



Iowa Shares

Connecting People Who Care
Strengthening Communities

October 2021

Join us in building a better tomorrow today!

WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

It's time for Iowa Shares' annual workplace giving campaigns to kick off across the state! We invite you to support nonprofit organizations and causes you believe in!

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 2022.

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

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.

Our Iowa Shares Organizations are nonprofits doing incredible work in our Iowa communities. YOU, our donors, help make this work possible. THANK YOU for joining us in our efforts!

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.

Our Member Organizations: Updates

Friends of the Marion Public Library

We are growing! The Friends welcomed four new members in August and formed a fundraising committee. We also welcomed new Marion Library Director Bill Carroll who will be attending our monthly meetings.

Book Sales. We are currently holding used book sales two Saturdays a month in the old library lobby and now every Saturday at the Farmers Market in Taube Park, Marion. The sales are going very well and people are excited to have books to browse through.

Sharing our love for books! The Home Books program, which mails books to Marion residents who are unable to leave home, has 8-10 new members participating. Volunteers are sending books out as fast as they can!

Volunteers are also at work scanning and sending boxes of used books to Better World Books. The Friends then re-

ceive 20% of the book sales.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Our affiliate of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library currently has 955

kids registered and 181 have graduated. This program mails a book each month to enrolled Marion children between the ages of birth and age 5 at no cost to families. Our monthly bill for the Marion program is about \$2,000.00. We received a large grant from The Greater CR Foundation and have several grant applications still pending. We are working with Head Start and Marion Independent schools (Kindergarten, Pre-K and Preschools) to enroll kids, as well as enrolling new babies at the local hospitals. This wonderful program continues to grow!!!



Urban Ambassadors

Urban Ambassadors is partnering with the City of Des Moines, supported by grants from Microsoft and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, in order to help bring more trees back to Des Moines following the 2020 derecho.

Tiny Trees!



Through the Tiny Tree Neighborhood Program, "Tiny trees" are about 1 to 2 feet tall when planted and provided the right care, these trees will grow rapidly in their first few years and will reach the height of a full size sapling in no time! Tree coverage helps cities, its residents, and the Earth in many ways, including reducing urban heat in summer, absorbing carbon dioxide, improving air quality, and increasing greenery for residents. More information on our specific program can be found at https://www.dsm.city/departments/public_works-division/forestry/tiny_trees_neighborhood_program.php. If you are interested in helping with the Tiny Trees Neighborhood Program or other opportunities, contact us either through our website at urbanambassadors.org, or send a donation to PO Box 84, Des Moines, IA 50301. Your assistance will help us meet our goal of planting 1,000 trees in Des Moines' Neighborhoods!



The Quire

In March 2020, the WHO officially declared Covid-19 a pandemic, and The Quire, like choirs around the

world, found itself at a crossroads. We had planned to celebrate our 25th anniversary with a premiere of *Songs of Our Pride*, a song cycle by Connor Warren Smith, at our spring concert. This was also going to be the final concert directed by



Gayle Hartwig, our outgoing director. But suddenly, in the face of a dangerous, viral threat, we were forced to cancel rehearsals and concerts indefinitely.

In the following months, The Quire struggled with several "big questions." How could we keep our membership engaged, when most of us were stuck in our homes? How could we plan for our future without a director to lead us? And most importantly, how could we keep singing?

In response to these questions, The Quire Board of Directors began to plan. We scheduled virtual social events to engage our members. We recruited Quire member Colleen McRoberts to lead us in virtual rehearsals. And we began what came to be known as the Virtual Quire Project: a premiere of Connor Warren Smith's *A Song of Life*. Quire members recorded their parts at home, and some very talented sound and video professionals stitched together the results into a cohesive whole. In similar fashion, The Quire was able to participate in the IC OUTloud Pride-Fi Music Fest, by combining the Virtual Quire Project with concert recordings from The Quire's past. (Both videos can be viewed on The Quire's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCst0_RBilio_gahFK1PsR8Q.)

In September 2021, the Quire cautiously resumed in-person rehearsals under the leadership of our new director, Alex Heetland, with a vaccine requirement, universal masking, and other

precautions in place. We held our first public performance since the pandemic began at the Iowa City Pride on Oct. 2nd 2021! It feels great to be singing together again, and The Quire looks forward to another 25 years of song!

