



Giving from Abundance: Krystyna's Journey to Becoming an IWR Board Member



One of IWR's newest board members, Krystyna Golovakova, came to Ithaca in 2022 after fleeing her home in Ukraine with her children. With IWR's help, she settled and found community here, and began teaching Ukrainian at Cornell. In our [blog post](#) this month we share her inspiring story and a poem she wrote, reflecting on her experiences.

IWR's 2025 End of Year Appeal

Our End of Year Appeal is under way! We need your help to raise **\$70,000** to support newcomers resettling in our community in the year ahead. Our ambitious goal this year reflects the need to help our refugee and immigrant neighbors weather the shifting immigration policy ground under the Trump administration. Changing policies coupled with increases to the cost of living

are making it harder for families and individuals seeking our help to rebuild their lives and get by. Please give as generously as you can and share news of this appeal with friends in the area. You can find our full [End of Year Appeal email](#), sent to subscribers last week, in our newsletter archive.

To note: Some companies match employees' donations on Giving Tuesday, which this year falls on December 2nd. If you are employed, check with your employer to see if you can boost your donation on that day!

Make a gift

Use Your Voice

Effective October 30th, the Department of Homeland Security has introduced a rule ending the automatic extension of employment authorization documents (EADs) for some categories of immigrants who timely file an application for a new EAD when their existing one expires. This means many people will be left unable to work for an undetermined period between the expiry of their old EAD and the start of their next one, creating financial stress and potential job loss. Public comments on this change are being accepted. Please support community members who rely on an EAD by [submitting your public comment](#) in opposition to the new rule by **December 1st**.

Current Needs

A big thank you to everyone who responded to our needs lists for IWR families last month and helped equip their new homes!

We are now in the process of welcoming a new family with two babies! We are collecting donations of **diapers in sizes 1 and 2**.

You can also support this family and all our families with kids by donating **gently used baby and children's items** to the Mama Goose & Jillian's Drawers store on Clinton Street and adding the store credit received in exchange to IWR's account. We will gladly turn the credit you donate into store vouchers for

them! Check the [Mama Goose schedule](#) for drop-off dates.

We are also currently looking for:

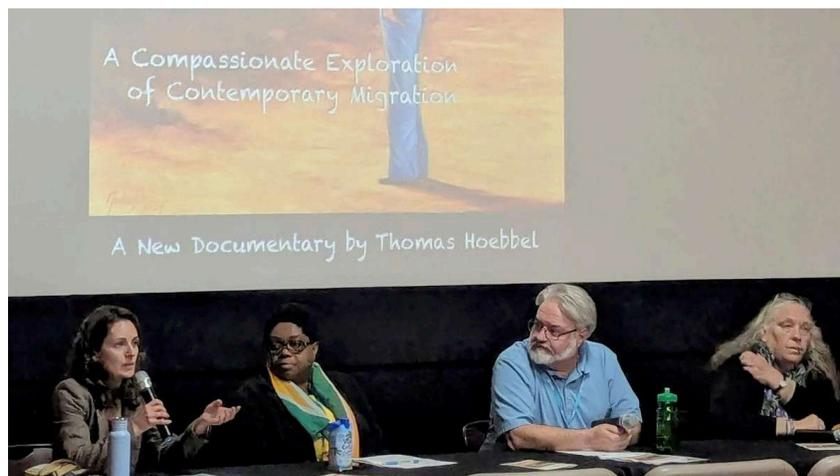
- A small **sofa** or loveseat, preferably from the West end of town for ease of transportation;
- Two gently used **computers**: laptops, tablets or desktop computers. PCs should be Windows 11, and iPads should be version 16.7 or higher. Please only donate computers that are WiFi capable and come with a power cable or AC adapter (and ideally a mouse). Make sure to remove all user data. To donate a Chromebook or Mac laptop, please include the specs in your email.

We welcome donations of **gift cards from grocery stores** in the area that we can pass on to families we are working with who are struggling with food insecurity. Please note the amount on the face of the gift card and mail it to Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, 315 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, NY14850.

For questions about donations, please contact our Welcome Home team at welcome.home@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org.

For up to date needs information, check the [Current Needs for Families](#) page on our website, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Bluesky](#).

IWR in the Community



On October 21, IWR's Executive Director Casey Verderosa took part in a panel discussion at a local meeting of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) following a screening of the documentary film "¿Are We There Yet?: A

Compassionate Exploration of Contemporary Immigration” directed by Tom Hoebbel. The event was held at Cinemapolis in Ithaca in collaboration with Cornell University’s Just Futures Initiative and the Tompkins County Office of Human Rights. The event was attended by government employees from the region who are part of the GARE network.

Photo credit: JR Clairborne

IWR Partners with the Sophie Fund in Support of Mental Health

We were honored to be chosen by [the Sophie Fund](#) as this year's community partner for its 10th Annual Ithaca Cupcake Baking Contest. The Sophie fund helps mental health support programs; raises awareness and fights the stigma around mental illness and treatment; advances a “zero suicide” ethos in the community; and serves as a community advocate for young people struggling with mental illness. IWR staff spoke and tabled at the [cupcake contest](#) on October 18, which included a Wellness Fair featuring 10 local nonprofits working to improve mental health. In the run up to the contest, the Sophie Fund ran the [2025 Cupcake Button fundraiser](#) with Cornell student groups to raise funds for IWR. We are truly grateful to the Sophie Fund for this support!

Wrapping Up for the Chilly Weather



Earlier this month, IWR ran a successful winter clothing collection with the help of [Alphabet Soup Ithaca](#) who kindly hosted a collection bin for us. We invited our refugee and immigrant partners to choose items they needed from the donations we had gathered, and thanks to all who donated, we were able to help several families keep warm just in time for the icy temperatures to begin. Thank you to all who donated!

Local Organizers Back with Sale to Benefit IWR

Jewelry Sale

Benefit for Ithaca Welcomes Refugees

Affordable Gently Used Items
Find the perfect Holiday Gift



November 22, 2025 – 10 am - 3 pm

First Baptist Church

309 North Cayuga Street/DeWitt Park



A dedicated team of volunteers brings to Ithaca this year's Fall Jewelry Sale in support of IWR! Come along and browse for great finds while supporting a good cause. The event will take place on Saturday November 22 in the First Baptist Church of Ithaca. All proceeds will go to IWR programs benefitting refugees and immigrants locally.

TCPL to Host Discussion on Immigration Law and Policy

The Tompkins County Public Library is hosting a [discussion about the history of immigration law in the US](#) on Thursday November 20 from 6-8 pm in the BorgWarner Community Room at the Library's location at 101 East Green Street in Ithaca. The discussion will also be [streamed live](#) on the Tompkins County Public Library [YouTube Channel](#). The discussion is part of a series of

events hosted by TCPL titled "The Constitution: Rights to Know". Steve Yale-Loehr, a retired immigration law professor at Cornell, will lead the discussion. Tania Penafort, a law clerk for Journey's End Refugee Services, will also speak.



Copyright © 2025 Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, All rights reserved.

Call us: 607-288-3815

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.

