



**June 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

# Eastern Iowa Refugee Alliance



Johnson County Chapter, United Nations Association-USA



**College of Education**  
**Diversity Committee**

Friendship Community Project

## Exhibitors

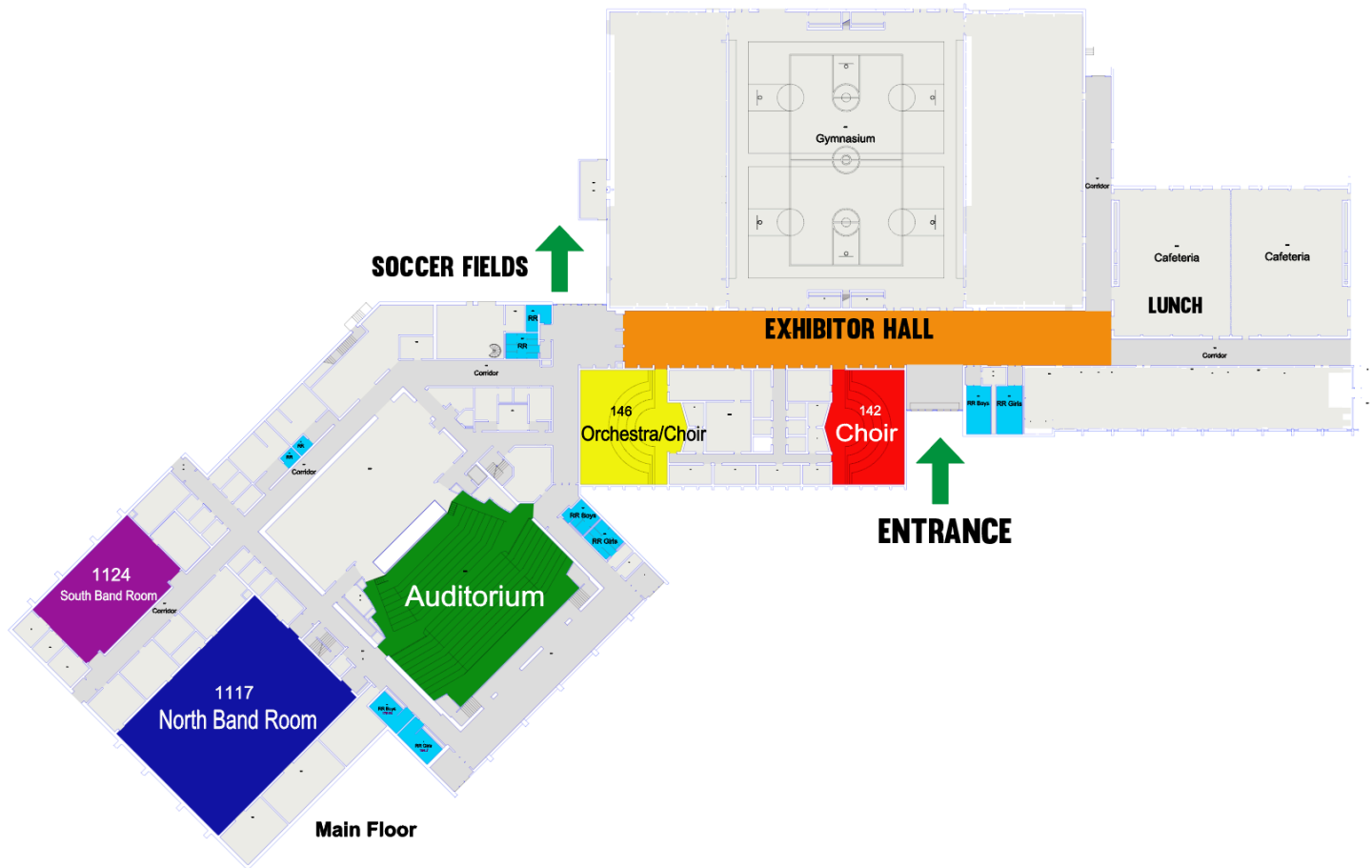
*Please stop by the exhibit hall during registration, breaks, and lunch to find out more about area organizations.*

Abbe Center for Mental Health  
Amnesty International  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County  
Catherine McAuley Center  
Catholic Charities  
Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa  
Crisis Center of Johnson County  
EMBARC  
Emma Goldman Clinic  
First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City  
Free Medical Clinic  
Friendship Community Project  
Habitat for Humanity of Iowa Valley  
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program  
Iowa City Community School District  
IC Compassion  
Iowa City Human Rights Commission  
Iowa Valley Global Food Project  
Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition  
Johnson County Community ID Program  
Johnson County Social Services  
Kirkwood Community College  
Legal Aid  
Linn County & Johnson County Public Health Departments  
Lutheran Services in Iowa, Refugee Services Program  
MCNA Dental  
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Johnson County  
Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County  
Refugee & Immigrant Association  
Shelter House  
UI Center for Human Rights  
UI College of Medicine, Division of Child and Community Health  
UI College of Public Health  
UI School of Social Work  
United Nations Association, Johnson County Chapter  
Veridian Credit Union  
Wake Up for Your Rights

## FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2017 SCHEDULE

8:30-9:00 A.M.	REGISTRATION AND RECEPTION
9:00-10:10 A.M.	<p>WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS, DISCUSSION OF GOALS FOR THE DAY IN AUDITORIUM</p> <p>★ <b>Teresa Stecker</b>, Executive Director of IC Compassion</p> <p>KEYNOTE PANEL</p> <p><b>"Refugees as New Iowans: Understanding Refugee Resettlement"</b></p> <p>★ <b>Nicholas Wuertz</b>, Director, Refugee Community Services, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)</p> <p>★ <b>Julianna Dublin</b>, AmeriCorps VISTA, Refugee Youth Program, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants</p> <p>★ <b>Chad Dahm</b>, State Refugee Coordinator/Bureau Chief, Iowa Department of Human Services</p> <p>★ <b>Mone Aye</b>, Board President &amp; Founder, EMBARC</p> <p><i>Convener/Moderator: Ed Cranston, Mission Chair, First Presbyterian Church Iowa City</i></p> <p><i>What is a refugee? How are refugees resettled in Iowa? What are the demographics of the refugees in Eastern Iowa? What are the needs and concerns of refugees in Eastern Iowa and across the state?</i></p>
10:00-10:10 A.M.	BREAK AND TRAVEL TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS
10:10-11:00 A.M.	BREAKOUT SESSION #1 (SEE PAGE 6)
11:00-11:10 A.M.	BREAK AND TRAVEL TO BREAKOUT ROOMS
11:10-12:00 P.M.	BREAKOUT SESSION #2 (SEE PAGE 7)
12:00-1:00 P.M.	LUNCH - Exhibit hall open during lunch hour in main hallway.
1:00-1:10 P.M.	BREAK AND TRAVEL TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS
1:10-2:00 P.M.	BREAKOUT SESSION #3 (SEE PAGE 8)
2:00-2:10 P.M.	BREAK AND RETURN TO AUDITORIUM
2:10-3:00 P.M.	<p>KEYNOTE PRESENTER</p> <p><i>"Refugees Are You and Me: Telling the Story of Iowa's Newcomers and their Contributions and Challenges"</i></p> <p>★ <b>Anesa Kajtazović</b>, former member of the Iowa House of Representatives for the 61st District in Iowa (2011-2015)</p> <p><i>A talk on the journey of Anesa Kajtazovic and her family as Bosnian refugees resettling in Iowa, and Anesa's eventual election to the Iowa State House, the first Bosnian refugee in the U.S. to do so. Anesa will discuss how refugees engage in their new communities in diverse ways, the complexities of their identities as survivors of trauma, and reflect on the common humanity that binds us all.</i></p>
3:00-3:30 P.M.	<p>WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS</p> <p>★ <b>Teresa Stecker</b>, Executive Director, IC Compassion</p>

# FACILITY MAP



## KEY

RESTROOMS

CHOIR

ORCHESTRA

AUDITORIUM

NORTH BAND ROOM

SOUTH BAND ROOM

## Breakout Session #1 10:10-11:00 AM

### GROUP 1: ADVOCATING FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHOIR ROOM

#### *"Between Two Cultures"*

*Panel:*

- **Siri Makaya**, Student, Iowa State University
- **Leya Neema**, Refugee RISE AmeriCorps Service Member, Catherine McCauley Center

*Convener/Moderator:* **Abby Anderson**, Associate Pastor, Iowa City First Assembly of God

*Panel will share stories about the experiences of refugee youth.*

### GROUP 2: INVESTING IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY: REFUGEES AND EMPLOYERS

ORCHESTRA ROOM

#### *"Creating Opportunities"*

*Panel:*

- **Carrie Jaster**, Human Resource Generalist, NIS
- **Scott Mather**, Operations Manager, Iowa Workforce Development
- **Francis Mwajuma Ngendakumana**, Student, Kirkwood College
- **Alima Rachidi** Student, Kirkwood College
- **Corrine Stanley**, Facilitator, Staff Language and Culture Services, University of Iowa.

