

Iowa Shares

Connecting People Who Care Strengthening Communities

Join us in building a better tomorrow today!

It is time for Iowa Shares' annual workplace giving campaigns to kick off across the state! We invite you to support nonprofit organizations and causes you believe in!

1. Pledge a regular payroll donation if you are employed at one of the many workplaces across the state that are participating in this year's fall campaign. You sign up

once each year, and your workplace sends your pledged amount to Iowa Shares throughout 2025.

2. Pledge a monthly contribution online at our iPledge page: www.ipledgeonline.org/iowasharesonline/ Your monthly donation will automatically be charged to your credit card each month.

3. Mail a check made out to Iowa Shares to our office at 20 E Market St, Iowa City, IA 52245.

Our Iowa Shares Organizations are nonprofits doing incredible work in our Iowa communities. YOU, our donors, help make this work possible. THANK YOU for joining us in our efforts!

www.iowashares.org

Amnesty International

Amnesty International of Iowa is composed of AIUSA local groups in Ames, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines. In the past twelve months, all three groups joined

with other organizations to oppose reinstatement of the death penalty. All three groups also participated in the 2023 global write-a-thon for human rights. In

addition, all groups had periodic meetings focused on writing on "urgent action cases."

Fall 2024



Member Updates:

<i>Amnesty International</i>	1
<i>Center for Worker Justice</i>	2
<i>Johnson County Humane Society</i>	2
<i>Iowa Renewable Energy Association</i>	3
<i>Friends of the Marion Public Library</i>	3
<i>QC Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees</i>	4
<i>Raptology</i>	4
<i>The Quire</i>	5
<i>Linn County Chapter</i>	5
<i>Animal Lifeline of Iowa</i>	5
<i>World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities</i>	6
<i>Members List</i>	6-7

Center for Worker Justice

Every year the Center for Worker Justice for Eastern Iowa (CWJ) has a silent auction at its annual gala to raise money for the organization. This year the gala took place at the Unitarian-Universalist Society in Coralville Saturday, October 5th.

CWJ engages in diverse activities aimed at improving workers' opportunities and conditions, health, and housing of immigrants and low-

wage workers and residents of our area.

This year we have been leading campaigns to fight bad immigration laws, while increasing focus on resisting the increasing wage theft and child labor exploitations. We empower members through organizing and by providing educational and training programs including language, literacy, and

business startup training. CWJ also expands exposure and accessibility of the members to resources such as medical clinics, Johnson County ID and, and by organizing sessions that inform about their legal rights. Please find more information about CWJ by visiting the website <https://cwjiowa.org/our-work/> about the goals and activities of CWJ.

Johnson County Humane Society

Johnson County Humane Society (JCHS) has made significant strides in animal welfare, including subsidized spays and neuters through the Florence Unash Neuter Program, collaborating with Iowa Humane Alliance and local vet clinics. We funded low-cost spay/neuter events for feral and barn cats, benefiting about 200 cats, and provided essential medical services at Iowa Humane

Alliance Clinic.

JCHS supported additional medical needs at private vet clinics, engaged in



trap-neuter-return efforts, and collaborated on community outreach events with Iowa Humane Alliance. We distributed donated pet food to cat colony managers, pet owners, and local food pantries, alongside maintaining active online and fundraising efforts.

Iowa Renewable Energy Association

The Iowa Renewable Energy Association's (I-Renew) mission is to make renewable and sustainable energy the primary source of energy in Iowa.

I-Renew regularly answers questions to community members who are interested in renewable energy. We have an active Facebook page where we share

educational information about renewable energy and sustainability.



Friends of the Marion Public Library

The members of Friends of the Marion Public Library (FMPL) have been keeping busy in a number of ways. Our core group of about 32 volunteers keeps our Friends Bookstore open nearly every hour that the library is open each week. We have had so much good luck with donated books that we have temporarily run out of storage space! We also hold three large book sales each year in

the library community room. Our group also sponsors the local affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) for children from birth to age five in the 52302 zip code. Registered children receive a free book in the mail each month until they age out of the program, providing them with their own library, fostering a love of books, reading, and giving a boost to their skills prior to kindergarten.

Since taking on the program, over 44,400 books have been sent out to children in Marion.

The Friends will be beginning a new fundraising initiative soon, aimed at developing sustaining donor partners to ensure we can continue to fund the DPIL program into the future.

Our Marion Library is anxiously awaiting the delivery of their new bookmobile at the end of July 2024. The Friends will be helping fund the advertising "wrap" for outside of the bookmobile and possibly some of the content for the bookmobile as well. This will be a very exciting and visible reminder of the importance of a community library.



Quad Cities Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees

The Quad Cities Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees (QCAIR) was founded in 2012. The initial need for QCAIR was a referral organization for immigrants and refugees to access the available resources. We have expanded our services and now offers education on becoming a citizen, free civic classes, and assistance for completing applications such as Medicaid, Snap, and other needs. QCAIR is starting to be a welcoming center. This will help people with accessing healthcare, assistance with finding employment, and housing. QCAIR also has a fund to assist our clients with their education and emergency needs.

