



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 the love of those we serve! ★

This year's Lighting the Lantern was a profound success in many ways, inspiring us with Billie Greenwood's message of human connection across borders, raising funds for the Lantern Center and spreading the word of our mission and work. One of our favorite moments was a video that featured the voices of those who come to the Lantern Center seeking language skills and cultural connections. Here's what they have to say!



"As a volunteer, I realized that the Lantern Center had great opportunities for me with culture as well as to communicate with another culture and understand each other more."



"In this place I have the opportunity to improve my English skills, but beyond that, I have the opportunity to meet different people from different backgrounds. I love it."



"My experience here has been amazing."



"When I come here, I see people from Spain, people from Peru, Costa Rica. It's just amazing. It's just a small place with a lot of people from different cultures. It's a blessing to be a part of this community now and help the other people with the challenges we face."



"Being able to do my ministry here has really taught me the value of the help of somebody. I realize that as I help people here at the Lantern Center, it's taught me to be more aware of what's going on around us in the world, and I'm very grateful to do this as my ministry."



"In the short time I've been a part of the Lantern Center, I've found this to be a wonderful place to connect with other people and just grow in our understanding of the world."

Lantern student earns Clarke scholarship

by Megan Ruiz, Executive Director

I am pleased to announce that Lantern Center student Jobaida Khanam received a full scholarship to complete the professional development microcourse entitled The Effective Employee's Toolbox, offered by Clarke University in September.

Director of the Institute for Professional Excellence Liz Kruse reached out in August and offered that, upon receiving a professional recommendation, Clarke would be pleased to extend free tuition for this course to a Lantern Center student. I immediately thought of Jobaida!

Jobaida earned her bachelor's degree in Bangladesh. After years of living in the United States, with the help of tutor Marci Blum, OSF, Tom LoGuidace and other tutors, Jobaida and her husband became citizens earlier this year! Jobaida is an excellent student and very capable. After several years of caring for their two young children and her mother-in-law, she is now researching college courses and preparing to apply for a job, return to college... or maybe even both!



Jobaida has worked hard for years to improve her English weekly at the center. Because of her dedication and warm personality, she will be an asset to anywhere she decides to accept a position. A huge congratulations to Jobaida and a hearty, warm thank you to Sister Marci Blum and all the tutors who have helped on her journey.



Mootharts going to Fort McCoy

By Tim and Mary Moothart
Lantern Center volunteers



“We think you guys would enjoy this.” I’ll bet you have received a phone call that starts with this phrase, usually from someone attempting to sell something. However, to our surprise and

delight, it was a call from Tracy Morrison, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. She was referring to an opportunity to help refugees at Fort McCoy near Sparta, Wis.

As you know, thousands of Afghan citizens have fled their country of origin due to threats and danger posed by the Taliban. Fort McCoy houses 13,000 Afghan refugees, approximately half of whom are children, as they receive medical checks, vaccinations and cultural orientation classes. Eventually these refugees will be resettled with relatives in the U.S. or in housing arranged by one of nine refugee resettlement agencies.

Tracy explained that Catholic Charities in La Crosse, Wis., is organizing volunteers to help at Fort McCoy. This could include organizing clothing

and other supplies donated by thousands of Americans. Volunteers may also help by playing with the Afghan children on the base, tutoring or sewing. They are asking for volunteers who can spend at least one week at the base and who are open to a variety of tasks.

The vetting process to become a volunteer includes filling out a detailed application, completing online courses in safe driving and safety for children and undergoing a background check.

As of this writing, we have been authorized to volunteer and plan to leave soon, for ten days at the base. Catholic Charities is paying for a hotel in the Sparta area and other travel expenses. We are a little anxious, having never done this before, but the orientation we have received and the reading material we have reviewed on Afghan and Muslim cultures have put our minds at ease.

We look forward to spending time with remarkable, resourceful and talented fellow Earthlings and learning from their experience.

- For more info on volunteering:
CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org/FortMcCoy
- For a registry of items needed by refugees:
Cclse.org/Afghanistan-refugee-assistance



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

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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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Our intrepid interns



“Interning at the Lantern Center has reminded me of how amazing the social work field can be and has helped me see that this truly is the career path for me. Here, I have been able to utilize both my social work and Spanish skills to help other people. It has become a place where I can let go of my college stresses and immerse myself in rewarding experiences.”
-Izzie Buchanan, Loras ‘24



“I have had such an AMAZING experience at the Lantern Center. Since spring ‘21 I was welcomed through email and over Zoom with welcome arms. From the amazing staff and volunteers to the wonderful students, every day it is definitely something new. I am so glad to be able to have this experience here and be given the opportunity to help so many individuals achieve their goals! I look forward to learning new things and meeting new people through my time here.”
-Andrew Martinez, Loras ‘23



“Interning at the Lantern Center has helped me realize how important volunteering is. The staff here at the center is doing wonderful job of helping those in the community that have needs. They are committed to helping whomever, with whatever the need is.”
-Omar Alobaid, University of Dubuque ‘22

