



Update on IWR community needs

Dear friends and supporters,

Over the past month, we have watched a rush of executive orders emerge from the new administration, many designed to disrupt necessary services and protection for those in difficult circumstances. While these events evoke negative emotions in us, they are also positively mobilizing. It has been incredibly uplifting for us at IWR to receive a great many messages of affirmation and offers of help. Many of you have asked if there are other forms of voluntary or in-kind support you can give, beyond those we typically request, to be with IWR families through the new challenges they are facing. Thank you to all who have made inquiries for your willingness to help meet our community's needs flexibly. Being able to shift our response to evolving needs is vital as we look ahead to the coming months and years.

Right now, we are speaking regularly with IWR families, as well as other organizations supporting refugees and immigrants locally, to monitor the situation and offer coordinated assistance where it is most needed. Please continue to read our newsletters and regularly check our [Current Needs](#) page and social media posts ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#)) where we will keep you informed of the latest updates, including new requests for help.

In solidarity,

IWR staff

IWR Supporter Survey: Have your say!

Marking IWR's 10th year of existence and with an eye to the future, we are keen to hear from YOU, the people who support IWR's mission in so many different ways. The [IWR Supporter Survey](#) is now live and will remain open until March 18. Whether you have volunteered, donated, read our communications or done all three, please give us your feedback! The survey typically takes 5-15

minutes.

The results will inform our engagement with different parts of the community and help us to strengthen our outreach. We will keep individual responses confidential and share an overview of results through this newsletter.

Special announcement

Thanks to generous donations from two local businesses we love, all survey respondents will be entered into a raffle draw for the chance to win one of two prizes!

- 1) a 3 month all-inclusive membership to [Yoga Farm Ithaca](#)
- 2) a \$25 gift voucher for [Gimme! Coffee](#)

[Take the survey](#)

Partnership with Ithaca College helps IWR families file taxes



Photo by [Nataliya Vaitkevich](#)

IWR is partnering with Ithaca College this tax season to offer recently arrived refugees and immigrants living in the area access to a [Volunteer Income Tax](#)

[Assistance \(VITA\)](#) clinic for the third year running. The clinic provides help filing taxes free of charge. Thanks to the partnership, any IWR family that earned an income last year can easily find out about the clinic and make an appointment.

Welcoming a new arrival from Afghanistan

This month we are welcoming a single woman from Afghanistan, who arrived in the US in January and has now joined us in Ithaca. IWR volunteers and staff helped her to find an apartment and she was able to move in last week. We are supporting her housing costs as she begins her resettlement journey.

Current needs

We welcome donations of the following items to help our newest arrival equip her home:

- Rice/pressure cooker
- 4x5 foot Persian-style area rug
- Tension rod and sheer curtain for window: 35" wide, 40" tall

We are also still in search of a king-sized mattress in good condition for a family who recently moved into their apartment.

For the most up to date information on needs, check the [Current Needs](#) on the IWR website or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [X](#).

For questions about needs or to donate, contact IWR Programs Coordinator Leigh Bacher at leighb@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org.

Give gently used jewelry a new home for Spring Fundraiser to benefit IWR



IWR supporters Yvonne Fogarty and Debbie Benzer are preparing for their latest jewelry sale fundraiser, to take place in Ithaca on Saturday April 26, 2025! The organizing team is now collecting donations of gently used jewelry for the sale. All proceeds from jewelry you donate will go to IWR programs, giving needs-based support to recently arrived refugees and immigrants in Tompkins County. For details and to donate, [read this post](#) on our website.

Copyright © 2025 Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, All rights reserved.

If you know someone who might be interested in this newsletter, please send it on to them. If you received this newsletter as a forward and would like to subscribe, please click [here](#).

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).





Copyright © 2025 Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

