



# Iowa Shares

Connecting People Who Care  
Strengthening Communities

April 2020

## Our Collective Work Continues

In this time of pandemic, we continue our collective work. The effects of the health crisis on our efforts are undeniable. Our members are not able to hold events, decreasing their ability to raise funds. And we are not able to use our typical interactions to provide services. The payroll deductions that you pledged to make throughout 2020 help us restructure our pro-

gramming and the ways that we provide services. As always, we promise to use your donations wisely. Together we will strengthen our individual communities and our state in this challenging time.

With continuing thanks,  
The Board of Iowa Shares

## How Our Member Organizations Are Affected And How They Are Responding

### **Amnesty International of Iowa** <https://www.amnestyusa.org>

Because of the pandemic, our groups are not meeting in person. However, we continue to work on human rights issues by sending individual letters and postcards from our homes that address Urgent Action cases. Our Ames group focuses on the “disappeared” gentlemen in Pakistan. Cedar Rapids members write letters about the Palestinian community in the Occupied Territories. We also send and distribute postcards on women’s human rights issues, including a women’s rights activist in Iran and an imprisoned female opposition senator in the Philippines. Other postcards request an additional series of federal actions to address kidnapping, sexual assault, disappearances and murders of native women. Amnesty International continues to monitor penal institutions in the United States and around the world, including detention centers and camps for asylum seekers and immigrants, with the

goal of limiting the spread of the COVID 19 virus in these settings

### **Animal Lifeline of Iowa (ALI)** [www.animal-lifeline.com](http://www.animal-lifeline.com)

ALI made the difficult decision on March 16 to close our Thrift Shop until further notice. The Thrift Shop provides a substantial revenue source for the life-saving work being done at our special-needs, no-kill animal shelter. The revenue loss is significant. In addition, due to the pandemic can only accept urgent cases that require emergency procedures from ALI’s veterinary partners. Most of ALI’s volunteer task force is staying home, the staff to work harder than ever, increasing our already extensive disinfecting procedures, caring for the special needs animals at our facility and ensuring they still receive the care they require. ALI continues to process adoptions & accept donations by appointment only.

## **Center for Worker Justice (CWJ)**

<https://cwjiowa.org/>

The COVID 19 virus is having a profound effect on the membership of CWJ. Most individuals lack sufficient income to support their families, the majority cannot apply to receive the unemployment insurance, and most will not receive the economic incentive to be distributed by the U.S. government. In addition, lack of health insurance increases the danger of getting sick and creates very high levels of fear. CWJ has initiated a contribution program through which community allies can donate their stimulus checks to our neighbors with the most urgent needs. Our goal is to pass along payments of \$400-\$600 per family to local community members in crisis, starting with those who are ineligible for any assistance. Distribution will be overseen by a formal committee,

and 100% of stimulus check donations will be distributed to families in need

## **Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR: Iowa)**

[www.psriowa.org](http://www.psriowa.org)

April 22 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, and PSR: Iowa had planned a family-friendly celebration showcasing several local environmental organizations. But COVID19 makes in-person celebrations impossible, both in Iowa and internationally. As a result, the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day is going online! A global conversation will be unified and tracked by the shared hashtags #EarthDay2020 and #EARTHRISE. Earth Day Network will provide live coverage of the global digital mobilizations from its social media accounts. Other digital events will include

virtual protests, social media campaigns, online teach-ins and more.

## **Quad Cities Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees (QCAIR)**

[www.qcair.org](http://www.qcair.org)

We have closed our office and cancelled all of our citizenship trainings and activities. Many immigrants and refugees have either lost their job or been laid off without pay. We continue responding to phone and email messages, many requesting help for food and rent. Due to the drop in donations from our website and Facebook page, we are short on resources. But we help as we can, and we are actively writing grants requesting emergency funds so that we can provide additional assistance. We are particularly concerned about the potential of coronavirus infection amongst the immigrant and refugee populations, especially un-

# **Member Organizations**

## **Amnesty International of Iowa**

[www.aiusa.org](http://www.aiusa.org)

Working to secure the principles of human rights espoused in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through education and advocacy via local groups in Ames, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines.

## **Environmental Advocates**

[www.environmental-advocates.org](http://www.environmental-advocates.org)

Educating the public about local environmental issues and the positions of elected officials, participating in river clean-up events, helping underwrite startup environmental organizations and local environmental projects. We believe a sustainable environment is necessary for future generations.

## **Equality Iowa**

[www.equalityiowa.org](http://www.equalityiowa.org)

A statewide, grassroots, non-partisan organization working to secure equality for all Iowans, Iowa's LGBTQ communities and their allies, emphasizing the needs of the un- and under-served. Helping provide a voice & visibility for Iowa's LGBTQ communities.

# Member Organizations

## Extend the Dream Foundation

<https://uptownbills.org>

EDF, working to raise awareness and inclusion of persons of all abilities, sponsors Uptown Bill's Coffee House & Neighborhood Arts Center, Bookstore, Media Project and Saturday Night Concert Series, and offers meeting space for community organizations.

## Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility

[www.psriowa.org](http://www.psriowa.org)

To protect life and health from the gravest threats to survival, PSR Iowa works to eliminate nuclear weapons, slow and reverse climate change, and prevent toxic degradation of the environment.

