



the Lantern



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

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Grant Helps Visitors to 'Discover Dubuque'

by Sr. Beth Kress, PBVM, and Sr. Corine Murray, PBVM

"It takes a village ... " is a small phrase that reflects a big reality at Presentation Lantern Center. Individuals, families, businesses, organizations, colleges, universities, schools, churches and many community friends are true partners in the mission of the Lantern Center.

Through a recent grant from the Dubuque Racing Association (DRA), many visitors had the opportunity to learn about the city and visit places like the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium (NMRM&A) and Mathias Ham House and take trolley rides and a boat ride on the Mississippi.

A picnic at Eagle Point Park provided visitors and volunteers from the center with an opportunity to enjoy nature and watch the traffic on the river.

Participants recall the variety of experiences they had in the "Discover Dubuque" program:

Bob, Marshall Islands: "At first I was a nervous English speaker. I understand English but I am not comfortable when I speak it. Using the Lantern services was a privilege for me. I really appreciated the help. I am now confident about my future. American challenges were not easy. The Lantern Center program is unique and very important for immigrants struggling to learn English. With the help of the Presentation Lantern Center my life and the life of my family

has changed. Now my wife can speak much better English."

Mary, Colombia: "The experience was very beautiful for me. Everything was new and I learned a lot (about Dubuque). Above all I noticed that although the culture is different the people are respectful and cheerful to all."

Tao, China: "I took my little son, Allen, to the museum. There are many kinds of fish in the museum. We saw a movie about the development of the Mississippi River. Later, we took a boat ride on the Mississippi River. My son was excited to see the river. We had a lot of fun that day.

On another day, we took a trolley ride around (town). My tutor went with us. She had the patience to introduce me to many new things. It was a nice trip. ... I am thankful for the Presentation Lantern Center and for my tutor. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about this beautiful town."

Behira, Bosnia: "This was my first tour of Dubuque and visit to the Dairy Queen. I really enjoyed them. I also liked the museum."

Leonardo, Colombia: "The field trips were really amazing experiences. I practiced my listening

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Ken (China), Mathlynn (Marshall Islands), Mary Jean Gregory, Sandy Amberg, Sr. Ruth Elsbernd, OSF, and Joe Hermann participate in feast and fun at Eagle Point Park.



Exploring the Ham House in Dubuque this past July are, left to right, Asima, friend and Emina (Bosnia).

LANTERN CENTER Welcome



Recently a couple shared their story of starting over in the United States after moving here from Russia. Both are now citizens. Despite their advanced degrees and work histories, securing

employment was a long and difficult road. After their presentation several people in the audience asked questions including, "Was it worth it?" The couple gave each other a knowing smile and talked about the fact that it is sometimes a blessing not to know all of the challenges before embarking on such a journey. They also affirmed that it was indeed worth it.

Several recent immigrants reflecting on their experience compared it to being born all over again. They acknowledged that such journeys include high points: learning the language, finding friends, securing employment and becoming citizens. They shared that loneliness, frustration, and homesickness are also part of the journey. Not unlike the amazing stories of own immigrant ancestors, their quiet courage in the face of difficulty continues to inspire us in our mission of hospitality.

Friends and benefactors, your support helps newcomers achieve their hopes and dreams. Thank you for the ways you are welcoming the strangers among us.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Partners in Welcoming



when hearing the tour guide talk about the city's history. On the trolley ride, I really enjoyed learning why and how the Shot Tower, churches and buildings were constructed. By scheduling these field trips, the Lantern Center motivated us to learn about and visit all these important and interesting places."

Olga, Russia: "I have lived in Dubuque eight years. I looked at old buildings from my car. It is different to see the historical sites from a trolley and listen to the tour guide's explanations. It was amazing! Thank you."

Joe Hermann, tutor: "'Discover Dubuque' was a fun experience that allowed me to meet people with whom I work in an informal environment. It also allowed us to reinforce skills we learned during lessons and focus on more everyday English."

Sandy Amberg, tutor: "It was so nice being able to meet with students and their families outside of the classroom, to see their appreciation for the city of Dubuque which they have chosen for their second home."

Elaine Hunt, tutor: "It was fun taking a break from studying and tutoring English in order to learn more things about our city of Dubuque. Although I've lived here most of my life, I learned some things I didn't know. It was great to share the days with everyone and visit and meet new people."

"Many have become friends of the Lantern Center throughout the eight years since its opening. Without these friends, field trips, outings, cooking classes, supplies, furniture and equipment would have been

a challenge to the budget," comments Mary Jean Gregory, board president. "We are deeply grateful to the DRA for the grant we used to create the 'Discover Dubuque' program and to the NMRM&A for its in-kind gift."

As Presentation Lantern Center continues to live its mission of hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to women and their children, Sister Corine and staff, volunteers and visitors benefit from the generosity of all who have become partners in the center's welcoming ministry.



Left to Right: TOP: Veronica, (Mexico), and baby enjoy a day at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. BOTTOM: Gaby, Mary, Andreas, Dhyana and Dora share stories at the picnic in Eagle Point Park this past August .



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Presentation Lantern Center is a drop-in center offering hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to women and their children who are striving to better their lives. Sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa, the center is a non-profit organization.

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Tuesday, Thursday
1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Contact us at
563.557.7134
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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.

PHOTO GALLERY Life at the Center

Visitors to Presentation Lantern Center experience many forms of hospitality and support as they journey into new places far from their countries of origin. A day discovering the sites and opportunities of Dubuque and the tri-state area is possible because of the many community individuals and groups who partner in our mission.

Left to Right: TOP LEFT: Sr. Theresa Dung Trang, LHC, (Viet Nam) takes time to enjoy ice cream on the trolley. TOP RIGHT: Volunteer Sr. Mary Wojnicki, BVM, loves reading and playing with Jocelyn. BOTTOM LEFT: Danielle and Olga (Russia) relax on the Mississippi river ride. BOTTOM RIGHT: Sr. Mary Ruth Elsbernd, OSF, and Mathlynn (Marshall Islands) get serious about a game of cards.

