



# Iowa Shares

Connecting People Who Care  
Strengthening Communities

October 2020

## Please Support Us in 2021!!

Each fall brings the start of Iowa Shares' major fundraising campaign. Our member nonprofits thank you for your previous donations and ask you to continue your support during 2021. There are many ways that you can contribute to Iowa Shares. We hope that one of these will work for you.

1. Pledge a regular payroll donation if you are employed at one of the many workplaces across the state that are participating in this year's fall campaign. You sign up once each year, and your workplace sends your pledged amount to Iowa Shares throughout 2021.

2. Pledge an ongoing contribution online by visiting our iPledge page:

[https://www.ipledgeonline.org/\\_iowasharesonline/](https://www.ipledgeonline.org/_iowasharesonline/).

Your monthly donation will automatically be charged to your credit card each month during 2021.

3. Mail a check made out to Iowa Shares to our office at 20 E Market St, Iowa City, IA 52245.

You, our donors, are vital to the work of our member organizations. Indeed, our work is not possible without your help. Please know that we remain very grateful for your support!

## Our Member Organizations:

### They Continue to Work Through the Shutdown

#### Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity Helps with Home-ownership

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in Southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit, working in nearly 1,400 communities throughout the U.S. and in more than 70 countries. Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity, founded in 1988, has built or rehabilitated over 160 homes, serving 259 families locally to date. The organization typically works with families who

are at 30-55 percent of the area median income (AMI), families who would otherwise not be able to afford adequate housing.

Habitat partners with first-time homebuyers who are not able to qualify for conventional home loans, offering them an opportunity for a "hand-up" out of poverty. Families are qualified based on three main criteria: 1) need for simple, decent and affordable housing; 2) ability to pay back a zero-interest mortgage; and 3) willingness to partner with Habitat through sweat equity and a series of classes on a range of topics, including budgeting, effective use of credit, wills and insurance, basic home maintenance, lawn care, and being a good neighbor.

## Johnson County Humane Society Works with Cats

Johnson County Humane Society continues to work in the community helping with trap-neuter-return of outdoor colony cats. In a recent project, five kittens were young enough to be removed from the situation, socialized and adopted. The four adults in the colony were neutered and vaccinated and returned to their home territory where a colony manager feeds them and monitors their health. With steady funding through donations to Iowa Shares, JCHS can help control the outdoor cat population and improve the lives of animals in our community.



Rescued from an outdoor life in Iowa City, this kitten has since been adopted

## Friends of the Marion Public Library

The Friends of the Marion Library is a volunteer organization that promotes the use of the library and funds programs that encourage literacy, such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which mails free books to children under age 5, and Homebound Books which mails

library books to individuals who cannot leave their homes.

It has been quite a year for the Friends of the Library group and we have adjusted and learned to adapt. The pandemic closed the library temporarily and required us to close our used bookstore, a major source of funding for the group. Even as the library opened back up with limited in-person programming, the bookstore remained closed for the safety of our volunteers. Then, the derecho hit Marion hard in August. The library building suffered significant damage inside and out and could no longer be occupied. Approximately twenty percent of the library print collection was lost and the huge task of moving the remaining contents to a storage facility began. In September the library opened in a temporary storefront location in uptown Marion. On October 1, Marion broke ground on the new Marion Public Library, just across the street from the current building in the heart of Marion.

The Friends of the Library held two used book sales outdoors over the summer with precautions like masks, distancing and grab bags full of books. While those sales were successful, we missed our bookstore and its regular location. Also, we had had to stop accepting donated used books due to lack of storage space. We had boxes of books just begging for new homes! So, we adapted the undamaged lobby space in the old library location on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and will be holding used book sales on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, beginning October 17. With 600 Marion children signed up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, we need about

\$15,000/year just to fund this program. We can't let the children of Marion down and we will find a way to continue to send each enrolled child a book every month directly to their homes until they turn age 5. Donations can be made through the Marion Public Library website via <https://givebox.com/519398>. We welcome new members to our Friends group as well via the Friends of the Marion Library link on the library website.

## Iowa Renewable Energy Assoc. Helps with Generators

Iowa Renewable Energy Association recently helped a local school with their pedal generators — which are bike pedals that create energy and can power lamps, etc. They also gave away thirteen cell phone solar chargers to help people without power following the Derecho. I-Renew continues to bring attention to sustainable living and renewable energy through their social media posts.

