



the Lantern

Fall 2021 • Volume 16, Issue #2

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

Greenwood will Light the Lantern

This year's Lighting the Lantern fundraiser will feature the message of an inspiring Presentation associate, Billie Greenwood. Greenwood is a regular volunteer at the U.S. - Mexico border who has brought her knowledge of human rights and passion for service to every hot meal she serves and every lesson she shares with migrant asylum-seekers.

Billie started learning the sounds of the Spanish alphabet at the age of 50. She has spent years studying human rights in Spanish and traveled for 14 years to the U.S.-Mexico border, where she's seen firsthand how the tumult of our national policy has real effect on the human rights of people on the ground.

As our country regains its footing after pandemic shutdowns, we need immigrants more than ever. We need immigrant labor, skills and ingenuity. We need the perseverance and values learned through immigrant experiences.

Billie will headline our fourth annual Lighting the Lantern fundraiser, set for Sunday, Sept. 19 starting at 4:30 p.m. Proceeds will support the Presentation Lantern Center's mission of hospitality, education and advocacy for adult immigrants.

This will be the second year that our event will be virtual. Because we wish to share Billie's uplifting message of hospitality, it will be broadcast via Facebook Live to all who wish to learn more.

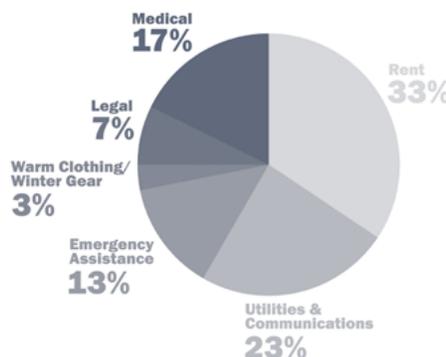
And because this is also a fundraiser, we ask supporters who are financially able to buy a "seat" at the table for \$90 or a full "table" for \$725--the same amount that an immigrant pays to apply for U.S. citizenship. Ticket holders will receive a link to participate



Presentation Associate Billie Greenwood distributes clothing on a trip to the U.S.-Mexico border. She will speak about her experiences and mission as part of this year's Lighting the Lantern fundraiser and celebration Sept. 19.

via Zoom, with additional opportunities to interact and share stories with Billie and other speakers. Their generosity will help us continue our English-language and citizenship tutoring and services to new Dubuquers for generations to come.

To purchase a ticket or table, see enclosed flier. You may also send a check to the Lantern Center at 900 Jackson St., Ste. LL5-1, Dubuque IA 52001 or go to TheLanternCenter.org and click on "Donate." Include the memo "Lighting the Lantern" and your email address to assure that you receive the Zoom link Sept. 19.



We are here for you!

by Megan Ruiz, Executive Director

After having worked outside and at the Center by appointment with masks, over Zoom and via phone and email for 13 months, it was exciting to re-open in May for walk-ins and orientation and in June fully to the public! Our priorities continue to be safety, continuity of quality English and citizenship tutoring services and assisting community members with basic needs during these challenging and uncertain times.

Some of our safety measures include an improved, high-quality air filter for the ventilation system we share with nearby nonprofits, two Air Doctor machines capable of filtering the Lantern Center space, masks for those sharing our physical space, sanitation and changes to our normal procedures to ensure community safety.

When I pass the "Resilient" billboard near our Center, I am proudly reminded that we are indeed extremely resilient. While many continue to rebuild and recover from 2020, I hope you find solace in the work we've done to support vulnerable immigrants. Money coming in has continually been going **straight back** out to assist people who needed it most. **In 2020, our collective tutoring outreach and financial support touched over 115 households.** Because of your generosity, people being rehired, and the fact that many immigrants are all too familiar with disastrous circumstances and making each dollar stretch, we even had urgent assistance funds remaining in 2021! While requests have decreased considerably, there continues to be need, as households recover. With the remaining funds, **this year in 2021, we have already helped 130 different people from 30 households, with a total of \$18,520.** Here's a snapshot of how we spent money we raised and distributed as assistance thus far. This graph does not include VIATS food services.