*Convener/Moderator:* **Claire Brakel-Packer**, Kirkwood ESL/Iowa WORKS

*A brief overview of regional labor needs and opportunities will be followed by Corridor-area employers describing efforts to successfully integrate refugees into the workforce. Refugee members of the community will enrich this discussion.*

### GROUP 3: EMPOWERING YOU FOR POLITICAL ACTION

AUDITORIUM

#### *"Current Challenges to Refugee Rights: State and Federal Legislation and Executive Orders"*

*Panel:*

- **Joe Bolkcom**, Iowa State Senator District 43
- **Hena Mansori**, Supervising Attorney, National Immigrant Justice Center
- **Mary Mascher**, Iowa State Representative House District 86
- **Amy Nielsen**, Iowa State Representative House District 77
- **Jill Niswander**, Director, Communications and Development at EMBARC
- **Christopher Taylor**, Mayor of Swisher, Iowa

*Convener/Moderator:* **Ed Cranston**, Mission Chair, First Presbyterian Church Iowa City

*An overview and discussion of recent legislative and legal developments impacting refugees at the municipal, state and federal level.*

### GROUP 4: BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE VOLUNTEER AND ALLY

NORTH BAND ROOM

#### *"The Helping Mindset: A Partnership Approach to Volunteering"*

*Presenter:*

- **Lindsay Jarratt**, Doctoral Student in Schools, Culture, & Society at University of Iowa

*Convener/Moderator:* **Joseph Lear**, Lead Pastor, Iowa City First Assembly of God

*This session will invite participants to examine volunteering through a partnership approach. We'll discuss common pitfalls that well-meaning helpers experience when power, resource, and vulnerability are factors in a helping relationship, as well as the skills for navigating complex issues together.*

### GROUP 5: ENHANCING HEALTH IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

SOUTH BAND ROOM

#### *"Status of Refugee Health in Johnson and Linn Counties: Public Health Perspectives"*

*Panel:*

- **Moses Kasiriba**, RefugeeRISE Americorps Member, IC Compassion
- **Heather Meador**, Linn County Public Health
- **Will Story**, Assistant Professor in Community and Behavioral Health, UI College of Public Health

*Convener/Moderator:* **Jason Harshman**, Assistant Professor, Social Studies and Global Education, University of Iowa College of Education

*An overview and discussion of health in new refugee populations in Eastern Iowa and the challenges to accessing culturally competent healthcare.*

## Breakout Session #2 11:10-12:00 PM

### GROUP 1: ADVOCATING FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHOIR ROOM

#### *"Between Two Cultures: Part II"*

Presenter:

- **Leya Neema**, Refugee RISE AmeriCorps Service Member, Catherine McCauley Center

Convener/Moderator: **Abby Anderson**, Associate Pastor, Iowa City First Assembly of God

*This workshop will focus on the struggles of refugee youth and families, and it is specifically designed to help service providers better address these needs.*

### GROUP 2: INVESTING IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY: REFUGEES AND EMPLOYERS

ORCHESTRA ROOM

#### *"Creating Access"*

Panel:

- **Edmond Bigaba**, Board Member, Refugee & Immigrants Association/Family Support Worker-NCJC
- **Abouhorira Khatir**, Student, Kirkwood Community College
- **Mami Ngendo**, RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps Member, IC Compassion

Convener/Moderator: **Stephanie Domingo**, Refugee RISE AmeriCorps Member, Catholic Charities

*Area members of the refugee community will describe their efforts to develop a career pathway as a newcomer in the U.S. Panelists will describe their work experience, goals, use of workforce services or other means of finding jobs here in the U.S., and identify challenges, successes and opportunities they see for helping refugees find living-wage employment in this regional economy.*

### GROUP 3: EMPOWERING YOU FOR POLITICAL ACTION

AUDITORIUM

#### *"Effective Advocacy for Policy Change"*

Panel:

- **Caleb Gates**, Refugee Resettlement Case Manager, Catholic Charities, Cedar Rapids
- **David Leshtz**, District Representative District 2, Office of Congressman Dave Loebsack
- **Jill Niswander**, Director, Communications and Fund Development, EMBARC
- **Esaie Toingar**, President, Wake Up For Your Rights, Cedar Rapids

Convener/Moderator: **Jim Olson**, Board Member, Johnson County United Nations Association

*This session will provide tips and techniques for refugees and their allies to make their voices heard in calling for policies to address the needs and contributions of refugees at the federal, state, and local levels.*

### GROUP 4: BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE VOLUNTEER AND ALLY

NORTH BAND ROOM

#### *"Dynamics of Intercultural Relationships and Communication"*

Presenter:

- **Dr. Sunday Goshit**, Intercultural Communication Specialist

Convener/Moderator: **Joseph Lear**, Lead Pastor, Iowa City First Assembly of God

