



Glacial Lakes Multicultural Center

January 2021 Newsletter

GLMC provides services throughout the pandemic

The mission of *Welcoming the Stranger* continues to mean meeting and helping new immigrant neighbors of northeast South Dakota one person at a time through in-person, phone and online access. Throughout the past year the GLMC board continued to meet monthly, ESL classes meet on Zoom and in-person and translation services carry on for dental, medical and other needs.



Assistant Director Yesika answers calls every day.



GLMC board meets each month. New board members are sought for 2021.



Sister Teresa Ann shares the generosity of many from Giving Tuesday.

Humane immigration system could harness economic benefits

A note from Rich Thomas, GLMC board president:



As a former History teacher I know that Immigration has been volatile and at times our Government has approved severe measures to deal with it. We all know that we are a "nation of immigrants." I know this first hand since I am a 1st generation American. Recent polls indicate that Americans want real solutions, and they want an immigration system that actually works. We need to establish a well-functioning, modernized, and humane immigration system that both lives up to the best of our nation's past and works for our nation's present and future. We should honor our traditions as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants and if we do this we will have begun to restore respect for the rule of law in our system. Moreover, we must position ourselves to truly harness the enormous positive economic benefits that immigration holds.



Who is my Neighbor?

A regular feature of the GLMC news.

This story comes from Twin Brooks, South Dakota.

Meet a Milbank neighbor.

Jose 'Pepe' Cortez is a busy man and his life is getting busier. He works a full-time job at Valley Queen Cheese as an HTST operator. On his days off he works at Pizza Ranch, often serves as a tutor and translator, recently was a resource for a SDSU health study and is a friend to many. After saving money for six years and gaining his permanent residency status, this 38 year old native of Mexico has realized a dream of owning a farm.

Pepe came to the US in 2013 from Atizapán de Zaragoza, 'Estado de México where he grew up on a small farm. His father (pictured at left with Pepe when he was 3) had pigs, chickens, sheep and milk cows so he grew up loving animals. His dream has always been to own a farm, so this past summer when



he got a call from Lance O'Farrell, a local real estate agent about a small farm available for sale, he jumped at the chance. He loves the quiet, peaceful life being a few miles away from Milbank. "Every day when I wake up I see the land - it is beautiful." He gives much credit for his success to the Glacial Lakes Multicultural Center, Sister Teresa Ann, Sister Ida and Yesika for English classes, community and friendship.

Pepe's next chapter as a farm owner will be adding livestock. "No chickens yet, - a fence first, then a couple of pigs, two or three head of beef cattle... but first - a dog." We wish you only the best Pepe!

2021 brings hope for GLMC Executive Director

A note from Sister Teresa Ann Wolf, OSB



The first week of 2021 shocked us with the violent attempt to overthrow our democracy and the out-of-sight numbers of the COVID death toll. A sad beginning for the new year. However, we are a resilient people and we also witnessed, with the inauguration of President Biden, the preservation of our democracy and effective measures to control a pandemic that has raged on for almost a year and taken more than 400,000 lives. I am hopeful that under the Biden administration immigrants and refugees will again be welcomed as our brothers and sisters, and assisted in becoming integrated into our communities. From past experience we know that these newcomers are eager to work, to adapt to life in South Dakota, and to share their cultural riches. We also know that initially they need help in finding housing, negotiating the language barrier, and adjusting to our winters.

In the past, you generously partnered with us in welcoming the stranger, and we are confident that you will continue to do so. Thank you for your continuing support, whether that be through financial gifts, donations of clothing, bedding, furniture, garden produce, volunteering to teach English or by your prayers and compassionate understanding of the challenges faced by immigrants.

Jesus, who also experienced being a migrant, a political refugee, and an immigrant, understood well the fear and suffering and poverty of people forced to leave their homes and country for new beginnings in a strange place. Which is perhaps why, in his teaching on the judgement of nations, Jesus emphasizes the importance of welcoming the stranger (aliens, immigrants, refugees,): "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you . . . for I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Thank you again for continuing to collaborate with us in the ongoing challenge of welcoming the stranger.

Recent campaigns raise money for gifts of food, toys and operating expenses

2020 saw a remarkable outpouring of support through December fundraising campaigns. Giving Tuesday and the Watertown Area Community Foundation's Festival of Trees brought in approximately \$6,300 which was met with a Central Plains Dairy Foundation matching grant of \$10,000. YOU made it happen and we say Gracias! Grazie! Cãm on bạn! Thank you!!



GLMC launching recipe sharing videos on Facebook



Do you know someone who is a fabulous cook? We are looking for a few great recipes to be shared in a 'how-to' video which we will post on our FaceBook page. Send a note to Brenda or Yesika at GLMC and we will help you become local cooking stars!

