

Alba Perez – Honduras Alba Perez was born and raised in Tegucigalpa, Honduras by a large family that taught her the importance of generosity and work ethic. Alba's family wished for her to come to the United States, and through a connection made with Barry and Diane Mashek she was able to attend high school in Ankeny, Iowa. She returned to Honduras, where she received her degree at la Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras before returning to Iowa permanently. Alba rooted herself in Des Moines and became involved with the community, helping organization such as Coffee House Productions and Salsa Iowa. In 1999, she worked for the State Public Policy Group with the Latinx population. On September 18, 2000, Alba became a U.S. citizen. Additionally, this was the same week that Alba started working at the Greater Des Moines Partnership as the Diversity Development Director. One of her biggest accomplishments while at the Partnership is her contribution to the formation of ALIANZA: Latino Business Association. She is part of the Neighborhood Finance Corporation and several other committees as well.

Swallow Yan – China Swallow came to Iowa in 1991 to study sociology and computer engineering at Iowa State University. He was accompanied by his wife, Swana Cheng, who did graduate work in computer engineering at ISU. The family now resides in Clive with their children, Hanson and Chason. Swallow has been employed at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as an IT specialist since 1995. He has also been involved with several programs at the Chinese Association of Iowa. Swallow is a founding member and current board member of the Iowa Asian Alliance. Gift of Love International Adoptions has benefited from Swallow's leadership as Vice President since 2005. Iowa Sister States is another organization that Swallow was involved with as a volunteer and as vice-chair of communications. Swallow served a two-year term as part of the Des Moines Register Reader's Advisory Council. He also serves as an ambassador for the Homeland Security Emergency Response Bilingual Network.

Eric Idehen – Nigeria Eric Idehen was born in Benin City, Nigeria, to a school headmaster and an elementary school teacher. He earned a degree in construction and spent 16 years in the industry before coming the U.S. In 2000, Eric arrived in the U.S. with a DV Green Card Visa, which is awarded by lottery (odds are 1:50,000,000). He and his wife, Emily, became citizens in 2006 and now reside in Urbandale with their three sons, Enrique, Edward, and Elliot. Eric's first job in the U.S. was as a dishwasher at Dahl's in West Des Moines. In 2001, he joined Wells Fargo as a teller and worked his way up within the bank to his current position. Currently, he is the Vice President of Wells Fargo CRA/Community development. Eric and Emily are the founders of Cornerstone of Hope Orphanage, located in Benin City, Nigeria. Eric serves on many boards and committees including Cornerstone of Hope Inc, ICIU, Alianza, American Red Cross, Links Leadership Institute, Wells Fargo Mountain Midwest Region Diversity Council, The New Iowans Policy Task Force, Refugee Cooperative Service Board, Employer Support of Guards and Reserve (ESGR), Lutheran Church of Hope Council and the Greater Des Moines Partnership Diversity Committee. Eric has been the recipient of many awards and recognitions for his work with Wells Fargo, Cornerstone of Hope Orphanage, and the African American Leadership Coalition.