



**Iowa**  
International  
CENTER

# Iowa International Center

## **ANNUAL REPORT** 2017





# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## THANK YOU

For Walking With Us During  
*A Year of Change*

Dear Friends,

The Iowa International Center has experienced an eventful 12 months. We entered 2017 with a change in leadership, as I took over the helm from long-time executive director Dr. Judith Conlin when she retired from the organization. Throughout the year, we have embraced change for the new opportunities presented.

- Moving our office resulted in a rethinking of space and plenty of parking
- Our 4-month long strategic planning process solidified IIC's direction
- A new development director has brought a refreshed look at IIC

Of course, changes and uncertainty in the world, both domestic and global, have impacted our work. We read, hear and tweet about the turmoil daily. But regardless of political philosophies, foreign policies, personal viewpoints, and lines in the sand, life is more than WHAT we do in the world, it's HOW we do it. I'm reminded of that daily in our work with immigrants, refugees and international visitors. Respect, civility, acceptance.... accompanied by a welcoming smile: these are the values we treasure. Nancy Mirotsi, Sanjita Pradhan, Alex Duong, Kenia Calderone and Sadagat Aliyeva,

recent Passport to Prosperity Honorees, also embrace these core values. Their work and dedication make our communities more inclusive and rich with opportunity.

And most importantly, our many thanks to the donors, volunteers and others who have offered their support and walked with us. We are looking forward to the next year of change and growth.

*Pat Grote*

Patricia Grote  
Executive Director

# ROOTED IN VALUES & HISTORY

## MISSION

As a leader in international understanding and civic diplomacy, our mission is to enrich lives and build pathways to prosperity.

## CELEBRATING HISTORY

Since 1938, the Iowa International Center has worked to support refugees and immigrants in creating life and community in Iowa. Some notable work includes:

- ▶ Assisting European immigrants fleeing during WW2.
- ▶ Sponsoring cultural students exchanges to build international awareness
- ▶ Counseling international students
- ▶ Facilitating translation services
- ▶ Partnering with Global Ties U.S. to host international visitors
- ▶ Establishing the Sehgal Center for International Visitors
- ▶ Celebrating new Iowans' contributions to our community at Passport to Prosperity

## PHILOSOPHY AND CORE VALUES

Much has changed, but our volunteers and staff have always believed the Center should be dedicated to international understanding between Iowans and the rest of the world. Our philosophy and core values remain:

- Global Cultural Respect
- Collaboration, Growth and Learning
- Compassion
- Openness & Community
- Embracing Change

We like to imagine change as a way to see new opportunities for growth and a willingness to take on new challenges. While holding on to our commitments of respect and diversity, we know that there will be a myriad ways our work can be expressed as we encounter new avenues for service.





# SPOTLIGHT STORY

## REBECCA KABUGHO

The Iowa International Center is honored to be the host of so many inspirational people from around the world. This year, we were pleased to welcome Rebecca Kabugho, a non-violent activist in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A recipient of the U.S. Secretary of State's **International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award**, she stayed in the U.S. as part of a two-week exchange program. The annual IWOC Award recognizes women who have demonstrated exceptional courage, strength and leadership in acting to improve others' lives.

During her stay in Des Moines, Kabugho met with several state and local government leaders, local law enforcement representatives, and members non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work in the areas of youth leadership and community improvement. She also enjoyed a dinner in her honor hosted by an Iowa International Center volunteer.

Kabugho was able to share her story of struggle and bravery. As an member of the LUCHA (Lutte pour le changement - Struggle for Change) citizen movement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo fighting to protect Congolese rights, she was arrested during a peaceful demonstration on December of 2016. She and her colleagues were sentenced and spent six months in a prison in Goma. During her detention, she was lauded by social media and the international press as the youngest prisoner of conscience in the world—she was only 22 years old when she was arrested.

We are honored to be able to learn from and speak with Kabugho and other international people we've hosted throughout the year. We thank them for being a part of our lives, and we hope they in turn leave Iowa enriched by their encounter here.



*Rebecca Kabugho (left) with Des Moines Register columnist Rekha Basu*

## LEAD

IMPACT: Built community through committees and events targeted at addressing refugee and immigrant issues

## TEACH

IMPACT: Trained our instructors in a 2 day intensive Adult ESL Training Academy, and worked to build a community-based ELL curriculum for individuals who cannot read or write in their

## REACH

IMPACT: Engaged Des Moines in a 7-series Dialogue forum with 12 speakers representing various international issues and topics



## HONOR

IMPACT: Honored 5 inspiring Iowan immigrants and refugees for their economic, social, and cultural contributions at our annual gala

## CELEBRATE

IMPACT: Celebrated the 40th anniversary of IIC's membership in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) network in our volunteer appreciation open house

## CONNECT

IMPACT: Facilitated 2,227 interpretation appointments and completed 97 translation projects through our network of 150 interpreters



# IOWA INTERNATIONAL CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

**2000**

Hours donated by our volunteers to host, guide, educate international visitors, refugees, and immigrants, and to support IIC's programs!