## Iowa Renewable Energy Association

[www.irenew.org](http://www.irenew.org)

Dedicated to educating Iowans about sustainable, renewable energy technologies and partnering with members and other non-profits to support and encourage renewable energy development.

## Iowa United Nations Association

[www.iowauna.org](http://www.iowauna.org)

For 66 years, providing statewide educational programming on world issues such as global health, human rights and the environment, and raising support for UN humanitarian campaigns such as UNICEF and Nothing but Nets.

## Legion Arts

[www.legionarts.org](http://www.legionarts.org)

Presenting new art, music and theatre from around the globe; fostering community development through cultural engagement; and supporting the professional development of Iowa artists. Based at historic CSPS Hall in Cedar Rapids.

## Linn County United Nations Association

[www.unaiowa.org/chapters/linn/](http://www.unaiowa.org/chapters/linn/)

Working to achieve effective U.S. involvement in a strengthened United Nations, we raise awareness through advocacy, public programs, study groups, U.N. Day celebrations, and collaboration with community groups.

## Quad Cities Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees

<http://www.qcair.org/>

Supports people arriving from outside the country to integrate them into the Quad Cities community by advocating for them and collaborating with appropriate service providers. This includes elevating the public image of them by encouraging appreciation of their contributions to our society and sometimes providing direct services.

## The Quire

[www.thequire.org](http://www.thequire.org)

A chorus for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons promoting a positive image of these communities through excellence in choral music. Membership is open to any-

one who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and to anyone who is respectful and affirming of these communities.

## Urban Ambassadors

[www.urbanambassadors.org](http://www.urbanambassadors.org)

UA's mission is to inspire and empower community members to be sustainable in their homes, workplaces, and community. Through monthly educational meetings, pop-up events, and monthly newsletters, UA connects people and organizations promoting sustainability to increase the sustainability of life in our communities.

***Associate Members*** (Receive only funds designated for the specific organization)

## American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa (ACLU of Iowa)

<https://www.aclu-ia.org/>

The ACLU of Iowa fights to advance civil liberties for all. A state affiliate of the national American Civil Liberties Union, we pride ourselves in upholding everyone's civil liberties, no matter who they are or what they believe. We work to assure the rights of all Iowans—from atheists to devout Christians, from labor unions to businesspeople and more—to make sure the constitutional rights of all are preserved.

## Animal Lifeline of Iowa

[www.animal-lifeline.com](http://www.animal-lifeline.com)

Central Iowa's only special needs, no-kill animal shelter, we rescue and rehabilitate

# Member Organizations

cats and dogs that are injured, handicapped, have a serious medical condition, abused, pregnant and nursing moms, or orphans that require bottle feeding, and then adopt them into loving forever homes.

## **Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity (CVHFH)**

[www.cvhabitat.org](http://www.cvhabitat.org)

An ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to building and rehabilitating simple, decent, and affordable homes in partnership with families in need in Linn and Benton counties. Seeking to put God's love into action, CVHFH brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

## **Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa (CWJ)**

[www.cwjia.org](http://www.cwjia.org)

CWJ unites low-wage workers across race, ethnicity and immigration status to pursue social and economic justice through education, leadership development, and issue-based organizing. Current projects include protecting immigrant rights, expanding access to affordable housing, defending minimum wage increases, and combating wage theft.

## **Girls on the Run of Eastern Iowa**

[www.girlsontheruniowa.org](http://www.girlsontheruniowa.org)

At GOTR, we inspire girls to recognize their inner strength and cele-

brate what makes them one of a kind. Using the power of running, 3rd-8th grade girls develop essential skills to help them navigate their worlds and establish a lifetime appreciation for health and fitness.

## **Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation**

[www.icpl.org/friends-foundation](http://www.icpl.org/friends-foundation)

Increasing opportunities for everyone through the Iowa City Public Library. Donate to the ICPL Friends Foundation to connect people of all ages with information, engage them with the world of ideas and each other, and enrich lives by supporting learning, promoting literacy, and encouraging creativity

## **Iowa Humane Alliance**

<http://iowahumanealliance.org>

Dedicated to solving animal overpopulation and eliminating euthanasia of healthy animals by providing high-quality, affordable spay and neuter services. Other programs include Love For Pets outreach, Spay/Neuter Transport, and Trap/Neuter/Return Resource Assistance Program. Supports other animal welfare organizations by recognizing their goals, maximizing their strengths, and utilizing vital resources.

## **Johnson County Humane Society**

[www.johnsoncountymane.org](http://www.johnsoncountymane.org)

JCHS helps keep companion animals out of shelters by providing assistance for spay/neuter and other

medical needs, distributing pet food to those in need, helping with trap-neuter-return of community cats, and offering advice and referrals. JCHS promotes the humane treatment of all animals.

## **Trees Forever**

[www.treesforever.org](http://www.treesforever.org)

Determined to make a difference in our neighborhoods and communities, we plant and care for trees, shrubs, native grasses and the environment. Our work empowers people, builds community, fosters stewardship and promotes the value and importance of our natural areas for future generations.

### **Iowa Shares**

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