Outlook

IWR Newsletter | September 2026

From Ithaca Welcomes Refugees <admin@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org>
Date Fri 10/2/2026 11:36 AM
To Leila Wilmers <leilaw@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org>

In Pictures: A Mural Welcoming Refugees and Immigrants

We are excited to announce the completion of a collaborative public artwork in central Ithaca celebrating refugees and immigrants of Tompkins County and the culture of welcome that is integral to our community. IWR has been working with muralist Hugo Medina on this project for nearly two years, with practical and advisory help from Ithaca Murals, and financial support from the Community Arts Partnership on behalf of the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Tompkins County Tourism Board.





Photo on the left by Yanisa Vararaksapong. "Mural Dreaming", Summer 2025.

Photo on the right by Sara Tro Photography. Community Paint Day, May 9 2026



Photo by Hugo Medina. September 2026.

The completed artwork can be found on the side of the Southern Tier Aids Program (STAP) at 307 Martin Luther King Jr. St/West State St. in downtown Ithaca.

Full Photo Story

Current Needs

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

- Dehumidifier
- Diapers - Size 5
- Nightstand with drawers
- Small desk & chair
- Rolling office chair
- Microwave
- Standing floor lamps (1-3)
- Working laptop & Charger





Learn More About Current Needs from our Partners

Requesting Donations: Pre-Loved Jewelry Fundraiser planned for November 21st

This annual fundraiser is coordinated by Yvonne Fogarty and Debbie Benzer



All the jewelry sold at the sale is gently used and donated by people like you. EVERYONE has jewelry, old coins, school rings, broken jewelry or single earrings they don't wear anymore or inherited and never used! In light of the new administration, Ithaca Welcomes Refugees is in need of our support more than ever! This is the 11th year we have organized jewelry sales to benefit local

or national non-profit organizations. **The sale will be held November 21, 2026 at the** First Baptist Church. To organize, drop off or pickup of donated jewelry, please call Debbie at 607 279-7174 (Dpbenzer@twcny.rr.com) or Yvonne 607-592-2799. Thank you all in advance!!!

Learn about other ways to support IWR

Community Events

- 9/14-10/15 - Hispanic Heritage Month **- Coordinated by the Latino Civic Association of Tompkins County**
- **9/29 -** Housing Law Advice & Counsel Clinic with Legal Assistance of Western NY - 1-5pm in the Tompkins County Library Borg Warner Room
- **9/30 - Our Broken Immigration System and How to Fix It - Lecture by Stephen Yale-Loehr** - 6-7pm at Skaneateles Presbyterian Church - 97 East Genesee St. Skaneateles. Watch online after the lecture here.
- **10/16 -** Musicians for Justice! Benefit Concert with Madd Dady, Travis Knapp & Annie Sumi, Collen Kattau & Rich DePaolo, and Jon Simon & Friends - 7-10pm at CSMA
- **10/10 & 10/11 Namgyal Monastery Interfaith Event: Facing Adversity: Stories From Our Lives** - Registration Requested



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

IWR Executive Director Receives Lucy J. Brown Leadership Award

Learn about the Lucy J. Brown Leadership Award (2002 to Present)

"The Lucy J. Brown Leadership Award was established in 2002 to recognize those in INHS's seven-county service area who, like the award's late namesake Lucy, exemplify a commitment to community and neighborhood, serve as a voice for the under-represented, and have made a difference in the lives of many. An INHS co-founder, Lucy was instrumental in its long-term growth, serving continuously on the Board of Directors from 1976 through 2017. Lucy was a strong advocate for neighborhood residents and centered residents in the Board's decision-making process. The Brown award has recognized over two dozen exceptional community members since 2002"



Learn More About Lucy J. Brown

Use Your Voice!

The Executive Office for Immigration Review is proposing a new rule giving immigration judges the power to hold attorneys, their clients and witnesses in contempt and impose fines if they violate court orders while notably exempting Department of Homeland Security attorneys. While no one should violate court orders, this is a brazen double standard to set. A Federal Register (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/07/30/2026-15458/civil-money-penalty-for-actions-in-contempt-of-an-immigration-judges-proper-exercise-of-authority) ***public comment period is open now through September 28.***

Submit a Public Comment

Gratitude to Our Community

Our thanks to our sustainability partners, Mama Goose/Jillians Drawers and Mimi's Attic! Both shops accept donations and consignments on behalf of IWR. Sales from these marked items build store credit on our organizational account, that IWR refugee partners can then use to purchase needed items for their families, home, and kitchen. As you consider options for donating unwanted items, first check our CURRENT NEEDS, and then consider if items might be eligible for consignment with either of these partners.

Our appreciation to the Immigrant Solidary Group for their organization and coordination of the Busking for Justice music series, now entering its second year! IWR is only one of the partners that receive funds from these performances, but we are exceptionally grateful for their organizing to raise funds for immigrants impacted by detention and deportation. Visit their table at the Downtown Ithaca Apple Festival September 25, 26, and 27th to pick up a 'WE STAND WITH IMMIGRANT FAMILIES' yard sign. The next concert is

scheduled for October 2nd with Six Mile Craic, and a larger concert scheduled for October 16th at CSMA.

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Email: Staff emails can be found here

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