*This session discusses the importance of volunteers and allies. It explores some of the intercultural differences that would impede communication and adjustment of refugees and prevent their speedy adjustment. We will look at communication styles and how they differ across culture, as well as some implicit biases that influence and prevent effective communication. The session provides the basics of intercultural communication for community members who are or would like to be volunteers and allies for refugees.*

### GROUP 5: ENHANCING HEALTH IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

SOUTH BAND ROOM

#### *"Promoting Wellness Through Food and Art"*

Panel:

- **Ayman Sharif**, President, Iowa Valley Global Food Project

Convener/Moderator: **Jason Harshman**, Assistant Professor, Social Studies and Global Education, University of Iowa College of Education

*This session will explore non-medical therapeutic activities, such as growing familiar foods, engaging in traditional healing practices, and sustaining music and artistic traditions, that can aid refugees in their transition from trauma to wellness in their new communities.*

## Breakout Session #3 1:10-2:00PM

### GROUP 1: ADVOCATING FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHOIR ROOM

#### *"Engaging Refugee Parents"*

Panelists:

- **Sheyla Shreck-Blanchard**, ELL Teacher, Mark Twain Elementary
- **Shannon Hammen Miner**, Student and Family Advocate, Iowa City Community School District
- **Jean-Paul Mugemuzi**, President, Refugee and Immigrant Association
- **Jana Owczarzy**, LISW, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Convener: **Abby Anderson**, Associate Pastor, Iowa City First Assembly of God

*This panel of experienced service providers will focus on barriers to engaging parents and creative ways to equip families.*

### GROUP 2: INVESTING IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY: REFUGEES AND EMPLOYERS

ORCHESTRA ROOM

#### *"Addressing Worker Concerns in Eastern Iowa: Wage Theft"*

Panel:

- **Colin Gordon**, Senior Research Consultant, Iowa Policy Project
- **Linda Jeane Story Miller**, Resource Instructor, Postville School District
- **Mazahir Salih**, President, Center for Worker Justice
- **Alyssa Cokinis**, Performer
- **Gemma Van Jacob**, Performer
- **Janet Schlapkohl**, Playwright

Convener/Moderator: **Robin Clark-Bennett**, University of Iowa Labor Center

*Members of the Center for Worker Justice and UI Labor Center will present a short play to illustrate the problem of widespread wage theft, its forms and impact on low-wage workers in Eastern Iowa, as reported by the Iowa Policy Project. A short summary of that report will follow along with a brief panel presentation and discussion, as well as suggestions for action and advocacy.*

### GROUP 3: EMPOWERING YOU FOR POLITICAL ACTION

AUDITORIUM

#### *"Encouraging Participation of Newcomers in Policymaking: Ways to Make a Difference"*

Presenter:

- **Jim Throgmorton**, Mayor of Iowa City, Iowa

Convener/Moderator: **Ed Cranston**, Mission Chair, First Presbyterian Church Iowa City

*A presentation and discussion about how newcomers can involve themselves in municipal and statewide policymaking and the value of this engagement to the larger community.*

### GROUP 4: BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE VOLUNTEER AND ALLY

NORTH BAND ROOM

#### *"Volunteering Opportunities: How to Get More Involved!"*

Panel:

- **Shana Kargbo**, Refugee and Immigration Services Coordinator, Catherine McAuley Center
- **Mary Ready**, Refugee Resettlement Supervisor, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque
- **Teresa Stecker**, Executive Director, IC Compassion

Convener/Moderator: **Joseph Lear**, Lead Pastor, Iowa City First Assembly of God

*This session includes representatives from area agencies that have developed volunteer programs. The panel will discuss their organizations, refugee programming, volunteer requirements, and volunteer needs.*

### GROUP 5: ENHANCING HEALTH IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

SOUTH BAND ROOM

#### *"Mental Health Care Provision in Refugee Populations: Models and Best Practices"*

Panel:

- **Alyssa Clayden**, Therapist, Lutheran Services in Iowa
- **Zeljka Kravavica**, Refugee Specialist, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services
- **Marguerite Oetting**, MD, Healthy Kids Clinic and Iowa River Landing Pediatrics

Convener/Moderator: **Jason Harshman**, Assistant Professor, Social Studies and Global Education, University of Iowa College of Education

*What are the most prevalent mental health needs of refugees, both children and adults? What are the barriers to addressing these needs? And what are best practices for overcoming these barriers? A panel of experts will discuss these issues with each other*



## SATURDAY OVERVIEW

9:00-9:15 Team Sign In and Light Breakfast (*Soccer Field*)

9:15-9:30 Review of Rules (*Soccer Field*)

