



# the Lantern

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

## Larry Kruse's Light Shines On ★

by Megan Ruiz, executive director

This past Sept. 19, with heavy hearts, we learned of the passing of our dear friend and long-time tutor, Larry Kruse. Larry had been severely injured in August, when his vehicle was struck by a driver who ran a red light. He was airlifted to Iowa City but returned to Dubuque for care because the Iowa City hospitals were full from both COVID-19 patients as well as overrun with people who were injured during and after the derecho. Larry fought for his life for weeks. His niece, who was the only one allowed to visit due to the crowded ICU units and virus precautions, said he was cheered by and grateful for the many cards, email and bouquets of flowers from Lantern Center friends.

Larry was such an excellent volunteer that he not only won our Lantern Center Service award but was inducted into Northeast Iowa Community College's Volunteer Hall of Fame later this fall. Because Larry was such a caring and effective tutor, he was requested many times by students whose lives had dictated a break from tutoring but who returned, months or years later, asking to be matched again with their dear friend and teacher.

In addition to sharing his teaching talents, Larry served on our education committee, where he has lent his expertise to the Center regarding materials to acquire and planning trainings for volunteers, among innumerable other tasks.



**Larry Kruse, center, brought a quick wit and an ever-generous heart to all his interactions at the Lantern Center.**

Right up until the day he passed, during this global crisis, Larry took it upon himself to do everything he possibly could to continue to be a great friend and neighbor. In the summer, he donated his stimulus check to COVID relief efforts the Lantern Center has been a part of, to help immigrants who would not otherwise get financial support amidst being laid off. He stayed in touch with his students, who were also friends, while in the hospital. Just a couple of days prior to his accident, he gave a speech over Zoom to the 100 Men Who Care, sharing his passion for the Lantern Center. You can see this video on our website, [TheLanternCenter.org](http://TheLanternCenter.org).

Larry lit up the Center with his exuberant personality. His witty sense of humor kept us all smiling, even during challenging, extremely busy times, both before and during the current crisis. Truly, he put time and thought into everything, from his tutoring sessions to the Twizzlers and other goodies he regularly brought in to share with everyone. He called them "stress-relieving snacks" and said a person could chew their frustrations away. We are honored that he gifted us a portion of his retirement fund. This gift will help us continue to do what he did best, to welcome countless immigrants and help them achieve their goals for the future.

# Springing Forward with Health Literacy



By JoLynn Wall,  
director of education

This spring we are  
advancing in health  
literacy education  
and outreach.

“Health literacy” is  
the ability to get  
and understand  
healthcare information,  
and it has huge  
implications for our  
ability to live healthy  
lives.

Last year, several Loras Honors students, Malycki Manon-Sosa, Sarah Shafer and Courtney Knight, chose the Lantern Center as a place where they wished to make a difference in the Dubuque community. We had many brainstorming sessions filled with wonderful ideas that got crushed with COVID.

However, we are delighted that we are now moving forward with implementing their ideas. Our first Zoom presentation was with Dr. Kate Cooper, who shared information about the COVID-19 vaccine. Biology professor Cooper, as the LH team puts it, “has taken the lead when it comes to COVID-19 and the Loras campus community.”

Each month will have a different focus, and the means of sharing information may vary from mailers to Zoom panels to Facebook Lives presentations, or any combination of the above. If you are in the health field and would like to be a part of sharing with our community of students, please email [Info@TheLanternCenter.org](mailto:Info@TheLanternCenter.org) or leave a message at (563) 557-7134.

## Helping By the Numbers

Every year the season of giving comes to the Lantern Center, with “extra” services beyond tutoring, such as helping arrange coats for kids, cookies, grocery cards and other forms of material holiday cheer. This year, the pandemic created additional emotional and financial stresses on our immigrant neighbors. Many families were hard-strapped to provide even small Christmas surprises for their families.

These are some ways we’ve tried to help:

**45** people received gifts, gift cards and/or Christmas money

**\$1,695** in gift cards were given, to Natural Grocers, Aldis, Target, Walgreens, Kohls, Eagle Country Market, HyVee, RiverLights Bookstore, VISA giftcards and Walmart’s charity cards (no tobacco, alcohol, lottery tickets or firearms could be purchased with those)

**4** quilts via Mary Ann Fabricius

**18** pairs of mittens from Kim Naumann at A-Hair A-Head



**40** scarves from an anonymous donor

**36** winter coats from St. Joseph the Worker parish of Dubuque’s Knights of Columbus chapter

**20** kids books and art supply packs from McGraw Hill

**2** beds – one from board member Sr. Joy Peterson and one from Peggy Kaune, who heard about us through a neighbor

**114** immigrant households, including more than 200 adults and 44 children, served in 2020 by English support, citizenship tutoring, help with bills, referrals for food support or grocery/household supply deliveries in concert with the VIATS immigrant food security project, staff deliveries, advocacy and assistance

**92** people have achieved their U.S. citizenship, with our help, since 2002

**1,200+** immigrants served since 2002

**70+** countries of origin

**18 to 75:** ages of Lantern Center English and citizenship students in 2020.



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

Our center is closed to the public at this time, but we continue virtual learning and services.

Stay tuned for re-opening details.

### Contact us at

563-557-7134  
[info@thelanterncenter.org](mailto:info@thelanterncenter.org)

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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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