**132**

International visitors hosted, representing more than 60 countries and territories

See countries in yellow

**25**

Countries represented in multiple IIC programs

See countries in purple

**60**

Interpreters from around the world, providing language services in 60 languages

See countries in red

**37**

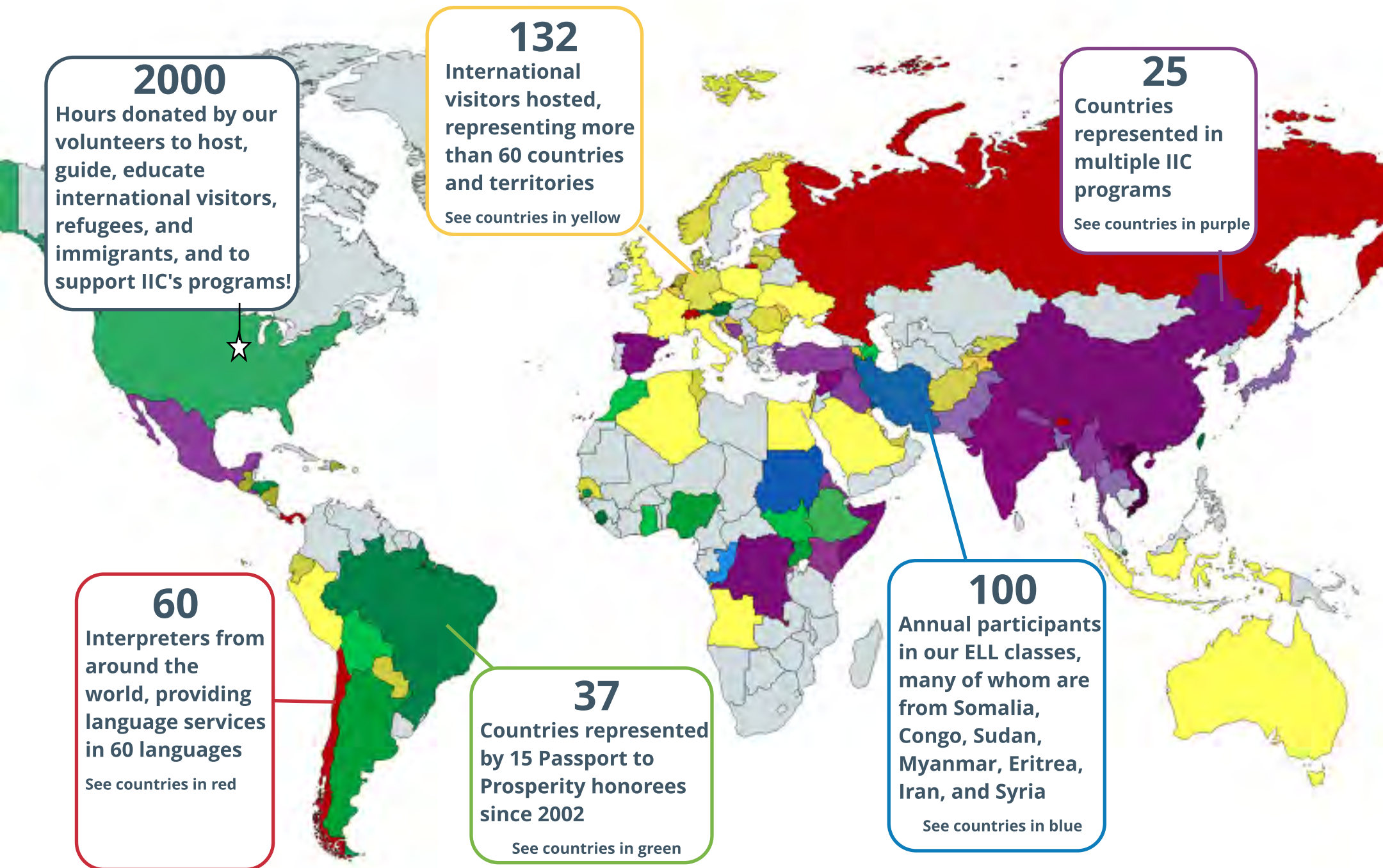
Countries represented by 15 Passport to Prosperity honorees since 2002

See countries in green

**100**

Annual participants in our ELL classes, many of whom are from Somalia, Congo, Sudan, Myanmar, Eritrea, Iran, and Syria

See countries in blue



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT FY 2016-2017

## REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

2017

### REVENUE

Grants	\$ 65,752.00
Contributions	120,999.00
Fees and Services	219,659.00
Contracts income	3,444.00
Other	494.00

**Total Revenues 410,348.00**

### EXPENSES

Program Services	264,090.00
Management and General	114,000.00
Fundraising	45,971.00

**Total Expenses 424,061.00**

## BALANCE SHEET

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

2017

### ASSETS

**Total Assets \$ 90,427.00**

### LIABILITIES

**Total Liabilities 45,258.00**

### FUND BALANCE (EOY)

**Net Assets 45,169.00**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

### Board Officers

Cheryl Dahlquist  
*President*

Ryan Clutter  
*Vice President*

Jeff Aden  
*Treasurer*

Brooke Schafer  
*Secretary*

WE ARE GRATEFUL  
FOR ALL THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES  
WHOSE GENEROSITY MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.



### Executive Committee At-Large

Tony Braida

### Immediate Past President

Brendan Comito

### Directors

Ben Brackney

Bob "Mac" MacKenzie

Mohammed Majeed

Li Zhao Mandelbaum

Zachary Marsh

Dorothy Pisarski

Elizabeth S Van Arkel

J. Tim Wieland

Eleanor Zeff