For fiscal year 2023, QCAIR assisted 2142 individuals. We helped 868 individuals with applying for financial assistance. We assisted 427 individuals in receiving education on how to

become a citizen. We had 18 individuals complete our civic class. We served 801 individuals with accessing resources. We assisted 28 individuals with emergency applications to keep their lights and water on.

In fiscal year 2024, QCAIR is doubling our goal for individuals served for applications, assistants, and referrals. We will maintain the same goal for education and outreach for citizenship. This year our goal for applications for financial assistance is going to 350 as the program, guidelines, and qualifications have changed. We are looking to hire three full-time employees and three part-time employees to assist in meeting our updated goals.

QCAIR cares about the immigrant and refugee community in the Quad Cities. QCAIR works to

empower immigrants and refugees and educate the community on how immigrants and refugees build our society.

Every year QCAIR host an Honor's dinner to recognize and honor individuals who were foreign-born and chose to become US Citizens. This event is free to the public. QCAIR hosts a World Soccer Cup Tournament every year. For the last two years, we hosted a multicultural festival as well. This event has music, art, food from different cultures, entertainment and so much more.



Raptology

Raptology is excited to become the newest member of Iowa Shares!

Raptology is a raptor and wildlife education group based in Iowa City. We are licensed to house and care for unreleasable raptors and to use them for education. Raptology currently has seven education ambassadors that include three owl species, two hawks, a peregrine falcon, and a turkey vulture. In the past year,

volunteers have led numerous educational programs in Johnson and Linn Counties, including at schools, parks, senior centers, and libraries. Our live bird programs give the public



a chance to learn about raptor behavior, diets, and habitat. Your donation will help us feed and care for our avian friends. Raptology's greatest expense is food: seven birds can eat a lot of mice, gophers, and quail!

Donations also help with veterinary care, housing repairs, equipment, and licensing costs. Please consider donating to us through Iowa Shares, and follow us on Facebook!

The Quire of Eastern Iowa

The Quire of Eastern Iowa had a very busy spring. In addition to our usual spring concert, we also performed for Trans Day of Visibility, Iowa City Pride, two church services, a cabaret-style fundraiser, and a joint concert with the historic San Francisco Gay Mens' Chorus. It was truly an honor to join one of the nation's oldest queer choruses on stage at the University of Iowa to perform for a packed house. As one Quire member said, the night will remain a "core memory" for many of us.

Finally, in July, The Quire traveled to Minneapolis to participate in the GALA Choruses Festival. We joined 7,000 singers from 122 LGBTQ+ choruses and ensembles for five days of music and queer fellowship.

Donations to The Quire will help us pay our artistic staff, purchase music, and rent concert venues. The Quire is volunteer-led and donor-driven; please help us spread queer

joy as we approach our 30th year of music! For more information, visit thequire.org or check us out on Facebook or Instagram.



Linn County Chapter UNA-USA

Linn County Chapter UNA-USA is proud to be able to support the Iowa United Nations Association college ambassador program, which offers students at colleges and universities throughout Iowa the opportunity to join advocacy efforts in support of the

United Nations' work on human rights, global health, sustainable development, gender equity, and climate action.

Selected students each receive a stipend of \$500 and have significant opportunities

to develop marketable professional skills, especially in the area of communications and advocacy. Through their meetings with the Executive Director, Iowa UNA College Ambassadors also develop substantive knowledge about important global issues.

Animal Lifeline of Iowa

Animal Lifeline of Iowa (ALI), founded in 1986 outside of Carlisle, Iowa, is Central Iowa's only special needs, no-kill animal shelter, celebrating nearly 40 years of serving the Des Moines area and all of Iowa. We

rescue cats and dogs that are injured, handicapped, have a serious medical condition, are abused, are pregnant, are nursing moms, or are orphans that require bottle-feeding. We rehabilitate the animals, who run a

higher risk of euthanasia in a traditional shelter setting and then adopt them into loving forever homes. Animals are not euthanized because they have been at the shelter for a certain length of time.

World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities

The World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities (WACQC) is comprised of a passionate and dedicated team of volunteers who share a commitment to fostering global awareness and understanding within our community. One of our key initiatives is the monthly lecture series, held at the Bettendorf Public Library from September to April. This engaging series features distinguished speakers who provide thought-provoking discussions on a wide array of global topics, ranging from international politics and economics to cultural studies and environmental issues. Our goal is to create a platform for intellectual exchange and to inspire our attendees to think critically about the world around them.

In addition to the lecture series, the Annual Quad Cities World Cultures Festival has been one of our signature programs. This event is a collaborative effort with the

Department of Political Science and International Studies and takes place on the beautiful campus of St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. The festival is a dynamic celebration of the rich cultural diversity and the vibrant heritage of underrepresented groups within the Quad Cities area. It serves as a platform to highlight the unique traditions, histories, and contributions of various cultural communities.

