



Iowa Shares

Connecting People Who Care Strengthening Communities

March 2021

2021

“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.” – Helen Keller

In 2020 and into 2021 we have all known struggle, we have all known suffering, and we have all kept going. As nonprofit organizations, many of us have learned to adapt to delivering services in a virtual world, have figured out how to deliver in-person services safely, and how to support a community devastated by an unprecedented storm and pandemic all at the same time.

The reality of operating in a pandemic is the financial hardship that all communities have experienced. As nonprofits we typically serve individuals hardest hit, but we also struggle to raise funds when everyone is impacted. As nonprofits many of us are just trying to survive. And yet we must be creative and innovative to continue our collective mission in these times.

Our Iowa Shares workplace giving campaigns are more critical than ever in reaching potential donors who are able to offer any amount of support for causes they believe in. Donations made through Iowa Shares benefit smaller nonprofits who make a big impact in our communities, but who may not have an established large donor base. Iowa Shares as a coalition of nonprofits will strive to support each other in fundraising endeavors, connections through networking, and publicity efforts. Together, we will overcome.

In 2021 our mission is more important now than ever.

Iowa Shares is statewide coalition of social change, environmental and cultural nonprofit organizations who strive to address the root cause of problems to build better communities in Iowa and the world.

Katherine Shea, Board Vice President

Our Member Organizations: Updates

Welcome World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities to Iowa Shares!

WACQC is an organization committed to educating and engaging the Quad Cities in global affairs by promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences through high-quality programs that are inclusive and open to everyone. Established in 1969, WACQC has been doing their part to foster global education and international understanding within the Quad Cities and beyond. WACQC has adapted their educational platforms to continue serving the community during the ongoing pandemic. Educational topics are diverse and seek to inform and empower communities to face challenges of the modern world.

Please consider attending an upcoming event:

The poster is titled 'UPCOMING EVENTS' in large, bold, white letters on a teal background. In the top right corner is the logo for the World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities, which features a stylized globe and the text 'WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF THE QUAD CITIES'. Below the title, there are two event listings in white text on a dark teal background. The first event is on 'APR 11, 2021' and is the 'VIRTUAL QC WORLD CULTURES FESTIVAL' by WACQC. The second event is on 'APR 27, 2021' and is about 'CULTURAL DIFFERENCE AND ADVERTISING THEMES' by Dr. Jin Chung. At the bottom, it says 'PLEASE CONTACT DUK_KIM@WACQUADCITIES.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION'.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 11, 2021
VIRTUAL QC WORLD CULTURES FESTIVAL
WACQC

APR 27, 2021
CULTURAL DIFFERENCE AND ADVERTISING THEMES
Dr. Jin Chung

PLEASE CONTACT DUK_KIM@WACQUADCITIES.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

Friends of the Marion Public Library

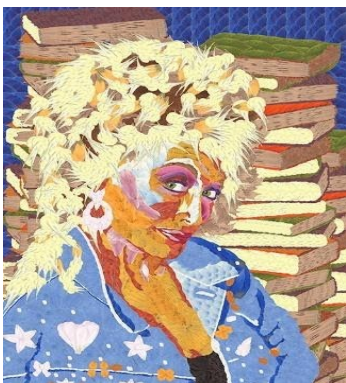
Dolly Parton Imagination Library

In January 2020, Friends of the Marion Public Library introduced the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program to Marion. This wonderful partnership promotes early reading habits and encourages a lifelong appreciation for literacy and learning among our local Marion children.

All kids from birth to age 5 who live in the 52302 ZIP code are eligible to register for the program. Once registered, children receive one book (and associated activities!) by mail each month until they age out of the program. There is no cost to the child's family to participate.

We currently have 855 children registered; 105 have "graduated." Our numbers grow with each month!

We are so lucky to have had a lovely art print donated by local artist Shane McCallister, which we are raffling off beginning now!



ALL proceeds will benefit our local affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagi-

nation Library to provide books for Marion children. The print is framed and 18" x 24". The raffle winner will be drawn on May 15 at the close of the Marion Arts Festival. You need not be present to win.

