

La Luz Centro Cultural

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Special Points of Interest

July, August, September

Service Totals.....671

Programing 187

Social Services484

Board Members

Interim Captain Mark Morrison

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: James Kohls

Secretary: Pía Hovenga

Brenda Espejo | Socorro Martinez
Father Kevin Earleywine

Personnel

Claudia Rivera | Kyle Whalen |
Aimee Lenth
Liliana Velasco | Ines Garcia
Maria Gomez Castillo
RISE AmeriCorps Volunteer
Mariely Perales

GOVERNORS 99 COUNTY TOUR, HERE AT LA LUZ!

La Luz had unexpected visitors this summer. Governor Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg selected La Luz as part of the 99 County Tour. She was excited to learn about the services and programs that we currently offer and we were excited to share with her our innovative ideas. We highlighted our plans to help promote higher education and how creating the apprenticeship program in our office changed the opportunities we are able to offer to our apprentices. With the assistance from Workforce development, as a non-profit, we were able to create an Office Manager/Administrative Services position with graphic design and social media components.

The Governor's visit opened the doors to viewing different possibilities to continue in our mission. We were encouraged to pursue other opportunities so that we can work on bridging the gap between the Latinx community through empowerment, education and advocacy.



La Luz' Somos Latinx program offers culturally specific services for victims of a crime. This fall, we formed a partnership with the University of Northern Iowa to host a bilingual Spanish and English mental health counselor to offer free mental health services to our clients and their families in their own language. Having this service in our office has been extremely important to our program. Our partnerships don't stop there, we are constantly looking for training and programs to help our clients succeed and to empower them.

Partnerships and collaborations in our community help us succeed, that is what we strive for. The partnership between Franklin General Hospital and La Luz was especially important this past year because we were able to bring a mobile vaccine clinic to our clients. The staff worked tirelessly promoting this event by doing outreach and education. There are many more things we are doing in our facility and our doors are always open to any visitor who wants to learn more.



SERVICES

English Classes

We offer three levels of free English classes in the evenings.

Conversational Spanish

Any level is welcome to our free, weekly Spanish conversations group.

Interpretation/Translation

We can assist with interpretation at appointments and offer translations of documents. Our fee structure can be found on our website.

Immigration Services

We are accredited with the Department of Justice to file immigration paperwork on behalf of others.

Citizenship Tutor Connection

We connect students studying for the citizenship test with tutors to aid them in their civics learning.

Services for Victims of a Crime

Anyone who has experienced a crime can receive comprehensive case management and support from trained staff.

SPOTLIGHT

The newest addition to La Luz is Kyle Whalen as the Associate Director. Kyle is originally from the state of Washington but has lived in the Hampton community for several years. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management. He has worked for other non-profits and also has a construction background.

La Luz' AmeriCorps Volunteer is Mariely, originally from warm and sunny Puerto Rico and now living in Sheffield. She is an amazing person to work with and she is always ready to learn something new. With her bubbly personality and caring heart she has been a great addition to our organization staff and clients adore her because she greets everyone with warmth, dignity and respect.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Food Pantry 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 5pm to 7pm
- 4-H program December 1st at 3:00pm to 5:00pm
- ESL Monday and Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7:30pm

GRACIAS

BUILDING RENOVATIONS

These past couple of years have been difficult for all of us. To overcome the challenges, we have come together to create services that fit the community needs. We are still in the process of bringing our innovative ideas to reality by moving forward with our building renovation. As you gather to say thanks, we also encourage you to support organizations such as ours. In our cultural hub we encourage learning, arts, culture and hospitality. Our vision for this cultural hub is to have the space to promote awareness, empowerment and advocacy.

Success stories help us have the motivation to continue providing services despite the substandard conditions of our building. Our English learners sit in the industrial warehouse area learning English with their children at a small table coloring while they wait for their parents. The elementary to high school children in our 4-H program utilize this space to work on a STEM project. This area is cold in the winter and hot in the summer. Most of the programs we provide are done in this area, which to most people would be considered an undesirable place to gather. We need your support to make this building a more welcoming and safe place for learning and community gathering.

We thank our community for being welcoming to new lowans and longtime residents. As we grow in needs we grow in services. We welcome you to share our vision and become a part of our organization with gifts both small and large because every dollar helps our building become a cultural center in your community.



DIRECTORS REPORT

This year I want to say, "Thanks to our community" for embracing our organization in these trying times. La Luz is growing because we have people's support and a dedicated staff. We are passionate about providing opportunities and bringing innovative ideas to everyone.

I feel like this year has been a year of growth for my staff and I. Our organization has gone through a lot of changes as we evolve. We have learned to share our clients' success stories, but we also learned the challenges of the sad stories that we need to advocate for. We help others understand that the differences we share are the ones to be embraced.

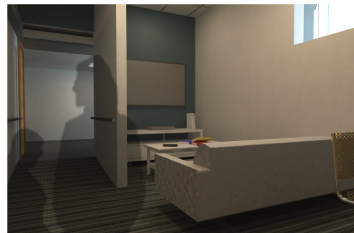
Implementing changes does not come without its challenges. I'm pretty sure I hear the staff whisper as they walk by, "Challenge Accepted." We are not sure what our community will face but, we are always prepared to help everyone. Thank you for your support!



COMMUNITY CLASSROOM AND KITCHEN



FAMILY ROOM GAME SHELF AND TABLE



FAMILY ROOM MEDIA NOOK



2 FACADE CONCEPT - VIEW 2



MISSION

The mission of La Luz Centro Cultural is to promote cultural awareness and diversity with hospitality and supportive services for all.

VALUES

Hospitality: Everyone is welcome here, always.

Community: As we learn about one another, we learn about ourselves.

Heritage: Embracing diverse cultural roots.

Education: Committed to lifelong learning

Advocacy: Empowering people to use their voices

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO A CULTURAL CENTER

At La Luz Centro Cultural we welcome all donations to our organization and we have simplified the way you can donate to our important cause, as we know the only way to thrive is through community support.

PAY PAL: You can now donate through PayPal by going to our website at www.laluzcc.org

CHECKS: Mail to La Luz Centro Cultural 7 2nd Ave NE Hampton, IA 50441.

LEGACY GIVING: Be assured your legacy will live on and give life to your community by leaving a gift to La Luz in your will.

VOLUNTEERS: We always welcome volunteers looking to be a part of our various programs. Call or email us today to find out how you can help!

GRAN FESTIVAL SPONSOR: Become a sponsor for our annual festival. www.granfestivalnorthiowa.org

La Luz Hispana dba La Luz Centro Cultural is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

La Luz Centro Cultural

7 2nd Ave NE
Hampton, IA 50441
641-812-1090

info@laluzcc.org

[Facebook.com/laluzcc](https://www.facebook.com/laluzcc)

[Instagram.com/laluzcc](https://www.instagram.com/laluzcc)

www.laluzcc.org