Education Corner

By JoLynn Wall, Director of Education



Now that our doors are open, welcoming tutors, students and friends again, we have been able to reconnect with some online pairs in person now. Others who have not been able to do online classes are thrilled to return to the center to continue reaching toward their language and learning goals!

Although the process has been slow for getting everyone to come back in person, our pairs are glad to be back and enjoy the freedom to meet in different locations within our city block. Depending upon the day and the weather, you can find our tutoring pairs in nooks, crannies, and the sunny courtyard. It is quite delightful to listen to the learning giggles or overhear a vocabulary lesson on the latest word that is yet to make it to the dictionary.

As expected, we have found that the online flexibility is working best for some of our tutoring

pairs as well. Since tutoring can be done virtually, we have been able to expand our services to students who are visiting family in Chicago for the summer, who are interested in classes but have moved out of the area and some in the tri-state area who work during our in-person tutoring hours. It is exciting to know that we can continue to provide education in diverse formats and will hope to see our impact increase in the lives and families of our immigrant friends and neighbors as we perfect these ways of teaching. We have been welcoming numerous new students to our center who are grateful for our welcoming and free services.

If you would like to tutor with us in person or virtually, please let me know, as there are students waiting for a tutor. Our education committee is planning a fall Volunteer Connect with training opportunities Aug. 27, 2-4 p.m., which will be for all of our current volunteers, as well as anyone interested in tutoring with us. An online application to tutor can be found at <https://thelanterncenter.org/volunteer/>. Please email JoLynn@theLanternCenter.org to RSVP to the Volunteer Connect event or to update your availability and interest in tutoring.

Rosemary's Way, our way

The Julien Dubuque International Film Festival (JDIFF) closed out this year's festival with a film that holds special meaning for the Presentation Lantern Center family. "Rosemary's Way" follows a Kenyan-Australian woman who uses humor, dance, food and joy to help empower migrant women, bringing them resources and opportunities to connect with Australians across cultural divides.

Lantern Center volunteer and film festival board member Sharon Kuttler knew that she needed to use her vote to bring this film to the city, as it reminded her so much of what we do at the Presentation Lantern Center. The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque (CFGD) sponsored the film, which was free to all. A panel session after the film included the daughter of one of our students, Marlynn, who is one of DCSD's bilingual teaching assistants, as well as a former volunteer, Clara Lopez Ortiz, Equity Coordinator at the CFGD.

Those attending from the Lantern Center found the film to be a wonderful opportunity to support the festival and share with film attendees the opportunity and benefits of involvement in community organizations like ours, which welcomes immigrant families with open arms to our beautiful community. Two local Senior High School students who were



Lantern Center family attending the closing film of the 2021 Julien Dubuque International Film Festival included Lantern Center volunteer and film festival board member Sharon Kuttler, director of education JoLynn Wall, Marshallese students Ellien and Gina, volunteer Mary Moothart and board president Tim Moothart. They pulled down their masks for a quick photo op, flashing smiles as big as Rosemary Kariuki's grin in "Rosemary's Way." The documentary is about Kariuki's mission to welcome migrant and refugee women, using humor as her "secret weapon."

in attendance that day, Emma and Jayda, both National Honor Society students, have been invaluable volunteers for us this entire summer. They have enhanced aspects of our website and physical organization of materials, created a welcoming presence and so much more.



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 am-3 pm

Tuesday and Thursdays:
1-7 pm

Contact us at

563-557-7134
info@thelanterncenter.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tim Moothart
President

Mary Lou Mauss
Vice-President

Lynn Marie Fangman, PBVM
Treasurer

JoJean Decker
Secretary

Marilou Irons, PBVM

Joy Peterson, PBVM

Brad Kane

Kevin Deeny

Leanne Welch, PBVM

Maura McCarthy, PBVM

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.

Visit us at

 www.thelanterncenter.org

Like us at

 www.facebook.com/LanternDBQ

Follow us at

 @LanternDBQ

 @thelanterncenter