The Annual Quad Cities World Cultures Festival attracts over 400 participants each year, offering an immersive and enriching experience for all who attend. The festival's program includes a variety of captivating performances that highlight the talents of local and regional artists. Attendees are treated to mesmerizing dance routines, soulful musical performances, and a spectacular fashion show that highlights traditional and contemporary attire from

around the world. These performances not only entertain but also educate the audience about the cultural significance behind each art form. In addition to the performances, the festival features an array of interactive activities and workshops that allow participants to engage more deeply with different cultures. These activities include cooking demonstrations, craft workshops, language lessons, and storytelling sessions, providing a hands-on opportunity for attendees to learn and appreciate the diversity of our global community.

Through these initiatives, WACQC aims to build bridges of understanding and promote a sense of global citizenship among residents of the Quad Cities. By bringing people together to learn, celebrate, and connect, we strive to create a more inclusive and harmonious community where diversity is valued and cherished.

IOWA SHARES FULL MEMBERS

Amnesty International of Iowa <https://www.amnestyusa.org/>

Working to secure the principles of human rights espoused in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through education and public advocacy via local groups in Ames, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines.

Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa <https://cwjiowa.org>

CWJ unites low-wage workers across race, ethnicity and immigration status to pursue social and economic justice through education, leadership training, and organizing. Key issues are immigrant rights, access to housing, minimum wage increases, and ending wage theft.

Equality Iowa

A statewide, grassroots, non-partisan organization working to secure equality for all Iowans, Iowa's LGBTQ communities and their allies, emphasizing the needs of the un- and under-served. Helping provide a voice & visibility for Iowa's LGBTQ communities.

IOWA SHARES FULL MEMBERS

Friends of the Marion Public Library <https://mpliowafriends.org/>

The Friends of the Marion Public Library: a non-profit citizen volunteer organization that promotes literacy through the use of the library and provides financial assistance for various library purchases and programs including sponsoring the Marion affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library which mails free books to enrolled children from birth to age five.

Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility <https://psriowa.org>

Guided by the values and science of medicine and public health, PSR Iowa works to protect life and health from the gravest threats to survival: climate change, environmental degradation, nuclear weapons, and social injustice.

Iowa Renewable Energy Association <https://irenew.org>

Dedicated to educating Iowans about sustainable, renewable energy technologies and partnering with members and other non-profits to support and encourage renewable energy development.

Linn County United Nations Association <http://unaiowa.org/chapters/linn>

Working to achieve effective U.S. involvement in a strengthened United Nations, we raise awareness through advocacy, public programs, study groups, U.N. Day celebrations, and collaboration with community groups.

Quad Cities Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees <https://qcair.org>

Supports and advocates for immigrants and refugees, and works with area agencies to ensure that they receive appropriate services. Provides guidance on their paths to US citizenship. Educates the community on the cultures and contributions our immigrants and refugees bring to society.

The Quire of Eastern Iowa <https://thequire.org>

A choral group for LGBTQ+ people, promoting a positive image of these communities and a message of justice through excellence in choral music. Serving Eastern Iowa for 25+ years (one of the longest-running LGBTQ+ groups), this non-auditioned choir welcomes all LGBTQ+ folks and any respectful and affirming allies.

World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities <http://www.wacqc.org>

The World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities is committed to educating and engaging the Quad Cities in global affairs by promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences through high-quality programs that are inclusive and open to everyone.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS*

Associates receive designated donations only.

American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa* <https://aclu-ia.org/>

This state affiliate of the national ACLU fights to advance civil liberties for all. We uphold everyone's constitutional civil liberty rights, no matter who they are or what they believe —from atheists to devout Christians, from labor unions to businesspeople and more.

Animal Lifeline of Iowa* <https://www.animal-lifeline.com/>

Central Iowa's only special needs, no-kill animal shelter. We rescue and rehabilitate cats and dogs that are injured, handicapped, have a serious medical condition, abused, pregnant and nursing, or orphans that require bottle feeding, and then adopt them into loving forever home.

Iowa Humane Alliance* <https://iowahumanealliance.org/>

Provides high-quality, affordable spay and neuter services to reduce animal overpopulation and euthanasia of healthy animals. Programs include Love For Pets Outreach, Spay/Neuter, Transport, and Trap/Neuter/Return Resource Assistance. We support other animal welfare organizations.

Johnson County Humane Society* <https://www.johnsoncountyhumaneiowa.org/>

JCHS helps keep companion animals out of shelters by providing assistance for spay/neuter and other medical needs, distributing pet food to those in need, helping with trap-neuter-return, and offering advice and referrals. JCHS promotes the humane treatment of all animals.

Raptology* <https://raptologyiowa.org>

Raptology houses and cares for unreleasable birds of prey. Volunteers train, handle, and bring raptors to free events in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area where the public and the next generation can learn to love and respect raptors and work to protect them and the environment that sustains us all.

Trees Forever* <https://treesforever.org/>

Determined to make a difference in our neighborhoods and communities, we plant and care for trees, shrubs, native grasses and the environment. Our work empowers people, builds community, fosters stewardship and promotes the value of our natural areas for future generations.