9:30-12:00 Soccer Game (*Soccer Field*)

12:00-1:00 Lunch (*Cafeteria*)

1:00-4:00

Speeches & Awards (*Auditorium*)

**Delphin Kyubwa**, Technology Oversight Manager, California State  
Department of Technology

Music and Dancing (*Auditorium*)

**Delphin Kyubwa** is a Technology Oversight Manager at the California State Department of Technology in Sacramento where he oversees the technical implementation of large technology projects in the execution of various government programs. Mr. Kyubwa is also a part-time Computer Science Professor at Sierra College of Rocklin, a local Community College in California. He holds a BS in Computer Engineering from the California State University of Sacramento, a Master of Science in Technology Management from Golden Gate University of San Francisco, and a Professional Certificate in Project Management (Project Management Professional: PMP). He is married and a father of a family. His community involvement in the diaspora includes his role as Honorary President of the Congolese Community in Northern California. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), he is also a Chairman of the Board of Directors of a non-profit organization supporting sociocommunity development initiatives in Congo called CAADEC Association. Although Kyubwa has lived in the USA for more than a quarter of a century, his heart remains in the DRC where he is also president of a political movement for change, called the Party for National Reform (PNR). [www.pnrcongo.net](http://www.pnrcongo.net)

# BIOS

**Mone Aye** is one of the co-founders and board president of EMBARC (Ethnic Minority of Burma Advocacy and Resources Center), a grassroots organization that founded by and for Ethnic members from Burma. Before coming to the U.S, Mone was born and raised in Mae La refugee camp in Thailand and lived there for 19 years. Mone followed her family to the U.S in July 2008, and made Des Moines, Iowa, her home since then. Mone became the United States citizen the same year she earned her HiSet at DMACC in 2014. In 2015, Mone was selected by the White House as a Champion of Change for World Refugee Day, and also, Passport to Prosperity award winner from IIC. In addition to being a board president at EMBARC, Mone is also a board member at LifeSong Church of the Open Bible, taking college classes at DMACC, serves as AmeriCorps RefugeeRISE at EMBARC, while raising a five-year-old daughter who is in Pre-school and sure knows how to keep Mone busy. **Email:** mone@embarciowa.org

**Edmond Bigaba** is a social worker by profession. He has a lot of experience working with refugees in different capacities. **E-mail:** edmondbigaba@gmail.com

**Joe Bolkcom** is serving in his fifth term in the Iowa Senate. He works on improving health care and mental health services and ending tax giveaways to large corporations. He also has been an advocate for more state funding to help Iowa's newcomers and their families be successful. **E-mail:** joe.bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov

**Alyssa Clayden** has worked with refugee and displaced populations on four continents, she provides mental health support through various therapeutic interventions, and by assisting with cultural brokering and community building. **E-mail:** alyssa.clayden@lsiowa.org **Website:** www.lsiowa.org

**Chad Dahm** is the Bureau Chief for the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services in Des Moines. The Bureau is part of the Iowa Department of Human Services. Part of Chad's job is to serve as the State Refugee Coordinator for Iowa. Prior to his current position Chad served in a variety of roles for IDHS and was most recently the State Child Care Administrator. **E-mail:** cdahm@dhs.state.ia.us

**Julianna Dubin** is an AmeriCorps VISTA member proudly serving at the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. She joined USCRI in August of 2016 for the Refugee Youth Program. She wears many hats in this role: facilitating an after school program for refugee and immigrant teens, coordinating school enrollment for new arrivals, developing new training materials, and managing the volunteer programs. She recently returned from a year in Taiwan as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, where she taught English at an elementary school on rural Kinmen island. While in Taiwan, she was also a guest lecturer on American culture at National Quemoy University. Before the Fulbright ETA, Julianna attended the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, where she studied Linguistics and completed a certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language. She is passionate about learning and teaching languages, and views language as one of many tools refugees can use to build empowered lives. **E-mail:** JDubin@uscric-desmoines.org

**Caleb Gates** has served as a Refugee Case Manager with Catholic Charities in Cedar Rapids since December 2014. Prior to this he worked with refugees in Louisville, KY since 2010. Caleb has studied abroad in Peru, Ecuador, and Japan. Caleb enjoys learning about new cultures, reading philosophy, and passing time with his wife and 3 children. **E-mail:** c.gates@dbqarch.org

**Sunday Goshit** came to Iowa City in 2000 from Nigeria. He obtained a PhD in Geography from the University of Iowa. Sunday is an qualified Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) administrator. He has been a facilitator for diversity and intercultural cultural training sessions at the University of Iowa and in the community through Culture Friendly Consulting and IC Compassion. Sunday lives in Coralville with his wife Regina. He has four adult children and two grandchildren. **E-mail:** sunday.goshit@gmail.com