## Center for Worker Justice

The Center for Worker Justice has become a lifeline for many eastern Iowa families. The COVID-19 crisis touches everyone — but tragically, local, state, and federal assistance programs often don't. Many low wage immigrants and refugees who contribute so much to our communities, through their labor, love, and leadership, have fallen prey to this plague. Many are not eligible for, cannot navigate, or

don't trust our complex government-sponsored assistance programs.

That's where the CWJ initiative "From My Home to Yours" comes in. It blossomed in the wake of those stimulus checks so many in the community received earlier this year. For the more fortunate among us, these were not desperately needed. CWJ appealed to our members, allies, and friends to pass some of these stimulus funds along to community members needing help with the next rent check, the next meal, or the next family crisis.

Generous Iowans responded. Well over \$100,000 was raised. Over the past few months, most of those funds have been distributed to hundreds of needy families, some of them undocumented. The "From My Home to Yours" fund now needs to be replenished. The desperate conditions many face continues.

With the support of organized labor, faith communities, and neighbors like you, this initiative has already worked wonders. [Thanks for caring.](#)

## **Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility**

PSR Iowa started the year working closely with staff from the county conservation department, Iowa Valley Habitat, Coralville Parks and Rec. division, and many others to create an engaging public event encouraging everyone to "make every day earth day." Once COVID made that impossible, PSR pivoted to an online bi-monthly

publication as guidance to the small and large ways we can all help to make every day Earth Day for everyone. Each newsletter focuses on selected interrelated pertinent topics (COVID, Climate, Health, Food, Water) with informational and educational material for ways to act. PSR Iowa has also continued to educate and activate the public to support efforts to invest in people and not in deadly nuclear weapons!

## **Iowa United Nations Association**

The Iowa UNA will host two exciting Zoom events in Oct and Nov. featuring speakers addressing the Sustainable Development Goals and ways immigration policies and enforcement affect the health of immigrant Iowa communities. The Iowa UNA along with PSR Iowa recently helped organize and promote a Peace Parade for the International Day of Peace, on Sept 21.

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

This has been a challenging year for QCAIR. Our US Citizenship Outreach Program is significantly impacted by the pandemic. Face-to-face classes are now one-on-one distant instruction sessions. This change slows down our process, and strains our resources. We also distributed facemasks, lunch bags and other items to our immigrants, refugees and their families.

Many of our immigrants and refugees work at the meatpacking plants; in the past few months, some were tested positive for COVID-19, many laid off, some lost their jobs permanently. Many of them relied on the local food pantries to feed their families. QCAIR received a significant number of requests for assistance for rent, utilities, medicine, tuition, etc. We are grateful that, as far as we know, nobody from our immigrant and refugee communities was evicted from his/her home, or died of COVID-19. In June, World Relief, Open Door and QCAIR jointly administered the Illinois Department of Human Services COVID-19 Immigrant Family Support Project, and provided financial assistance to 60 Illinois Quad City families. Through the generosity of our local donors, QCAIR was able to establish a similar fund to benefit our Iowa immigrants and refugees. We continue to work with IDPHS to implement the second year of their relief program, and raise funds for those in need in Iowa.

QCAIR recently joined the Quad Cities Sanctuary Coalition to support immigrant and refugees in need of sanctuary. In August we sponsored an asylum seeker released from a detention center; so far, she has applied for a work permit, and is eager to become a productive member of the community. We are in the process of raising funds to sponsor another asylum seeker/family. We welcome all immigrants and refugees, and we'll help them establish in our community one at a time.

## Trees Forever

Trees Forever has been at the forefront of both major crises that have impacted Eastern Iowa in 2020. While COVID-19 has left many feeling isolated and cooped up at home, we have worked to update our volunteer process to allow safe opportunities for outdoor, socially-distanced tree plantings.

These volunteer opportunities have been a lifeline for those missing the community spirit that comes with working together and experiencing nature. Being outside amongst the trees is a great way to alleviate the added stress of the COVID-19 era.

Unfortunately, for residents of derecho-impacted communities, the outdoor spaces they once loved are now unrecognizable due to the

widespread tree loss. Trees Forever has helped communities replant after many natural disasters. We pledge to do the same after this storm. Trees Forever has launched the “Planting Hope” campaign to restore the tree canopy lost on August 10. If you would like to support Trees Forever’s storm replanting efforts, visit [TreesForever.org/PlantingHope](https://TreesForever.org/PlantingHope).

