

Social Justice Newsletter November 2020



A Committee of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church

2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010

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Editor: Lynn Franco

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**St. Cecilia
Giving Tree**

2020 St. Cecilia Giving Tree

Following CDC advice, we will be limiting contact as much as possible this year. We will not have gift tags nor receive actual gifts. We are asking for **Walmart and Target gift cards** in any denomination for families in need to use for their holiday shopping. Social Justice and other parish organizations will provide grocery cards for the families. Please place your gift card(s) in a **envelope marked Giving Tree** and return it to the collection slot located in the Narthex near the front doors by December 1, so Deacon Ron can distribute the cards to the families.

Thank you for your generosity in continuing to support the long tradition of sharing the spirit and hope of the holiday season.

COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants

When the pandemic hit Iowa in mid-March, we had no idea how long it would be with us or the extensive damage it would do. Over 7,000 individuals in Story County lost their jobs (from February to July 2020), many more were furloughed or had their hours reduced, and countless households dealt with the anxiety and stress of physical illness due to the many unknowns.

For immigrant households, this damage was and continues to be particularly severe. Not only do many Story County immigrants work in the hard-hit service sector (restaurants, hotels), but many are ineligible for the safety-net benefits such as coronavirus stimulus checks, unemployment benefits, city and state eviction prevention programs, and more. This is in spite of the fact that many paid taxes (through their ITIN). Additionally, immigrants with US citizenship or permanent residence - those technically eligible for governmental benefits - have struggled to complete the extensive paperwork required given limited English, literacy levels, and/or limited technology access.

The Covid-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants has provided critical shelter from the pandemic storm. With multilingual caseworkers and other trusted community members leading the Fund, we have been able to assist 95 unduplicated immigrant households from throughout the globe. Not only have we helped pay nearly 400 rent and utility bills, but we have worked to connect immigrants with long-standing community partners to supplement our dollars and, hopefully, to build a network of sustainable support.

Our work would not be possible without the assistance of our many donors. To date, we have received over \$150,000 in donations from individuals, faith-based organizations, non-profits, and others. The depth of caring is heartening in these difficult times. We have received many notes of thanks - thanks owed to you! As one of our recipients wrote, ***"Ustedes hacen un buen trabajo."*** (You are doing good work.)

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Social Justice Contacts

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET -
1-800-842-2243 - STC Contact:
Cynthia Shriver 451-4606

AMOS - STC Contact:
Kathy Wipf 232-6232

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAS - STC Contact:
Rose Tondra 232-4598

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM -
STC Contact: John Wilson 232-1087

DAYS FOR GIRLS - STC Contact:
Mary Ross 232-5080

EMERGENCY RESIDENCE
PROJECT - STC Contact:
Ben Kellen 515-460-2844

FOOD AT FIRST - 611 Clark Ave.,
Ames - 515-344-4357 - STC Contact:
Julie Haas 232-7138

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE, INC. - 613 Clark
Ave., Ames - 515-296-1449
STC Contact: Charlie Weber
515-460-3335

HOME FOR AWHILE -
STC Contact: Mary Ross 232-5080

OPERATION RICE BOWL - STC
Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

PRISON MINISTRY - STC Contact:
Barb Moore 515-337-1551

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE
COMMITTEE - Contact:
Doreen Berg 515-956-3414

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE -
STC Contact:
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STORY COUNTY HUNGER
COLLABORATION - Contact:
Doreen Berg 515-956-3414

The Social Justice Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Louis Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.
CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER

As the weather turns cold, we all know the importance of a roof over our heads and a furnace to keep us warm. If you are able, please help us continue to support immigrant households in paying their rent and keeping their power on. With only \$5,000 left in our account, we need the community's support now more than ever.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made via check to St. Cecilia, 2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, IA 50010 ("**Immigrant Fund**" in memo line) or via GoFundMe online: <https://gf.me/u/yk8dfj>.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us care for our neighbors. **Allocation Committee**

Report Back on October 4 Season of Creation Prayer Service

The Prayer Service jointly hosted by the Social Justice Committees of St. Thomas and St. Cecilia enjoyed a beautiful day, a good (and well-spaced) crowd, and many plans for action offered by those attending. Below are some of the resolutions made that day - **please consider one or two to use yourself as we thank God for His Creation.**



Use of a reusable water bottle; compost food waste; use paper bags instead of plastic; Take Cy-Ride more often; walk or bike; garden; switch to LED lights, repairing clothes and buying second hand, conserve water and electricity, treat everyone with respect—anything we can do for the earth and the common good of God's creation.



Thanks to St. Cecilia School students for providing the beautiful art work that brightened our celebration!



Music—lifted our spirits!