**Lindsay Jarratt** has worked at colleges and universities for many years, most recently serving as the Diversity Resources Manager for the University of Iowa. In 2016, she left her position to begin doctoral studies in the Schools, Culture, & Society Program, in the College of Education at the University of Iowa. She is studying diversity and equity in educational settings. **E-mail:** lindsay-jarratt@uiowa.edu

**Carrie Jaster** has been working in HR since 2010. Was a Whirlpool for 19 years prior to coming to NIS in September 2015. She lives in Solon with husband and two girls. **E-mail:** cjaster@nisia.com **Website:** www.nisia.com

**Anesa Kajtazovic** immigrated to the United States from the war-torn country of Bosnia at the age of ten. Coming to the U.S. after spending years in refugee camps, Anesa and her family felt fortunate to get a second chance at life. Watching her parents work hard labor jobs, sometimes working two jobs, Anesa experienced the struggles and saw the opportunities. She went on to earn two bachelor degrees in Business and Public Administration from the University of Northern Iowa in just three years. At the age of 23 she made her first bid for public office, she defeated a long time Waterloo Mayor in a competitive race to serve in the Iowa House of Representatives and become the youngest elected woman in Iowa history and the first Bosnian-American elected to any office in the country. She served two terms in the Legislature. After an unsuccessful campaign in Iowa's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, she recently joined Allen Foundation-UnityPoint Health. **Email:** [anesakay@gmail.com](mailto:anesakay@gmail.com)

**Shana Kargbo** is the Refugee and Immigration Services Coordinator at Catherine McAuley Center. She holds a BA in Communication Studies from Iowa State University. She has a great passion for empowering and equipping people of all ages, from all nations and backgrounds. She has enjoyed living around the world including Turkey, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Minneapolis, and is happy to now serve people from many nations in her hometown of Cedar Rapids at CMC! Shana and her husband Moses, have two daughters and one grandson. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, especially to her husband's native country of Sierra Leone, spending time with her family, worshipping Jesus, leading Bible studies, teaching children's church, and taking Zumba classes. **E-mail:** [Shana@cmc-cr.org](mailto:Shana@cmc-cr.org) **Website:** [www.cmc-cr.org](http://www.cmc-cr.org)

**Zeljka Krvavica** came to the United States in 1993 as a refugee from Bosnia and Herzegovina after fleeing her home in war-ravaged Sarajevo. Since then she has devoted her life to helping other refugees make Iowa home because all refugees, regardless of their cultural, educational or economic background, have one thing in common: a great sense of loss –loss of the life they once knew, loss of the loved ones, loss of dignity. Through her professional work as a Refugee Case Manager with the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services in Des Moines, Iowa and as Iowa State Delegate with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Refugee Congress, as well as through numerous volunteering engagements such as teaching English as a Second Language or establishing and conducting Green Card Clinics for the refugees seeking adjustment of status, serving as the founding member of Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association, acting as a Cultural Ambassador for CultureAll, a non-profit organization which provides cultural diversity workshops and trainings for school children in Iowa, or being an avid advocate for refugee women's rights. She is the recipient of the Iowa Council for International Understanding 2010 Passport to Prosperity Award. Ms. Krvavica learned to be grateful for the refugee clients in her life who had been teaching her to always look on the bright side and to cherish all the miracles in this world. Ms. Krvavica is a 2015 recipient of the White House Champions of Change Award for World Refugees which recognizes every day Americans who are making positive changes in their communities. **E-mail:** [zkrvavi@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:zkrvavi@dhs.state.ia.us)

**David Leshtz** has worked in Congressman Dave Loebsack's Iowa City office since 2007. He is a former Chair of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, and currently serves on the boards of the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights and the Crisis Center of Johnson County.

**Rep. Mary Mascher** has served in the Iowa House since 1994. She has just completed her 23rd year in the legislature and currently represents the southeastern section of Iowa City, University Heights, and Hills. Rep. Mascher serves on the Education and Human Resources Committees. She is currently the ranking member on the State Government Committee and serves on the Transportation Infrastructure Budget Sub-Committee. Mary taught in the Iowa City School District for 33 years, where she also served as a guidance counselor.