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# Member Organizations

## Amnesty International of Iowa

<https://aiusa.org>

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

## CSPS

<https://cspshall.org>

Dedicated to community building through the presentation, advocacy, and support of the arts, music and theater of our time. Founded by artists, for artists, we provide firsthand experience of art’s power and value in creating a more inclusive, empathetic, and vibrant community.

## Environmental Advocates

<https://environmental-advocates.org>

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

## Equality Iowa

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.

## Extend the Dream

<https://uptownbills.org>

EDF works to raise awareness and inclusion of persons of all abilities. We currently are offering our Saturday Night Concert series and other online events and hope to resume

many of our other services at an appropriate future time.

## Friends of the Marion Public Library

<https://marionpubliclibrary.org/friends-marion-library>

Our volunteer program promotes use of the library and funds programs encouraging literacy and learning. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library mails free books to Marion children aged under six, and Home Books provides books by mail to homebound patrons.

## Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility

<https://psriowa.org>

Guided by the values and science of medicine and public health, PSR Iowa works to protect life and health from the gravest threats to survival: climate change, environmental degradation, nuclear weapons, and social injustice.

## **Iowa Renewable Energy Association**

<https://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**

<https://iowauna.org>

For over 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 the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund.

## **Linn County United Nations Association**

<http://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.

## **National Alliance on Mental Illness Linn County**

<https://namilinncounty.org/about-nami-your-affiliate>

NAMI LC is a grassroots, self-help, education, support, and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with mental illness and their families.

## **Quad Cities Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees**

<https://qcair.org>

Supports and advocates for immigrants and refugees, and works with area agencies to ensure that they receive appropriate services. Provides guidance on their paths to US citizenship. Educates the com-

munity on the cultures and contributions our immigrants and refugees bring to society.

## **The Quire of Eastern Iowa**

<https://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 anyone in these communities and anyone who respects and affirms these communities.

## **Urban Ambassadors (UA)**

<http://urbanambassadors.org>

UA inspires and empowers community members to be sustainable in their homes, workplaces, and community. Through educational meetings, pop-up events, and newsletters, UA connects people and organizations to promote and increase community sustainability.

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# **Associate Members**

**Associates receive designated donations only.**

## **American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa**

<http://aclu-ia.org/>

This state affiliate of the national ACLU fights to advance civil liber-

ties for all. We uphold everyone's constitutional civil liberty rights, no matter who they are or what they believe—from atheists to devout Christians, from labor unions to businesspeople and more.

## **Animal Lifeline of Iowa**

<https://animal-lifeline.com>

Central Iowa's only special needs, no-kill animal shelter. We rescue and rehabilitate cats and dogs that are injured, handicapped, have a serious medical condition, abused, pregnant and nursing, or

orphans that require bottle feeding, and then adopt them into loving forever home.

## **Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity**

<https://cvhabitat.org>

An ecumenical Christian housing ministry that builds and rehabilitates 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 unites people to build homes, communities and hope.

## **Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa**

<https://cwjiowa.org>

CWJ unites low-wage workers across race, ethnicity and immigration status to pursue social and economic justice through education, leadership training, and organizing. Key issues are immigrant rights, access to housing, minimum wage increases, and ending wage theft.

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

<https://girlsontheruniowa.org>

At GOTR, we inspire girls to recognize their inner strength and celebrate 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**

<https://icpl.org/friends-foundation>

The Friends Foundation increases opportunities for everyone by supporting the Iowa City Public Library, which connects people of all ages with information, engages them with the world of ideas, supports learning and literacy, encourages creativity, and enriches lives.

## **Iowa Humane Alliance**

<https://iowahumanealliance.org>

Provides high-quality, affordable spay and neuter services to reduce animal overpopulation and euthana-

sia of healthy animals. Programs include Love For Pets Outreach, Spay/Neuter, Transport, and Trap/Neuter/Return Resource Assistance. We support other animal welfare organizations.

## **Johnson County Humane Society**

<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, and offering advice and referrals. JCHS Promotes the humane treatment of all animals.

## **Trees Forever**

<http://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 of our natural areas for future generations.

### **Iowa Shares**

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