

The **LANTERN**

A newsletter of the Presentation Lantern Center

Students Who Shine Stories of Courage, Growth and Success

Every multilingual adult who comes to the Lantern Center brings a unique story of courage, determination and possibility. In “Students Who Shine,” we celebrate learners who are improving their English, caring for families, building careers, pursuing dreams and sharing their talents with our community.



Lafiyatou is celebrating her second year in business at the Dubuque Farmers’ Market. A former restaurant owner in Togo, she balances motherhood, full-time work, entrepreneurship and her third year of classes at the Lantern Center. Each week, she prepares hard-to-find dishes including jollof rice, foo foo with goat stew, caramelized plantains and bodokins. Through her food, determination and commitment to learning, Lafiyatou shares her culture while building a bright future in Dubuque.



Wendy continues pursuing her dream of becoming a registered nurse despite the obstacles she has faced as a DACA recipient. Already a licensed practical nurse, she is pursuing her RN at NICC. Her DACA status makes her ineligible for federal financial aid and most scholarships, so paying for college remains a challenge. A recent Community Foundation Promising Futures grant is helping cover her tuition. To learn more about Wendy’s inspiring DACA journey, visit thelanterncenter.org/newsletter and select April 2025.



Fabienne has studied at the Lantern Center since March 2024. Originally from Haiti, she works full time while improving her English and building a secure future for her daughter. Despite the challenges and uncertainty of the immigration process, she remains focused on her education, work and goals. With support from primary tutor MJ Gregory, Fabienne continues moving forward with courage and determination. *She is pictured here with tutor Ronald Hoefer. Photo courtesy of the Telegraph Herald.*

Growing Together: New Space, New Investments and a Shared Vision

By Megan Ruiz, Executive Director

There is so much to celebrate at the Lantern Center!

First and foremost, we are grateful to two important partners: the Gronens, who rebuilt the historic Millwork District, which will always hold a special place in our hearts, and to the Presentation Sisters who provided our students and tutors with a new home in a remodeled wing of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road, Suite 100. Their warm welcome, blessing of the space, teatime visits and gifts/treats during opening week have made us feel truly at home.

We also have exciting news about how your donations are invested! For years, we and women religious across the country have urged Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS), which manages our main investment fund, to prioritize human rights. **We are thrilled that CBIS has divested from private prisons and companies operating ICE detention facilities!** These prisons have raised longstanding concerns about the treatment of immigrants and asylum seekers. We are grateful that our persistence, combined with advocacy from across the country, helped bring attention to this issue. Our investments must reflect our values and we are proud that collective advocacy contributed to this positive change.

As Ann Lorenz transitions into the role of Development Director, we are recruiting a Community Outreach Specialist. This person will help advance key parts of our strategic plan by ensuring that more people seeking English tutoring know the Lantern Center is here for



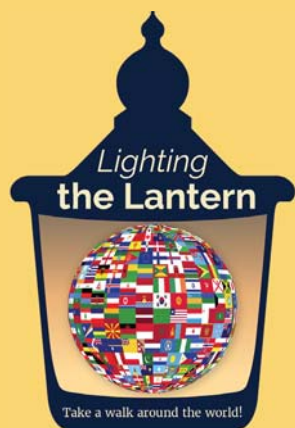
Lantern Center staff enjoyed a fun-filled Staff Appreciation Day in Galena, where we happened to run into our intern, Fallon, at the American Old Fashion Ice Cream Parlor!

them and strengthening relationships with local businesses seeking to overcome language barriers. When employers invest in communication and inclusion, workplaces thrive, businesses grow stronger and our community benefits.

At the Lantern Center, we believe we are all stronger together. We cannot do it without you! As we enter our 25th year, having served more than 2,500 people, will you commit to giving \$25 a month to help build brighter futures? Scan the QR code to give.

Thank you for continuing to be the light!

Megan



Lighting the Lantern

Thursday, April 29, 2027

Reflections Event Spaces



CASINO + RESORT

Thanks to the incredible support of our community, Lighting the Lantern has sold out two years in a row. To welcome even more friends and supporters in 2027, we are moving to a larger space for this special evening of hope.

Individual ticket: \$90

Shining Star Sponsor: \$5,000

Beacon of Light Sponsor: \$2,000

Ray of Hope Sponsor: \$1,000

Share-A-Table: \$600

Reserve your seat or sponsorship at www.thelanterncenter.org/lighting-the-lantern

New Art Across Cultures Program Connects Through Creativity

By Chris Chapin-Tilton

I came across this quote recently, and it's a perfect description for the Lantern Center's new Art Across Cultures program to be launched at an open house on Tuesday, September 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. The volunteer-driven program will provide art supplies and a wide range of creative expression activities in the upcoming year for individuals and families served by the Lantern Center.

Program funding is coming from the Jac Tilton Memorial Art Education Fund, which my family created when our much beloved husband, father and grandfather passed from cancer in early 2024. Jac was a prolific area watercolorist, so we were left with 40-plus paintings to sell, which we've done via three shows, with all proceeds donated to area education-related charitable causes.

One of our first Art Across Cultures projects will be to create art supply bags for each Lantern Center family to take home. The idea for the bags came about when we learned that some of our participants were fearful about leaving their homes due to the current political climate. Consequently, volunteers were collecting games and other materials to drop off so why not art supplies?

For the activities, we've hired a master's-level art therapist—Elizabeth “Liz” Leek-Wedyke—to consult in program design so that our projects are fun and therapeutic while also supporting language-building skills. Additionally, a number of volunteers are contributing their time and creative talent to organize and conduct the activities, including Sandra Evans, Greta Gorsuch, Gina Guerrero de Reyes, Paula Leick, Connie Murphy and Cindy Widmar.