**Hena Mansori** is a supervising attorney at the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), a non-profit immigration law office located in Chicago, Illinois. Since joining NIJC in 2008, Hena has represented detained immigrants in removal proceedings before the Immigration Court and Board of Immigration Appeals, where she pursues various applications on their behalf. Hena moreover advises criminal defense attorneys through NIJC's Defenders Initiative program and supervises NIJC staff providing legal orientations to immigrant detainees. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Chicago in 2002 and her J.D. from NYU School of Law in 2006. She is licensed to practice law in the state of Illinois. **E-mail:** [hmansori@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:hmansori@heartlandalliance.org) **Website:** <http://www.immigrantjustice.org>

**Scott Mather** came to Iowa Workforce Development in August 2009, where he worked as a Workforce Advisor in the Cedar Rapids office. In December 2010, Scott was promoted to the Promise Jobs Supervisor for the Cedar Rapids region and then in February 2013 promoted to a Workforce Development Manager, supervising the business services team and managing the Iowa City office. Prior to Iowa Workforce Development, Scott worked for the Department of Human Services for 2 ½ years as a Social Work Supervisor, and before that, Four Oaks for 15 years while completing his degree in Psychology and Criminology from the University of Northern Iowa. **E-mail:** [scott.mather@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:scott.mather@iwd.iowa.gov) **Website:** [www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov)

**Heather Meador** is the senior public health nurse at Linn County Public Health and the Coalition Chair for the Linn County Immunization Coalition. Heather has been with the health department for 7 years. Linn County Public Health performs initial health assessments for refugees, assists with finding a medical and dental home for refugees, provides immunizations, and tuberculosis screening and treatment, and helps refugees with vaccine verification for green card applications. **E-mail:** [health@linncounty.org](mailto:health@linncounty.org)

**Linda Jeane Story Miller** has been a special education instructor for grades 7 - 12 at Postville Schools for 24 years. She lives in West Union and is a parent of four adult children and a grandmother of two. Because she is a teacher at a very diverse school, she sees the struggles, fear, and absolute delight in accomplishments that students face. As stated on one of her graduate's hats, "my parents crossed the border so I could cross this stage." **E-mail:** [lindajeaneMiller@gmail.com](mailto:lindajeaneMiller@gmail.com)

**Shannon Hammen Miner** has been serving the ICCSD for 11 years as a Family Resource Center director/Student and Family Advocate (SFA) at 6 elementary buildings. In this capacity she has had multiple opportunities to serve and support refugees and immigrant communities who make Iowa City home. As an SFA her responsibilities include supporting parents in navigating the school system to meet their children's learning needs and school success. **E-mail:** [miner.shannon@iowacityschools.org](mailto:miner.shannon@iowacityschools.org)

**Leya Neema** is originally from Burundi, Africa. Her family fled to Tanzania when she was two. They lived in a refugee camp for five years and then moved to Arizona on refugee status. The family quickly moved to Iowa to be closer to friends from Africa and for economic reasons. She graduated from Washington High School in Cedar Rapids and attended Iowa Central Community College and UNI. **E-mail:** [leya@cmc-cr.org](mailto:leya@cmc-cr.org)

**Mami Ngendo** is originally from Congo D.R.C and she has been living in the U.S. for eight years. Mami helps connect refugees to necessary resources, coordinate the Women's Group, and assists with other various important tasks at IC Compassion. **E-mail:** [mami@iccompassion.org](mailto:mami@iccompassion.org) **Website:** [www.iccompassion.org](http://www.iccompassion.org)

**Amy Nielsen** was elected the first female Mayor of North Liberty in 2014 after spending years being active in her community as a voice for those that are often unheard. She built a reputation as someone who can get things done. In 2016 Amy was elected to serve in the Iowa House of Representatives for District 77. She serves on the Education, Local government, and State Government committees. **E-mail:** [amy.nielsen@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:amy.nielsen@legis.iowa.gov)

**Jill Niswander**, Director of Communications and Development at EMBARC, and former business developer at Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, has worked in international business for more than 15 years. She began her career in corporate finance at Principal Global Investors, where she worked with offices across the globe to develop and implement relevant sales and marketing strategies in specific markets, including Asia, Australia, Europe and South America. In 2011, she turned her passion for volunteering into a career in the non-profit sector by co-founding Dress for Success Des Moines, an organization that helps women obtain and retain employment. During her time at Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, Jill successfully launched Community Voices, a fee-for-service interpretation business. Jill received her BSBA from Drake University and lives with her husband and four children in Altoona, IA. **E-mail:** [jill@embarciowa.org](mailto:jill@embarciowa.org) **Website:** [www.embarciowa.org](http://www.embarciowa.org)

**Jana Owczarzy** has been a social worker at the UIHC for over nine years. She has worked with pediatric populations for most of her career at UIHC. In her current role at the pediatric primary care clinic at IRL, she works extensively with refugee and immigrant populations. She received her Master's Degrees in anthropology and social work at the University of Iowa. **Email:** [jana-owczarzy@uiowa.edu](mailto:jana-owczarzy@uiowa.edu)

