



### **Dear Friend,**

We at IowaWINS wish to share with you our deep gratitude for your support of our immigrant community. This year has been particularly formidable with health challenges of the pandemic compounding the financial and legal struggles of our immigrant community, and it is thanks to you, our committed donors and volunteers, that we have been able to provide ongoing support to our immigrant families in the form of food and gardens, housing and utility payments, continuing education, and payments for legal fees. You have provided not just financial support, but also the fortitude of spirit to continue on in the face of adversity.

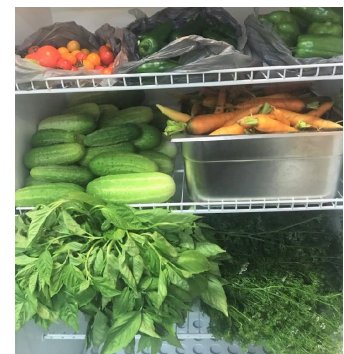
### **Hope for Our Youths**

We are so happy to share the 2020 successes of two of our immigrant youths with you. Each of these youths found themselves alone without adult support in our community, and now each is on a path to permanent residence. One has finished high school, received a work permit and a social security number, and is working full-time and self-supporting. The second youth will be completing high school this month, and he has received a work permit and is looking forward to the ability to work full-time. These young men are grateful for the support that they have received and are a delight to their legal guardians. Both youths have a brighter future because of your donations to IowaWINS that helped support them during this exceedingly difficult time.



### **Food and Support for Families**

We were fortunate to be able to provide extra emergency relief for food and utilities to 16 families who were not eligible for the government Covid relief payments. Currently our Food Pantry is regularly supporting 40 families with supplies and HyVee gift cards every other week, this is the largest number of families served since May 2018 at the time of the ICE raid. Our Food Pantry was partly replenished with fresh vegetables this summer, grown by our immigrant families and volunteers in the Fellowship Cup community gardens.



### **DACA Reinstated**

In 2020 IowaWINS funded DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival) renewal fees for 2 applicants. This program has been reinstated and new applicants will be allowed to apply, we anticipate expanding assistance for DACA fees in 2021.

## **Education = Opportunity**

We continue to offer continuing education to immigrant families on a range of topics, from gardening and canning, to financial education, and recently 2 people completed the certification for Serve Safe licensure required to manage commercial kitchens. It is very gratifying to collaborate with our immigrant families on these educational opportunities. Iowa towns are more vibrant and thrive with the support of immigrant businesses; investing in our local families will result in some exciting future endeavors.



## **Bringing Joy**

This Christmas we were again fortunate to be able to offer Christmas gifts for the children and holiday treats. Santa distributed these gifts at a drive-by event in December. We had good fun, thanks in part to the volunteers who gathered and organized the gifts.



## **Gratitude**

Like the expanding ripples from a pebble dropped in a pond, your generosity has a multiplier effect. Thank you for helping to sustain our Iowa immigrants so that they may live lives of stability, leading to a positive return within our communities, contributing to the vibrant growth of Iowa's towns. Your donation positively impacts individuals, families, communities. We are so grateful.

**On behalf of all of us at IowaWINS,**

**Tammy Shull**

**Chair**

**IowaWINS**

**A Commission of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant**

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## **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.