

Iowa International Center Newsflash - November 2014



Help New Iowans Thrive This Holiday Season: Support the Ray Resource Initiative



The Iowa International Center works hard to welcome the world to Iowa every single day of the year! Our work is made possible by private contributions to our three-year **Ray Resource Initiative** campaign, inspired by the vision and work of former Governor Robert D. Ray who welcomed thousands of new Iowans more than 40 years ago.

To welcome someone is to "gladly receive" them, and the Iowa International Center is gladly receiving refugees and immigrants through the provision of Accessible ESL Classes that are free and easy to attend, a Free 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline in 220 languages to assist non-English speakers in life-threatening situations, and free multilingual Welcome to Iowa resources that point new Iowans to critical information in 80 languages online.

We can't do this important work without your support.

Private contributions make it possible for us to provide these programs and resources. Your investment will make a positive impact in the lives of those who have very little help as they start a new life in our community.

Please make an investment in the Ray Resource Initiative today, so that we may better plan the provision of these important resources for thousands of new Iowans in 2015 and beyond.

Visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org and click on "Donate" to make your investment in welcoming the world to Iowa today!



The Iowa International Center has seen incredible progress in the level of English skills—both writing and verbal—in our Accessible ESL Classes at Deer Ridge Apartments in Des Moines!

We're Proud to Share These Great Reviews From Emerging Global Leaders!



We just love to hear great feedback from emerging global professionals who engage in our International Visitor Programs. These programs provide opportunities for international professionals to meet and connect with their peers here in Iowa, and create economic development opportunities for the future. We also give these guests a glimpse of just how great Iowa is overall!

Recent visitors from Zambia (pictured) met with a panel of local women leaders,

including Councilwoman Christine Hensley and Ambassador Mary Kramer, on the topic of Women in Politics during their visit. Several members of the delegation shared that this was a very inspiring meeting for all of them. One member of the group shared: ***"Iowa has been the greatest place, warm people and would love to come back for a longer stay!"*** A recent visitor from Finland, on a program focused on Agriculture in the U.S., shared: ***"I have to admit I did not know much about Iowa before my arrival, I just had a general perception of the Midwest. I learnt a lot during the visit, about local administrations and about the farming industry. Thank you so much for a very well-organized and interesting program, I will definitely know to recommend a visit to Iowa in the future!"*** Interested in volunteering to be a professional or home hospitality host for the Iowa International Center's International Visitor Programs? please contact Janet Norton, jnorton@iowainternationalcenter.org or 515-282-8269, ext. 12.

***We thank our committed homestay host volunteers
and corporate partners for their support of our
International Visitors programs!***



The Sehgal Foundation International Visitors Center at the Iowa International Center supports our commitment to connecting emerging leaders from around the world with Iowans, enabling new partnerships, friendships and learning opportunities.





Welcoming the world to Iowa.



Nancy Mwiroti

Iowa International Center Dialogue Series

"Stories from a Diverse Continent: Insights from African Community Leaders in Iowa"

Featuring Guest Panelists

Nancy Mwiroti, Pastor Wilondja Msuiando
and Rev. Francis Nyawello Chan

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

**Noon to 1 p.m.— Central Library
1000 Grand Avenue, Downtown Des Moines**

Join us as Nancy Mwiroti, Pastor Wilondja “Willy” Msuiando and Rev. Francis Nyawello Chan share personal stories of coming to Iowa as immigrants and refugees. They will share their work in advancing the success of youth and families in the diverse African community in central Iowa, address misconceptions about the Ebola crisis, offer ideas on how Iowans can help right here at home, and share inspiring stories of the positive economic and cultural impact of Africans in our community.

The Iowa International Center Dialogue Series engages public and business professionals in conversation on global issues and Iowa’s connections abroad.

Videos of Iowa International Center Dialogue Series Presentations are available online. Visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org to catch up on these cultural conversations.

All Iowa International Center Dialogue Series events are free and open to the public.

Guests are welcome to bring lunch to the event.

*Thank you to our
generous program
sponsors and
partners!*



The Iowa International Center Offers A FREE 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline in 220+ Languages!

Thanks to generous support from Prairie Meadows, the Iowa International Center is able to provide non-English speaking Iowans, and those assisting them in a time of crisis, with access to a **Free 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline**. More than 220 languages are available. Our Free 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline is a great resource for emergency responders, law enforcement officers and those assisting victims of domestic violence and abuse who are not able to communicate in English and are in a life-threatening situation. For additional information, please contact the Iowa International Center at 515-282-8269, or visit our web site at www.iowainternationalcenter.org and click on resources to learn how to use the service. **Our Thanks to Prairie Meadows for sponsoring this important resource!**



The Iowa International Center is proud to provide free multilingual resources and programs to help new Iowans, as well as educate and serve our entire community, including:

- **WelcometoIowa.org** - Critical information to assist new Iowans online in 80 languages
- **Iowa International Center Dialogue** programs that educate and involve our community in conversations about global topics with a local impact
- **Accessible ESL Classes** that help adult students learn a basic working knowledge of English, and help them get better jobs and thrive in Iowa.
- **A Free 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline** in 220 languages, designed to assist non-English speaking Iowans and those serving them in life-threatening situations.



Save the Date! PASSPORT TO PROSPERITY

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Nominations Open April 2015



Welcoming the world to Iowa.

The Iowa International Center
319 7th Street, Suite 200 Des Moines, IA 50309
P: 515.282.8269 F: 515.282.0454

FREE 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline
Visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org/resources

For news, events and program updates,
visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org

For multilingual resources in 80 languages,
visit www.WelcometoIowa.org

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