**Mary Ready** began working with refugees in 2012 as an intern with World Relief in Moline, IL and continued her professional experience with migrant populations while interning with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB-MRS) in Washington, DC. She has been working with Catholic Charities since 2015 as a Case Manager and Supervisor of the organization's RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps members. In her role, Mary welcomes and assists newly arriving refugees in their transition into a new life in the United States. **E-mail:** [m.ready@dbqarch.org](mailto:m.ready@dbqarch.org) **Website:** [www.catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/](http://www.catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/)

**Sheyla Shreck** English Language educator, Graduate student at University of Iowa, interested in the advocacy and growth of children and immigrant populations in our community. **E-mail:** [shreck.sheyla@iowacityschools.org](mailto:shreck.sheyla@iowacityschools.org)

**Corinne Stanley**, MA/MSW, is Staff, Language and Culture Services Facilitator at the University of Iowa. Her office, located in Human Resources, supports diversity in the workplace by offering language and culture classes in English and Spanish. An important collaborative aspect of her work involves work-specific language acquisition for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Environmental and Guest Services. Several job applicants have received positions in the department because of the tutoring that SLCS offers after a first interview. In addition she interprets for work-related matters, does consulting, offers cultural presentations, and teaches English classes to scholars and researchers at the University. Because of the growing Latino population in Iowa, she has developed a series of Spanish for the Medical Professions classes as well as Spanish for Social Workers, Call Center Spanish, and Spanish for Professional Development. Ms Stanley lived and worked in Mexico and Ecuador and has been a language instructor for over 30 years. She is a poet and literary translator as well as a collage artist.

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**Teresa Stecker** has been honored to be the executive director of IC Compassion since it began in 2006. She was raised on an Iowa farm and the privilege of sharing life with people from all over the world in Iowa.

She graduated from University of Iowa with a Master's in Nursing Administration. She also serves as Pastor of Open Door Church in Iowa City. But her greatest joy is being the mother of 5 amazing children.

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**Will Story** has over 15 years of experience in global public health focused on the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs related to maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS and malaria in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. He is currently studying the effect of families and communities on health behaviors, particularly health care utilization, in resource-poor settings and translating that research into effective interventions and policies. He is currently leading a project to improve access to existing health services for women and children in Johnson County's Congolese community.

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**Chris Taylor** is an Iowa native, and has lived in Johnson County since 2005. As an undergrad, he studied international relations at Middlebury College, specializing in Russian political history and language. He recently completed the second year of a three year master's program at the University of Iowa's School of Library and Information Science. His research aims to help small rural communities across Iowa use communications technologies to provide better service to their residents. Since 2014, Chris has served as mayor of Swisher, where he lives with his wife of 12 years, two children, and two large dogs.

**Mayor Jim Throgmorton** earned a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame majoring in history, an M.S. in Community Development from the University of Louisville, and a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California at Los Angeles. He currently is serving his third term on Iowa City's City Council. Having first served from late 1993 through the end of 1995, he was elected again in 2011, was re-elected in 2015, and has been serving as mayor since January 2016. His specific priorities as mayor have included: improving the affordability of housing, especially for low-to-moderate income residents; improving racial equity; producing a more walkable city; and taking effective local action to ameliorate the threat of global climate change.

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**Esaie Toingar** is the founder and president of Wake Up For Your Rights. He is an activist and a commissioner on the Civil Rights Commission of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Author of A Teenager in the Chad Civil War and Idriss Déby and the Darfur Conflict, he is also a documentary writer and producer of Dos and Don'ts in the USA. Esaie works for Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids.

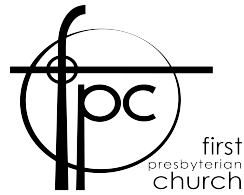
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**Nick Wuertz** currently serves as the Director of Refugee Community Services at Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), where he has worked for the last decade welcoming refugee families and enhancing services for refugees in Central Iowa. He is very passionate about helping others understand the U.S. Refugee Resettlement program, the populations that are arriving, and the ways that refugees contribute their skills and experiences in their new communities. Following the suspension of LSI's refugee resettlement program in 2010, Nick helped lead the development of post-resettlement services at LSI which now provide training, technical assistance, and support to over 800 individuals each year in the areas of Education and Workforce Development, Family Services, and Economic Empowerment. Nick helped convene and serves on the steering committee of the Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa which has brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to advance Central Iowa's ability to welcome and equip refugee families for success. Nick is a native of Waverly, IA, and a graduate of Wartburg College. His mother's family emigrated from Denmark when she was in kindergarten. His father comes from a family of German immigrants.

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## **Notes**

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