



the Lantern



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

Lantern Center Makes a New Home

Excitement was in the air throughout the summer months as Presentation Lantern staff, students, tutors and many friends, sisters and associates made preparations to move to the Schmid Innovation Center in the Millwork District

Many hands generously and efficiently packed books and supplies, labeled boxes, moved furniture, cleaned the former facility, shined up the new space, laid new carpet, hung signs and pictures, arranged cultural decor and assembled computers and other equipment.

By September fall programming began and visitors came to the center.



Left to Right, Extreme Top, Right, Gronen Restoration members complete the hanging of the sign. Top, Left, Friends from Dubuque Rescue Mission and Conlon Construction assist in moving furniture. Top, Right, Srs. Emilie and Sheila find a place for Nano Nagle's picture. Middle, Left, Srs. Julianne, Janice and Rita and tutor Elayne finish touching up new counters and floors. Middle Right, Tutors Elaine and Susan and Sr. Sheila Ann call volunteers to break for lunch. Bottom Left, Tutor Sandy and receptionist Debbie take a break from sorting supplies.

LANTERN CENTER

Welcome



by Sr. Corine Murray, PBVM, Executive Director



When we count our blessings we count you twice.

This has been our theme during our tenth anniversary year. Again and again, we have indeed counted and

recounted our many blessings.

We are grateful to everyone who assisted with the move: volunteer tutors, board members, sisters and friends who helped with packing, moving, unpacking or made monetary contributions. Others provided baked treats for those engaged in the physical work. The move and the unpacking took place during the hottest week in August. What a challenge!

It was so exciting to welcome our tutors and students for the first time in September.

We are grateful to the Gronen Restoration Staff who continue to be so helpful as we settle into our new space.

We have scheduled an Open House on Friday, November 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a Blessing Ceremony at noon. If you are not able to join us, please stop in for a visit at a time that is good for you.

Thank you to all who support our ministry of welcome to the strangers among us.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Visitors from Sudan Meet Challenges



To say that Hythem Abdullah and his wife, Remah, have had an amazing year in 2013 is an understatement. In most cultures, significant events, such as the birth of a child, are shared with extended family. However, the course of events this year brought them many challenges.

For three years Remah had studied to be a lawyer in her native Sudan. Then, she and Hythem moved to Morocco for Hythem to study for his doctorate. While in Morocco, they were notified that they had won the immigration lottery to come to the United States. They had six months

to put their affairs in order and travel to the U.S. In October 2012 they came to Dubuque because Hythem had a friend in the city who was employed at IBM. Eventually Hythem also began working at IBM.

Both Hythem and Remah came to the center to work on their English skills. "Hythem was my student at the Lantern Center," shares tutor Ann Ernst. "My husband and I invited the Abdullaahs to our home for Christmas dinner. It was an enjoyable event despite language limitations. Afterwards, we drove through the Hillcrest Family Services Festival of Lights where loudspeakers played Christmas carols. They laughed with delight at the animated figures and sang along with 'Deck the Halls' which they had learned at the Lantern Center."

They also anticipated their first child in spring. After an ambulance ride from Dubuque to Iowa

Left to right, Hythem and Remah enjoy life with their healthy son.



City, the new baby, Yassin, was born on March 20, 2013, at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. He weighed just over two pounds. The baby remained in the hospital for over three months.

With the help of staff at the hospital they requested a visa for Remah's mother to come to the United States to help her daughter, but the Sudanese government rejected the request.

Remah stayed in Iowa City and was able to study English at Kirkwood Community College. Hythem continued to work at IBM and traveled to Iowa City on weekends. He also had to travel to Morocco to defend his dissertation. When Yassin was able to leave the hospital, Hythem was halfway around the world. Remah and the baby stayed with friends in Iowa City until Hythem returned to the U.S. and brought his family home to Dubuque. Baby Yassin is doing very well and now over 15 lbs..



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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.

WISH LIST: Computer software for English language learners, tea and coffee, small paper plates, napkins, Hy-Vee gift cards for snacks and boxes of tissues are ongoing needs.

Please make checks payable to Presentation Lantern Center.

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PHOTO GALLERY

Life at the Center

All are welcome at Presentation Lantern Center for an Open House on Thursday, November 8.

Top, Left, Tutor Tom views a map of Africa with Elizabeth (Nigeria). Top, Right, Adriana and Marcelo (Brazil) find their country of origin on the globe. Bottom, Left, Sr. Mary Lou and Aruna (India) practice English pronunciations. Bottom, Right, students from Clarke University help tidy up the new center.

