Outlook

IWR Newsletter | October 2026

From Ithaca Welcomes Refugees <admin@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org>
Date Thu 10/22/2026 2:22 PM
To Leila Wilmers <leilaw@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org>

ITHACA WELCOMES REFUGEES

Lives Rebuilt - What it means to pursue your dreams as a refugee family

IWR's core work is in recognizing that the way individuals and families become refugees is not the only story of their lives. We work closely with refugee-partners to co-determine what a successful resettlement would look and feel like for them individually, and for families as a collective. The following are stories from a family that has worked closely with IWR for four years as part of their resettlement journey.

Identifying details and locations have been modified to protect this family's privacy.

"...After moving to Tompkins County, I decided to pursue a new career as a Pharmacist, which has long been my ambition. With the support of IWR, I began with a Pharmacy Technician Certificate course at Tompkins Cortland Community College."

Read Full Story



Current Needs

Contact kowayez@ithacawelcomesrefugees if you have any of the items listed you'd be willing to donate.

- Winter Coats - Especially children's coats - ages 2-14
- Dehumidifier
- Nightstand with drawers
- Small desk & chair
- Standing floor lamps (1-3)
- Working laptop & Charger

Learn More About Current Needs from our Partners





Community Events

- **10/24 - Open Doors English Language Cafe** - 10:30am-12pm @315 N. Cayuga St. Ithaca NY
- **10/30 - Orchid Bee Candy Pop-up at Wide Awake Bakery -** 10am-1pm - 1/2 of sales to benefit Ithaca Welcomes Refugees - GET YOUR HALLOWEEN CANDY FILL!
- **10/31 -** IMAGINE! Migrant Rights Activist Sonali Samarasinghe & First Amendment Lawyer Heather E. Murray in Conversation - hosted by Ithaca City of Asylum & Story House Ithaca - 1:30pm - Buffalo Street Books
- **11/21 - Annual Jewelry Sale at First Baptist Church** 10am-3pm - Proceeds to benefit Ithaca Welcomes Refugees



GREENSTAR MEMBERS - PLEASE VOTE FOR IWR AS A 2027 PARTNER FOR CHANGE!

IWR has applied to be considered as a 2027 Partners for Change, GreenStar Co+Op members need to vote to select non-profits as Partners for the following year. Voting is open until October 31 2026.

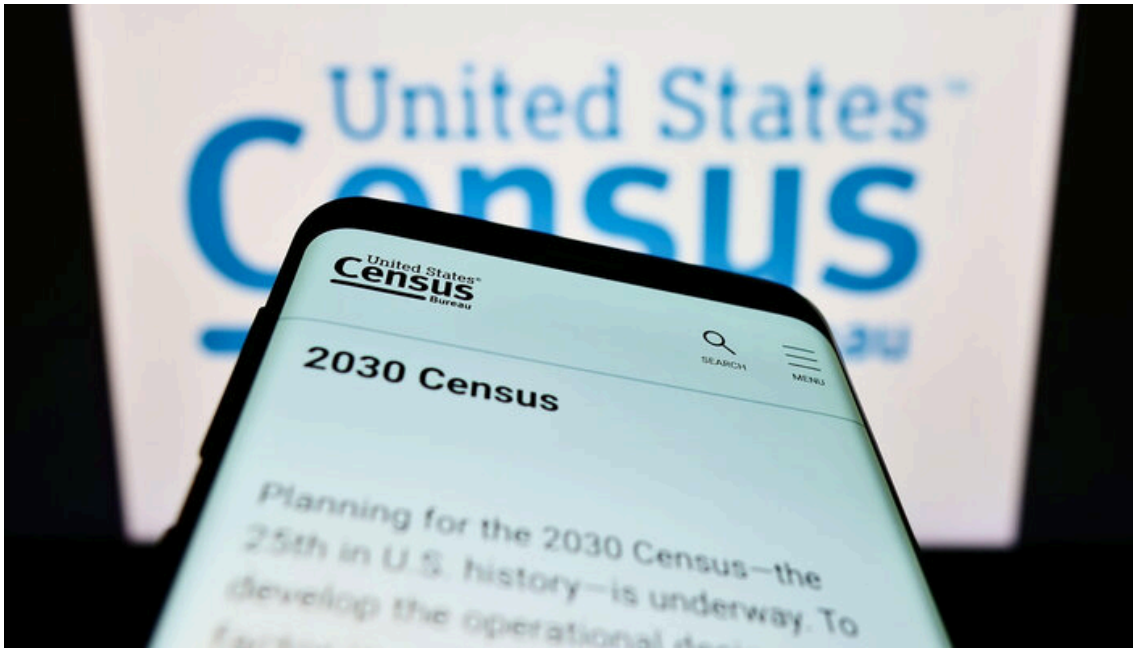
GreenStar Ballot Link Here

10/30 Tune in to an IWR interview on WRFI Community Radio

IWR Executive Director Casey Verderosa talks with Ute Ritz-Deutch on 'The Human Rights & Social Justice Program' broadcasting locally on WRFI Community Radio . Tune in for the live broadcast on Friday October 30th at 9am at one of WRFI's three local frequencies 88.1FM Ithaca, 89.7FM Southern Finger Lakes, 91.9FM Watkins Glen, listen live online at WRFI.org/listen, or find the recording on SoundCloud.

WRFIhumanrightsshow · Ithaca Welcomes Refugees_4upload

Use Your Voice!



On September 10, 2026, the Trump administration proposed new rules that could fundamentally change how people are counted in the 2030 Census. Included in the proposal: the census would not count any undocumented immigrants in population totals, exclude legal immigrants who do not have "permanent-residence" status, and through an additional proposal,

prohibit any questions pertaining to race and ethnicity. This omissions would create massive gap in accurate population data, which would dramatically impact how seats are awarded in the U.S. House of Representatives, federal funds awarded to each state, impact future redistricting, and enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and various civil rights laws.

What you can do about it: Submit a COMMENT BEFORE Nov 2nd 2026

Submit a Public Comment about the 2030 Census

"On **Oct. 14, 2026**, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued an interim final rule (IFR), **effective immediately**, cutting the time a refugee has to respond to a Notice of Intent to Terminate (NOIT) refugee status **from 30 days to 10 days**. 91 Fed. Reg. 65077. **Comments are due Nov. 13, 2026** (Docket No. USCIS-2026-0397)."

What you can do about it: Submit a COMMENT BEFORE Nov 13th 2026

Submit a Public Comment about the Refugee Termination Notice

Remember to VOTE on Tuesday November 3rd for candidates that reflect your values. 2026 Early Voting is available from October 24-November 1st across New York State.

Your Voters Guide - Vote411

Gratitude to Our Community

Our gratitude to the Collin Eric Anderson Memorial Fund for supporting IWR this month. Collin passed away in 2013 at the age of 26, his family established his memorial fund to continue Collin's personal mission for social justice, equality, and the transformation of youth through the encouragement of creation, literature, and writing. We send our appreciation to the Cornell University Community Contributions Committee for supporting IWR with a one-year award in recognition for our support of staff and student Cornellians who joined the campus community as refugees.

Additional gratitude to the Skaneateles First Presbyterian Church for hosting a lecture of 'Our Broken Immigration System and How to Fix It' on September 30th with retired immigration-law professor Stephen Yale-Loehr, and donating his proceeds of the lecture to Ithaca Welcomes Refugees.

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Follow **@ithaca_welcomes_refugees**
Email: Staff emails can be found **here**

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