



# the Lantern

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

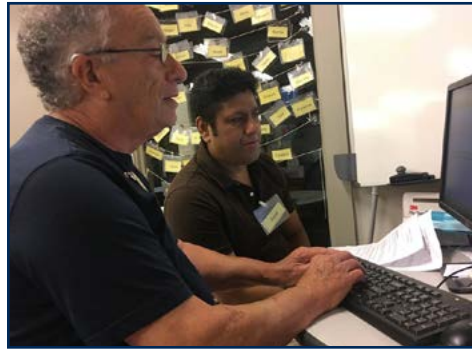
## Asad's Dream★

The following is original writing from our student Asad, who came to Dubuque from Bangladesh. The photo was taken by Asad's young daughter, of tutor Tom and Asad working with technology purchased with a recent grant. Read on to learn about Asad's dream for his daughter...

I lived in Chittagong, the second largest city, on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. I worked in the fishing industry and have a great deal of knowledge and skills about fishing. Ask me about fishing and fish in my home country or the Midwest and I can share much with you.

I came to the United States for a better life. My mother, my brother and sister, and other family members live in the United States. My immediate family lives in Dubuque. My father who passed in 2011 is buried in Waterloo.

My wife Jobaida also came with me to the United States and both of us come to the Presentation



Tom and Asad working at the Presentation Lantern Center

Lantern Center at the same time twice a week. Both of our children were born in Dubuque.

Our goals are for my wife to complete her college education and for our children to get a good education. My dream would be for my daughter to be a lawyer specializing in immigration and helping people like us.

At the Presentation Center I work with Tom and Mary. Tom is a first generation American. His parent emigrated from Italy.

## My Journey

Original writing from another student, who came to Dubuque from Brazil.

"Life in Brazil is good. I enjoyed the weather that is warmer and the delicious food. I met my husband in Brazil, when he did a job where I was working. A few time later we got married, he traveled back to the US, and then I came to live here too. We moved to Dubuque a few years ago, after we spent some time living in California

and North Carolina. A few months ago I became an American citizen. For my future I'm looking forward to university or college. I'm studying English at the Lantern Center with a tutor. I really recommend this place to anyone that needs help with the English language."



## Garage Sale Supports Center

The Presentation Lantern Center was one of two recipients this year of the annual Presentation Sisters and Associates Garage and Bake Sale, along with Catholic Charities Legal Immigration Services. We are so grateful for their support, which gave us a huge leg up this year! Here, sisters and board members pass and accept this amazing donation, made possible through hundreds of hours of hard work by sisters and associates.



From left, board vice-president Mary Lou Mauss, board president Tim Moothart, executive director Megan Ruiz and board members Lynn Marie Fangman PBVM, Leanne Welch PBVM and Joy Peterson PBVM.

## Megan's Message

"The Ripple Effect" We have been so fortunate this summer and fall to have not only an abundance



of helpful and willing tutors, but to have many new students! One thing that is always intriguing to me, is how people heard about us. Overwhelmingly, when we ask both tutors and students, their answer is the same. Despite our lovely website, social media presence, participation in events around the tri-states, posters and media coverage, virtually everyone hears about us via word of mouth. A friend, neighbor, co-worker or family member who has been here recommended us to them. We are all ambassadors of not only the Presentation Lantern Center, but of the country we live in. The impression we make on those we meet whether at the Center or elsewhere, can be lasting. Just like a review of a product or restaurant online, there is a ripple effect. A tutor or student might tell 15 people about the Lantern Center, and so on. I just want to take a moment to thank you ALL. The ripples of your endorsements create an ocean of positivity around the friendships built at our Center.

Thank you,  
Megan Ruiz  
Executive Director,  
Presentation Lantern Center

# Learning About New Cultures

And now, a few words from a tutor, written during her spring internship.

Hello, my name is Amber Hamm, I am a student at Loras College, and an intern at the Presentation Lantern Center. I first found out about the Presentation Lantern Center, by my English advisor Dr. Koch... He told me about how The Presentation Lantern Center helps teach adult immigrants to learn English, as well as many other subjects. They also help people get ready for citizenship, and GED prep. When he suggested this, I immediately wanted to do it. I applied, and now I am helping students from all over the world to learn how to read and write English, and I love it! Also, it's rewarding to see how my students grow in their learning process. I am also learning about my students' cultures. In the picture, my student showed us how to put on a sari, a woman's traditional garment in India. I personally loved learning about my student's traditional clothing attire, and her Indian traditions. I would recommend anybody who has a heart to teach, or to tutor, to volunteer at the Presentation Lantern Center. Their welcoming environment allows students and volunteers to come together and learn not just English but about each other's cultures.



Our Director of Education, JoLynn Wall (lt.) and Executive Director, Megan Ruiz (rt.) were given beautiful saris that student Aruna Ravada & showed them how to put them on during a break with her tutor, Amber Hamm.



## Lighting the Lantern with Inspirational Stories

Two immigrants shared their stories of struggle and success at the second annual Lighting the Lantern dinner, Sunday, Sept. 29 at Convivium Urban Farmstead, 2811 Jackson St.

The event raised funds for the Presentation Lantern Center, which welcomes immigrants to Dubuque and the tri-state area. The center offers hospitality, education and advocacy for immigrants and offers weekly tutoring sessions with volunteers in English and citizenship.

More than 1,000 immigrants have learned English, studied citizenship and built bonds with volunteer tutors since the center's founding. Eighty-three students have successfully studied to become U.S. citizens, and the Center has served immigrants from more than 65 countries.

Just as importantly, the center has built immeasurable bonds between native-born and immigrant Dubuquers, nourished friendship and cross-cultural understanding and built confidence for those navigating their new home. As one student described the center, "It changed my life."

Speaking Sept. 29 were Dora Serna of Clarke University. Serna came to the U.S. with limited English and began studying at the Lantern Center with founder Sr. Corine Murray. Serna now boasts a Master's from Clarke, where she also works.

Secondly, Julia Theisen shared her story of coming to Dubuque from Oxford, England in 2002 and becoming a proud U.S. citizen in 2014, after studying at the Lantern Center. She is a self-empowerment teacher and owner and co-founder of local businesses including Body & Soul Salon, Wellness Center and Spa and Inspire Café.



One of many full sessions at the Lantern Center - many tutoring pairs working hard!



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. 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 at

563-557-7134  
thelanterncenter@gmail.com

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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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