Kudos also go to Divine Word Seminary and Voices Studios in facilitating the art shows and sales, enabling this “labor of love” to soon become reality.

*“Art is our one truly
global language. It knows
no nation...it speaks to
our need to reveal, heal
and transform...”
—Richard Kamler*



PRESENTATION
**LANTERN
CENTER**

CONTACT US

2360 Carter Road, Suite 100
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
563.557.7134
info@thelanterncenter.org
www.thelanterncenter.org

MISSION

The Presentation Lantern Center offers hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to adult immigrants who are striving to better their lives.

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
10 AM–3 PM

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1–7 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Craig Takes: President
Faye Finnegan: Vice President
Matt Dodds: Treasurer
Richelle Friedman, PBVM: Secretary
Gina Guerrero de Reyes
Jimmy Jean-Francois
Mary Klein
Liz Kruse
Dianne McDermott
Tonya Trumm

OUR TEAM

Megan Ruiz
Executive Director
megan@thelanterncenter.org

Ann Lorenz
Development Director
ann@thelanterncenter.org

Sue Ellis
Education Director
info@thelanterncenter.org
Interested becoming a student or
volunteering? Contact Sue Ellis

Sara Millhouse
Business Coordinator
sara@thelanterncenter.org

VISIT US AT

 thelanterncenter.org
 facebook.com/LanternDBQ

ART ACROSS CULTURES
Creating Connections through
Art and Expression

Program Open House
Tuesday, September 15 • 5 to 7 p.m.

Friends of the Lantern Center

We are truly grateful to our community for their incredible support! Gifts received from 4/16/26 to 8/20/26

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

Donna Wahlert

In Honor of Nancy Van Milligen's Legacy-Retirement

Seiji & Mary Yoshioka

Great Give Day

Anonymous

Linda Barbaro

Mary Konzett

Rosemary & Teddy Crawford

Jeffrey Danna

Charlotte Enright, OSF

Calvin & Barbara Gatch

Sandy Gaul

Debbie Gross

David & Jane Heiar

Itza Heim

Joyce Johnson

Ricky Kenny

Robert King

Kevin & Dianne Koch

Donald & Caroline Koppes

Liz Kruse

Ann Lorenz

Gary & Julie Norby

Chris & Tim Olson

Julia Omarzu

Matthew Rissler

Sarah & Pete Ross

Lisa Schmidt

Lois Schueller

Cheryl Syke & Brian Poirer

Rebecca Taylor-Harris

Raymond & Susan Wilson

In Honor of

Lantern Center Students, Tutors & Staff

Suzanne Rubenbauer, FSPA

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual

Adoration

Presentation Sisters Jubiliarians

60th ~ Sr. Marjorie Loughren

50th ~ Sr. Brigid Stanley and

Sr. Jane Conrad

Joan Brincks, PBVM

Carmen Hernandez, PBVM

Terry & Connie McDermott

Leanne Welch, PBVM

Dorothy Castellon

In Memory of

Maryann Caudill-Lo Guidice

Tom Lo Guidice

Betty Takes

Matt & Kara Dodds

Richelle Friedman, PBVM

Carmen Hernandez, PBVM

Mary & Bill Klein

Ann Lorenz

Megan Ruiz

Lloyd & Dianne McDermott

Sisters of the Presentation

General Gifts

Thomas & Janis Anderegg

Anonymous

Bill & Sue Biver

Becky & Phil Bryant

Julie Burgmeier

Sandra Cairns

Charity on Top Foundation, Inc.

Davin & Renee Curtiss

Don & Kathy David

Divine Word College

Evening Embers Theresians

Lynn Fangman, PBVM

Allison Freihoefer

Mary Gansen

Rachel Gerber

Richard & Colleen Gitter

Dick & Mary Jean Gregory

Ronald Hoefer

Holy Spirit Parish

Mike & Jean Kelly

James & Nancy Klauer

Knights of Columbus Council #510

Nancy Knipper & Michelle Watters

Jeffrey & Julie Kring

Roger Kurt & Aggie Tauke

Tom Lo Guidice

Stephen & Sharon Loeffelholz

Loras College

Ann Lorenz

Rob & Olivia Maple

Lloyd & Dianne McDermott

Andy Neebel

Deb & Don Otto

Relay Iowa, Inc.

St. Catherine Church, Bellevue

St. Joseph Church, Bellevue

St. Peter Lutheran Church

Don & Mary Scherrman

Vicki & Dale Schumacher

Sisters of the Presentation

Kenneth & Marlene Tekippe

Beth Triplett

Bonnie Ulfers, PBVM

Seiji & Mary Yoshioka

Grants Light our Future!

Community Foundation

Promising Futures Grant Program

Dupaco R.W. Hoefer Foundation

Franciscan Sisters of

Perpetual Adoration

McDonough Foundation

United Way of Dubuque Area Tri-States

Scan to Give. Shine Your Light!



Proud to be
a United Way
agency partner!



Celebrating Our Volunteers

On August 18, our community gathered to celebrate volunteers who contributed 4,950 hours of service last year.



Lantern Awards

Tom Boxleiter and Dianne Gibson received the Lantern Award, our highest honor, for outstanding service to our mission.



Champion Awards

Champion Awards honored Art Roche for his longtime volunteer service and the Presentation Sisters for 25 years of partnership and helping make our move possible. Also pictured: PBVM Associates Connie and Terry McDermott.



10-Year Service Awards

Sue Ward, Sharon Speckhard and Beth Whisler were recognized for a decade of volunteer service. Not pictured: Mary Hoelscher and Becky Taylor-Harris.