Please share with the Dolly Parton lovers in your life (and who isn't one?). Buy tickets here: <https://mpliowafriends.org/raffle>.

New Marion Public Library

A Topping Off ceremony was held for the new Marion Public Library on Monday, March 22.



The final beam, which was signed by library staff and volunteers, was secured atop the structure at a 4:00 pm ceremony. Ground was broken on the new library in October of 2020 and it is expected to be completed in March of 2022. It will be over twice the size of the current library and feature an open, flexible floor plan. The Friends of the Library group continues to financially support the mission of the library with the Home Books program, the Used book sales held on the first and third Saturdays of the month and promoting literacy through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The group also provided funds to be used towards the creation of a new website for the library.

Iowa Renewable Energy Association

In February, I-Renew held a virtual event to help participants learn about Forest Therapy, which involves spending time among trees to benefit

one's health. Special thanks to Emelia Sautter, Forest Therapy Guide, for



facilitating this program for us. Recording of the event is available by clicking the below link:

[A Forest Therapy Experience.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

The Jordan Solar Center (JSC) is I-Renew's headquarters, located on the grounds of Prairiewoods in Hiawatha.



Over the years, I-Renew has held numerous events as well as given tours to international delegations to help them learn about solar energy. Currently, we're in the midst of a fundraising campaign to help update the JSC so that it can be a hub of renewable innovation, helping us provide free programming throughout the year when it's safe to do so.

NAMI Linn County

Mental health support and advocacy during a pandemic is more important now than ever. NAMI Linn County has gone virtual to serve the community in more ways than ever before.

Virtual Family Support Group

NAMI Linn County offers an online NAMI Family Support Group for those impacted by family members with mental illness. Trained facilitators lead the group, which draw on the wisdom and experience of participants. The support group is held at 6 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month via Zoom. To take part, please email nami-lc@hotmail.com for more information.

Virtual NAMI Family to Family

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free eight-week educational course now online, for family members of adults living with mental illness. Check our website and Facebook page for upcoming classes.

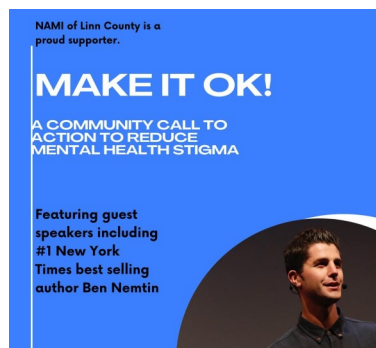


NAMI Linn County & Make it OK Campaign



On March 11, 2021 NAMI Linn County participated in a Make it OK virtual event: A community Call to Action to Reduce Mental Health Stigma with #1 NYT best-selling author Ben Nemtin and oth-

er community leaders.



The program focused on sharing honest life experiences with mental health, ending stigma, and tools to help cope with life stressors that impact mental health.

Link to the recording of the program is <https://youtu.be/DCMskMnRtw>.

NAMI Walks Your Way 2021

NAMI Linn County partners with Johnson County for our biggest fundraiser of the year. NAMI-Walks Your Way is virtual event on May 22, 2021, A United Day of Hope supporting mental health for all! Donate or start a walk team at [NAMI Linn County Super Team \(namiwalks.org\)](https://namiwalks.org)



Trees Forever

Trees Forever of Marion, IA has been essential in the recovery efforts from the Derecho storm of Aug. 10, 2020 which decimated more than 50% of the local tree canopy. Trees Forever has been instrumental in efforts to educate the public and advocate for responsible replanting in Marion, Cedar Rapids and areas impacted by the

Derecho.

Trees Forever has partnered with Green Iowa AmeriCorps volunteers to lead replanting efforts.



Trees Forever provides free webinars to the public on topics of replanting and how to benefit and care for the local environment and wildlife. They have also partnered with local businesses and organizations in fundraising efforts to replant and replenish the landscapes impacted by the Derecho storm.

Visit the Trees Forever Facebook page and treesforever.com for information on upcoming webinars!



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://irennew.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 im-

proving 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 community 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.

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 liberties

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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