



***Dear Friends,
We have wonderful news to share:***

Two Important Success Stories:

We wanted to share two success stories about immigrant youths who were impacted by the ICE raid in May 2018. Both youths had come to the US separately from their home countries and immediately sought asylum. After being processed by border patrol, they were placed with their family members in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

The first youth was living with his older sister and attending high school when he decided to leave high school and begin working at the local concrete factory in February of 2018. He was taken in the ICE Raid in May and spent one month in jail until his bond was granted. One of the IowaWINS volunteers met him and agreed to become his legal guardian so he could apply for Special Juvenile Immigration Status (SJIS). This category is for young people, up to age 21 at the time that they apply, who have been abused or neglected by parents or face violence if they return. His guardian talked with him about returning to high school to complete his education, and he decided to attend the alternative high school. With the help of dedicated teachers, he was able to complete his high school work in January 2020 and earned his high school diploma. In the meantime, almost a year and a half after the ICE Raid, he received his work permit and social security card which allowed him to get a driver's license and a job. He is working full-time at a local distribution facility and is self-supporting. He recently received approval on his SJIS application and in time, will likely be able to become a permanent resident. IowaWINS helped pay his monthly expenses until he was able to get a job.

The other youth was living with his father and attending high school when his father was taken in the ICE raid and subsequently deported. This left the 15-year-old son in the US without parents. He was taken into the homes of IowaWINs volunteers for the first year after the ICE Raid. In August of 2019, he received his work permit and social security card and then was settled into an apartment with another young immigrant who was also in high school. Although he works part-time while in school, funds from IowaWINs have helped him with his rent and utilities. Another IowaWINs volunteer became his legal guardian and he also completed the SJIS application and it has since been approved so he also is on a path to permanent residence. He is continuing in high school and plans to graduate in December.

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

Thanks so much for all of your support of IowaWINs. It is through your support that we are able to provide assistance for these youths, as well as for the broader Mt Pleasant immigrant community.



GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES

Garden Kits – we provided 34 garden kits to immigrant families this Spring for their home gardens and plots in the Fellowship Cup Community Garden (for those without space for a home garden). These kits contained a garden plot worksheet, garden gloves, six kinds of starter plants and five kinds of seeds – in varieties the families routinely cook with.

Garden Plots – along with assisting immigrant families in getting a Community Garden plot, we also planted and are maintaining 9 plots to provide fresh produce for the IowaWINs Food Pantry

EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

Tomato Canning Class – we offered this two-hour class in August to teach the immigrant families how to can the tomatoes they will be harvesting from their gardens

Food Service Manager Certification – we are providing opportunities for those in the immigrant community who want to become certified as a Food Protection Manager, which will enhance their opportunities in the workforce.

GRANTS

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, there has been an increased need in the immigrant community in Mt. Pleasant due to impacts from layoffs and some illnesses.

Thankfully we have had great successes in receiving grants that are allowing us to expand our pantry operations to more families in our community.

- Emergency COVID-19 Presbyterian Disaster Agency grant – Received \$5,000 in April.
- Rice Bowl Grant from Davenport Diocese –Initially awarded \$1,250 - Check received in July; second donation for \$2,000 also received in July
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – COVID-19 grant for longer-term support – awarded \$5,000 in early August
- Community 1st Credit Union Community Grant- \$2,000 to assist with providing classes in personal and business financial management, vocational and professional development, and materials to learn English
- Farm Credit Services of America – Working Here Fund Grant - \$2,000 to assist in our expanding Iowa WINs Food Pantry to reach a wider immigrant community. Together with your donations, we have been able to support an additional 12 families who were suffering from food insecurity because of the added stresses of the COVID-19 shutdown.

- Henry County Master Gardener Mini Grant: \$250 to assist with costs of planting, maintaining and harvesting plots in Mt Pleasant Community Garden to provide fresh produce to Iowa WINs Food Pantry

In addition to the grants, we have received donations from many of our supporters including some who have made a monthly pledge to be Sustaining Members of IowaWINs.

Please continue your generous support through donating 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

Thanks again for all the ways that you support IowaWINs.

Sincerely,

Tammy Shull

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Iowa WINs (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

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.

[Access our online library here](#)

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You are receiving this email because you are a supporter of Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors.

Our mailing address is:

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