



Outlook

IWR Newsletter | July 2026

From Ithaca Welcomes Refugees <admin@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org>

Date Fri 7/24/2026 12:47 PM

To Leila Wilmers <leilaw@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org>



Community Gathers for Love of Soccer and to Support IWR



The FIFA World Cup is the most watched sporting event on the planet, with an estimated 6 billion watchers tuning in. The 2026 games were co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, with 48 teams competing in a total of 104 games across the three host countries. Closer to home, IWR supporter and soccer enthusiast Patrick Lynch coordinated with four local businesses to promote donations to IWR during their watch parties. Seventy-nine watch parties and concurrent fundraisers for IWR were held by [Personal Best Brewing](#), [Bike Bar Ithaca](#), [State Eatery](#), and [Bookies Sports Bar & Lounge](#).



Photographs provided by Patrick Lynch

[Read the Full Story](#)

A Generous Community - Spring Appeal Wrap-up



We are happy to share that through the generosity of our community, **IWR raised 92% of our goal for our Spring 2026 Appeal, with contributions coming from 157 individual donors totaling \$74,166.** While we did not meet our full goal of \$80,000, we had nearly double as many individual donors as in 2025, and 53 contributions from community members supporting IWR for the first time. Special thanks to our matching donors **Doug Stayman and Tim & Susan Larkin** for the success of this appeal.

We are applying donations received through our spring appeal to IWR's crisis fund. Although all our refugee partners relocated to Tompkins County because of crises in their home countries, IWR maintains a crisis fund for emergencies which occur here in their new community. So far this year we have used the fund to support people in two groups: 1) those whose work permits related to temporary programs were prematurely revoked by the Trump administration and whose rent, utilities, and other basic expenses IWR paid until they could receive their asylum-based permits and 2) single-mother immigrant families who either were experiencing homelessness or have recently given birth and have no maternity leave or familial support systems locally.

Thank you to everyone who donated. Your support means that people experiencing overlapping episodes of trauma can remain housed, can access food, and can breathe a little more easily. Communities work best when we all support one another. With the support of our community, IWR will be able to continue to offer crisis fund assistance for several more months. We look forward to partnering with affected families as they continue to rebuild their lives in Tompkins County.

Current Needs - New Baby Registry

BABY is on the way!

Support one of our families welcome their baby in September!
Purchase gifts through the registry list below.

If you're having trouble accessing or purchasing from our Amazon Baby Registry, please try refreshing the page, signing into your Amazon account, using a different browser or device, or clearing your browser cache. If the issue continues, Amazon Customer Service can assist directly with registry access and purchases.

[PURCHASE GIFTS HERE](#)

Upcoming Events



ITHACA WELCOMES REFUGEES

Fundraiser

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF LIVE MUSIC FOR A CAUSE.

AUGUST 15, 2026
Music from 6pm - 10pm
Doors open at 5:30pm

LANSING PERFORMANCE HALL
1004 Auburn Road,
North Lansing, NY

Artists

Yessica Martinez
Poet

Hannah Toombs
Singer/Songwriter

Acid Rat!
Acoustic Psychedelic Punk

Freeway Art
Dreamgaze Rock

Spud Bugs
Folk Punk

Entry By Donation

100% OF PROCEEDS SUPPORT
ITHACA WELCOMES REFUGEES.

Join us at the Lansing Performance Hall on Saturday August 15th from 6-10pm. Performers include: Yessica Martinez (Poet), Hannah Toombs (Singer/Songwriter), Acid Rat! (Acoustic Psychedelic Punk), Freeway Art (Dreamgaze Rock), and Spud Bugs (Folk Punk). Sliding scale donation to enter, 100% of proceeds to benefit Ithaca Welcomes Refugees. Our thanks to Rocío Anica for organizing the event.

Gratitude to Our Community

Special appreciation to Patrick Lynch for his coordination of 79 watch parties in Ithaca for the 2026 FIFA World Cup - the hosts for these watch parties [Personal Best Brewing](#), [Bike Bar Ithaca](#), [State Eatery](#), and [Bookies Sports Bar & Lounge](#) collectively **raised \$5,321 in support of IWR** over the 5 weeks of the World Cup! Our gratitude to [Protagonist Books & Coffee](#) for hosting a July 3rd fundraiser in their Dryden bookstore to benefit IWR. Thank you to Debbie & Yvonne for hosting a successful Bead Sale in support of IWR, and to the Ice Sales tent at [Finger Lakes Grassroots Festival of Music & Dance](#) for collecting donations for us throughout the music festival weekend.

IWR has also received two valuable grants from the [Community Foundation of Tompkins County](#). Funds from the 'Tompkins Today and Tomorrow Fund' and the 'Just Community Fund' will support our work over the next year.



[Ithaca Welcomes Refugees](#)

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