



## **Merry Christmas from Iowa WINS!**

We continue to thank everyone who has shown generosity to immigrants in Iowa who have suffered after the Mt. Pleasant ICE raids and are now suffering through the pandemic. The IowaWINS food pantry is now helping 40 families with every other week pantry supplies and HyVee gift cards. This is the largest number of families that we have served since we opened the food pantry in May of 2018 at the time of the ICE Raid. The impact of COVID-19 has hurt many immigrant families with both employment and health concerns. We encourage our supporters to become sustainable members of IowaWINS so that we can count on your monthly gift to keep the pantry operating. Click here [Give - IowaWINS](#) to make recurring or one-time contributions to IowaWINS.

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Santa sharing the bounty!



Happy guests of Santa!



Guests receiving gifts at our special event



Maria the elf, with Santa

*We have good news to share about how we have been able to expand and extend services through grants and donations:*

- ◆ Sister Bea Snyder once again collected Christmas gifts for all the families being served through the IowaWINS food pantry. See the photos from the “drive-through Santa visit” on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Sister Bea has been so faithful with gathering donations throughout the year for these families.
- ◆ We received \$8,000 from the St. Vincent Home grant to support our food pantry. This program is part of Catholic Charities of Davenport and grants are focused on general care of and assistance to children who are in special need. We continue to be grateful for the support of the Diocese of Davenport who have been an amazing partner and supporter of IowaWINS and the immigrant families in our area. We also received generous checks from two Catholic Sister organizations in Iowa.
- ◆ Many thanks to Vegan Outreach and All Vegetarian, Inc. for donating vegan roasts, chicken, bacon, and jerky for all the food pantry families on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Vegan Outreach website: <https://veganoutreach.org/> All Vegetarian, Inc: <https://veganforall.com/>
- ◆ Emergency COVID-19 Presbyterian Disaster Agency grant – Received \$5,000 in April for immediate need, and an additional \$5,000 in August for long-term support.



Santa's elves!



Santa's elves organizing gifts.

- ♦ Iowa Immigrant Community Fund - IowaWINs partnered with Proteus to distribute \$1,500 each to 20 immigrant families in the agricultural and meatpacking industries who are not eligible for most governmental assistance. Funds were allocated for rent, utilities, and medical bills through this program.
- ♦ **Consider supporting with a monthly donation to support the pantry, click on [www.iowawins.net/give](http://www.iowawins.net/give) and select the "monthly" donation option.**



## Renewal of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival)

With the federal judge's ruling that DACA be reinstated and new applicants be allowed to apply, we anticipate expanding the assistance with DACA fees in 2021 if donations allow. IowaWINS has funded \$495 DACA renewal fees in 2020 for two young people in our community. The suspension of DACA in 2017 has kept young people who arrived in the US as children from applying to receive immigration status. We will work with other immigration advocates to communicate the DACA process to eligible immigrants and assist with the governmental fees as donations allow.

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and appreciate your support of our immigrant neighbors through the winter, during this particularly challenging time.**

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  
902 S. Walnut  
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Tammy Shull

Chair

Iowa WINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

A Commission of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant

902 S. Walnut

Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

(319) 986-5173 Home

(319) 750-0439 Cell

<http://www.iowawins.net>

<https://www.facebook.com/IowaWINS/>

<https://www.instagram.com/iowawins/>

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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.