



# the Lantern

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A newsletter of the Presentation Lantern Center  
Sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA

## Lighting the Lantern with Mark Prosser ★

The Presentation Lantern Center is thrilled to welcome Mark Prosser to speak at our third annual Lighting the Lantern fundraiser.

Prosser is the former police chief of Storm Lake, Iowa, where he gained accolades for his community-minded approach to law enforcement and his determination to engage with immigrants, many of whom came to Storm Lake with a deep-set and well-founded fear of police. As our nation grapples with broken relationships between law enforcement and communities of color, Mark's message of hospitality and engagement is more important than ever.

**We welcome all to join us via Facebook Live for Lighting the Lantern with Mark Prosser, Lantern Center director Megan Ruiz and board president Tim Moothart at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20. This Facebook Live event will be free. We want to share Mark's message with everyone we can. Please visit: [www.facebook.com/LanternDBQ](http://www.facebook.com/LanternDBQ) You do not need to have a Facebook profile to view the event.**

Mark now serves as director of pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Sioux City. He was named 2016 Law Enforcement Executive of the Year in 2016 by the Iowa Police Chiefs Association, is one of two recipients in the state of Iowa of the 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award and is one of three individuals named a 2019 "Keeper of the American Dream" by the National Immigration Forum, of which he now sits on the board of directors.



Mark Prosser with kids.

Lighting the Lantern remains a fundraiser for the Lantern Center. Your support is needed now more than ever, as we serve immigrants especially hard-hit by the pandemic and its economic impacts. Besides continuing online tutoring, we've incurred significant additional expense this year as we strive to meet basic needs—food, shelter, protective equipment—of our immigrant friends.

Those interested and able can pay for a "seat" at Lighting the Lantern, with additional opportunities for virtual interaction and socialization via Zoom, for \$90. Call (563) 557-7134, go to [www.thelanterncenter.org](http://www.thelanterncenter.org), email [megan@thelanterncenter.org](mailto:megan@thelanterncenter.org) or send a check to 900 Jackson St., Ste. LL5-1, Dubuque IA 52001. A virtual "table" for eight at our fundraiser is \$725—roughly one-third of the price prospective citizens pay for a seat at the table of the American dream (i.e., to take the citizenship test, after 5+ years).

## Megan's Message



THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!! As we continue to serve immigrants hard-hit during the pandemic, we wanted to share some of the things we've been able to do. By "we", I mean the Lantern Center staff, board, volunteers, and YOU, our supporters, via ALL of your generous financial support.

· With funding from the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and from YOU, VIATS volunteers operating under the auspices of the Lantern Center have been purchasing and dropping off groceries, diapers, and other vital hygiene and cleaning supplies to approximately 150 people in more than 37 households since the pandemic began. Many of the families had been surviving on these drop-offs; some have fortunately regained recent employment, but most are still trying to survive on well below what the breadwinners in their household made pre-pandemic. One father of five is earning less than \$700 a month despite hard hours of labor; his wife's employer recently stated her March layoff would likely be permanent. Many friends and relatives have had to move in together in order to decrease their cost of rent, to survive the financial hit, so a lot of households are currently living in more cramped quarters than ever.

· Donations from YOU and over 50 other individuals, couples, families and religious organizations, from primarily Dubuque County but also from DC to San Diego and a grant from the Morgridge Family Foundation, have allowed us to help over 70 local immigrants! We have used more than \$15,000 thus far to assist with urgent needs including: rent, utilities, phone cards, food and medical bills over the past 6 months. We use your donations with great care, but the financial need this year has been tremendous, far greater than any we've seen before in our community as many immigrants were forced to weather the pandemic without public supports.

Megan Ruiz,  
Executive Director  
Presentation Lantern Center

## We are committed to opening *safely* ★

At this time, the Presentation Lantern Center is closed for in-person tutoring.

We will continue to operate in alternative ways to keep our students, volunteers and staff as safe as possible.

Therefore, we will continue to welcome, educate and assist local immigrants and support our volunteer tutors with on-line tutoring. While we would love nothing more than to reopen our physical space to the public—we will only do so when it is safer.

# ★ Education Corner

By JoLynn Wall, Director of Education, Presentation Lantern Center

Cheer-filled greetings PLC friends,

Navigating the curves of 2020 has brought us an abundance of opportunity to overcome challenges, forcing us to learn new ways of doing things. Our education mission remains the same, but our educational conduits have changed. Currently, we have 21 pairs working via Zoom, WhatsApp, Facetime, or socially-distanced connections and the number of people we serve electronically is expected to continue to rise, as it has every month since the pandemic started.

Through social media, new students are learning about us and sharing interest in becoming our students. Our volunteers ever amaze us with their love, willingly hopping through the technology hoops and learning how to tutor online. We are so grateful to our amazing volunteers who have chosen to learn alongside us and continue to love our incredible students.

For those not able to continue classes due to childcare responsibilities, lack of internet access or changing work schedules, we've continued to keep in touch via calls and text. Our welcoming mission also continues through our 3:00p.m. Thursday afternoon teatime via Zoom. It is an opportunity for us to see

students and volunteers, and share support and good news in these trying times. If you would like to see us add an alternative tea time, please let us know what works best for you.

We've even had the opportunity to congratulate two of our students who were finally able to take their citizenship oaths July 17. These two ladies have worked very hard at achieving this success, and we are so very proud of them. One was interviewed by reporters: you can watch the replay at our Facebook page.



JoLynn Wall, Director of Education, Presentation Lantern Center

## ★ A committed, welcoming tech intern

Nawar Khayyat served as our tech intern through the past school year. Some of his projects included website updates, volunteer database upgrades and fixing pesky printer problems.

Like our other dedicated interns, though, Nawar became much more than a tech volunteer. His quirky, one-of-a-kind attitude, gentle humor and polite demeanor told everyone who walked through our doors that they would be welcomed, appreciated, heard and helped at the Lantern Center. Nawar put in countless hours beyond expectations to solve tech problems when needed, and he was always willing to help out in any way, whether running an errand or jumping in to tutor.

"From the first day that I came to the Center and I met the people who I would be working with, they made me feel welcomed in the Center," Nawar said. He continued and expanded on

that hospitality: Nawar's presence brightened the Lantern Center with his jokes, his birds and his kindness. We will miss him as he continues on his international journey!



Nawar Khayyat, Lantern Center tech intern.



SCHMID INNOVATION CENTER  
900 Jackson Street  
Suite LL5-1  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

The Presentation Lantern Center is a drop-in center offering hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to adult immigrants, especially women, who are striving to better their lives. Founded by the Sisters of the Presentation, the Center is generously sustained through donations from our founders and individual donors like you. Thank you and God bless you.

### HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Tuesday, Thursday  
1:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
—contact us for reopening info

### Contact us at

563-557-7134  
info@thelanterncenter.org

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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We welcome your support and prayers. Your generosity touches many lives and hearts from around the world.

Please make checks payable to Presentation Lantern Center.

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