

Suku Radia – Uganda Suku is one of the most generous and community-spirited leaders Des Moines has ever seen. Born and raised in Kampala, Uganda, Suku was forced to flee his home when the infamous dictator Idi Amin seized control of the country and expelled all Ugandans of foreign ancestry. His family lost all their property, but they felt fortunate to have escaped with their lives. In 1971, Suku attended Iowa State University and graduated top of his class with a bachelor's degree in Business. Suku's diligence and business acumen eventually elevated him to the position of CEO and President of Bankers Trust. In addition to his demanding schedule as CEO, Suku still finds time to dedicate to community organizations including United Way of Central Iowa, Greater Des Moines Partnership, Des Moines Art Center, and Bravo. Suku's talents could have taken him anywhere, but he has stayed firmly committed to Iowa, saying, "We made the decision to reside in Iowa because of the quality of life here. I have traveled to 60 countries and in my view, Iowans are the best. Des Moines clearly embraces its commitment to diversity – people here are warm, trustworthy, and welcoming."

Ying Sa – China and Canada Born to a Mongolian Chinese family, Ying is a repeat immigrant who first moved to Canada from China in the 1980s, then relocated to the U.S. in the 1990s. While in Canada, she worked to pay her way through university and advanced her professional career from an accounting clerk to a corporate controller. While in the U.S., Ying has obtained positions as Chief Financial Officer for the Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership at Iowa State University and Vice President of Controllers at Wells Fargo Financial. Eventually, she established her own CPA firm, and she now has over 1,300 clients all over the world. Ying is motivated to give back to her community and she established the Community Tax Clinic with the mission of helping the disadvantaged with tax issues. She also volunteers with the Ankeny Community School Culture Diversity Task Force, and is the primary organizer of Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit (IES). Through the IES Summit, Ying has helped establish 86 new businesses in Iowa.

Yogesh Shah, M.D. – India Dr. Yogesh Shah completed his medical degree in India before immigrating to the U.S., initially to Long Island. After visiting a cousin in Iowa, Dr. Shah decided to stay because of Iowa's open and welcoming people, sense of peace, work ethic, and quality of its schools. He became the Assistant Director of the Mercy-Mayo Family Practice Residency Program at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. Always one to volunteer his time and knowledge, Dr. Shah has participated in many Iowa Sister State Activities, hosting medical delegations from around the world. Since becoming the Associate Dean for Global Health at Des Moines University, Dr. Shah has led the development of the Heartland Consortium. This organization partners Iowa colleges and universities in an organized effort to sponsor student education, developing cultural competencies that will make them overall better healthcare workers. This relationship is specifically addressing the high maternal-fetal mortality rates in underdeveloped countries. Dr. Shah has been instrumental in assisting the World Health Organization in lessening that burden internationally.

Sol Varisco-Santini – Argentina Sol's name translates to "Sun" in Spanish, which is fitting because she has been a ray of hope for thousands of immigrants and refugees. Sol has dedicated her life to advocating for immigrants and refugees, many of whom have escaped a war zone or dictatorship. Born in Parana Entre Rios, she received her B.A. in Physical Education and taught for seven years. In 2001, she came to the U.S. to study Spanish Education at Iowa State university. Sol interned at the Department of Human Services as a translator before accepting a position in the Human Rights Division of the Latino Affairs Office. When Sol began work at Catholic Charities, she could hardly have predicted that within less than a year she would be coordinating the Immigrant Safety Network in response to the largest immigration raid in our country's history, on May 12, 2008, in Postville. When more than 389 immigrant workers were arrested and detained, and another 400 immigrants found sanctuary at St. Bridget's Church, Sol coordinated the response. Sol is responsible for bringing hundreds of volunteers from inside and outside of Iowa including lawyers, students, community and faith-based organizations, as well as government agencies.