program, Nutrimos Sustaining Business (Meals by Nutrimos), Nutrimos Garden Projects
- There continues to be a Nutrimos Treasurer as an IowaWINS Board Officer and we have maintained the Nutrimos Checking Account to cover all Nutrimos projects

We have already begun to see real value in this merger. And look forward to expanding current projects and bringing on new ones as we continue to help the immigrant community.



“Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader....They set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role—it’s always about the goal,” said author Lisa Haisha.



Tammy Shull served as a great leader as our Chairperson for IowaWINS over the last six years. Many know the current history of IowaWINS dating back to

2015 when we reached out to aid in the Syrian Refugee Crisis. However, few know that Tammy was leading as a champion of welcoming/advocating for immigrant neighbors long before we began as an official endeavor. Decades before IowaWINS, she befriended new comers to the Mount Pleasant community out of innate kindness and neighborliness. From those friendships, she brought some knowledge of immigrant concerns with her to our nascent board.

However, over the past six years Tammy has become an expert on a range of migrant issues from refugee placements to federal immigration policies, from legal status limbos to immigrant rights, from immigrant family needs to adapting as community organizer to meet those needs. She led us through stages of learning and growing. We went from a group of well-intentioned neighbors to being on the front-line response to an ICE raid. Tammy became a sought after speaker on immigration issues. Each time she spoke, dollars for the families poured in. We raised over half a million dollars under her leadership. We used it to help those in need.

As the crises of the ICE raid waned, Tammy led us through another transition to establish IowaWINS as a self-sustaining commission. She adapted to the challenges of finding and raising income to sustain our aid for legal fees, food supplements, and utilities. We went from selling tacos in a tent, to almost buying a food truck, to a now blossoming freezer meal ministry with Nutrimos.

Tammy would be the first to tell you that she did not set out to be a leader. She set out to make a difference. Her goal was to be a good neighbor. She has more than succeeded with her friendships, action and leadership. We all thank you, Tammy! Well done good and faithful servant-leader!

2021 Christmas Celebration as reported by "Santa Sam"



IowaWINS, along with the Sisters of Davenport led by Sister Bea, have had the joy of providing a Christmas celebration for the immigrant families and their children who were impacted by the 2018 ICE raid and then the COVID-19 Pandemic for the last four years.

Last Christmas, because of COVID-19, I played "Santa" by handing out gifts to the families as they drove up in their cars. This year, I am so glad to report that I will again be "Santa" but this time - we will gather at the First Presbyterian Church of Mt Pleasant on December 4th. Over 100 children and their families will receive gifts. After being demoted to delivery boy Santa last year due to COVID-19, I am looking forward to redeeming myself.

This has become one of my favorite times of the season, surrounded by these kids around the Christmas tree. We cannot begin to express how thankful we are to Sister Bea, her Order and the Davenport community for the many gifts and friendship they give to us. The Sisters have been so instrumental in building our bonds with the immigrant community here, making that bond stronger every year. Here's to a wonderful Christmas Celebration this year!



Christmas 2020
Where are the kids?



Christmas 2020
Delivery Boy Santa

You can donate online or by mail:

Online: <http://www.iowawins.net/give.html>

Mail: Iowa WINs (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

A Commission of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant

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Thanks again for all the ways that you support IowaWINS.

Sincerely,
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Access our online library here

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