QCAIR

Quad Cities Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees (QCAIR) we are working diligently to assist immigrants and refugees in our community to access resources available to them. This has been a rough year for many, however, our immigrant and refugee populations in the Quad Cities have unique challenges to contend with. These include lack of governmental assistance, often no support system, limited job opportunities and poor access to resources due to language barriers and limited knowledge of available resources.

The need is so great that this year, more than any previous year in operation, QCAIR has served more immigrants and refugees than ever before by helping them access essential resources in their communities.

QCAIR assists immigrants and refugees in accessing funds available to them through community partnerships. Unfortunately, these programs are often limited. QCAIR Emergency Funds are set up to assist Immigrants and Refugees who have exhausted all other options of resources available and have found themselves in an emergency situation and need immediate assistance to avoid eviction, utility disconnection, or other hardships.

IFSP is a program through the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR). This program assists Illinois residents by providing \$1500-\$2000 in prepaid cards to those who have been impacted by Covid-19 and didn't receive any financial assistance or benefits from the government.

Because of this Illinois program, we were able to receive a grant for finan-

cial assistance to residents in Iowa who were impacted by Covid-19 and didn't receive stimulus checks or public benefits. Qualifying Iowa applicants received a prepaid card of \$1000.

Through this program, we were able to assist 13 Iowa immigrants and distributed a total of \$13,000. QCAIR has depleted all of our funds available for this program but we are seeking other grants and resources to assist those in need residing in Iowa.

SEAP offers financial assistance for mortgage, rent, utilities, and other bills to anyone in Scott, Clinton, Muscatine, QCAIR assisted 5 Iowa families to receive \$5000 in assistance through SEAP last fiscal year. We struggled to get many Iowa immigrants to follow up with their scheduled appointments to get assistance.

We have hired 2 paid staff members which will allow us to have more reliable and accessible office hours. We have been focusing on expanding outreach and securing funding for more Iowa based services.

QCAIR acknowledges how much immigrants and refugees contribute to our communities and we will continue to work to help them to be able to feel welcome and included.

Iowa Renewable Energy Association

I-renew continues to promote renewable energy and sustainable living in Iowa communities.

October 2021 Fundraiser!!!

I-Renew is doing an October Fundraiser. For every \$100 raised, I-Renew will pick up one bag of litter in Cedar Rapids and the surrounding area. We want to pick up a lot of litter before the winter winds blow! Donations can be made by clicking "Donate" at irenew.org or via Venmo (@I-Renew-Donate).

NAMI Linn County

NAMI Linn County continues to serve individuals in our community with mental illness and their families through virtual and safe, in person settings.

Virtual Family Support Group

NAMI Linn County offers an online NAMI Family Support Group for those impacted by family members with mental illness. 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.



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

Community Forum to Decriminalize Mental Illness



NAMI Linn County held a virtual community forum on 10/6/21 with mental health experts, law enforcement, and individuals with lived experience to discuss the impacts of mental illness and the legal system. A worthy discussion was had and strengthens our commitment to continue to work with community partners to decriminalize mental health. The focus must be on appropriate interventions and services for those who interact with law en-

forcement and/or are incarcerated who have a mental health diagnosis.

NAMI Walks Your Way 2021

Back in May 2021, we held our annual fundraiser virtually for second year in a row. We are pleased to announce that our fundraising efforts exceeded our goals and we raised more than in any previous year. This is extremely heartening when we could not be in person and mental health is more important now than ever in our communities.

World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities

JOIN US!!

GLOBAL GATHERING II

October 26, 2021 7pm Bettendorf

Public Library-

The Food Rescue Partnership of the Quad Cities -Christina McDonough

*****no cost for admission*****

The Food Rescue Partnership is a Quad Cities coalition that promotes



rescuing food for its best possible use. In 2019 and 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recog-

nized the Food Rescue Partnership as a regional Food Recovery Challenge Endorser award winner. The Food Rescue Partnership's work is directly propelled through collaboration to educate and facilitate outcomes that touch the lives and well-being of everyone in the Quad Cities community. Diverting food waste from landfills, while simultaneously addressing food insecurity provides a unique opportunity to solve multiple concerns in one message. Their vision is the Quad Cities - a community dedicated to eliminating food waste.

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 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 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.johnsoncountymhumane.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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