



Offering Refuge. Inspiring Hope.

October 2024

pellawelcomecorps@crossroadspella.org

Welcoming newcomers builds community of friends—will you join us?

Learning to drive, acquiring a driver's license, insuring a vehicle, purchasing a washer and dryer, finding new employment, welcoming another newcomer family from Venezuela, expanding the ELL network . . . it was a busy summer for Pella Welcome Corps and two newcomer families in Pella! What a joy to watch our Pella Welcome Corps community grow as teachers and students, newcomers and natives, English speakers and Spanish speakers become friends and neighbors.

A second PWC Private Sponsorship Group (PSG) is ready to submit a Welcome Plan, and we are looking for a third PSG to begin organizing.

Would you consider joining our team?

We are looking for 5-8 people to commit to supporting a newcomer family for their first three months as they begin a life of freedom and safety in the U.S. And Pella Welcome Corps has the experience, resources and training to help! Would you consider partnering with us?

You may create your own group of co-workers,



Newcomer families, interpreters, PSG members, ELL teachers, and housing team members enjoyed a good old-fashioned hot dog roast and potluck, while enjoying an evening in the Iowa countryside.

church members, neighbors, family or friends. OR we can connect you with others to form a group. If you have a group, would like to join a group, or just want to learn more, please email pellawelcomecorps@crossroadspella.org or message us on our **Facebook** page. We'd love to talk more about opportunities to work with PWC!

Other ways to help . . .

If you don't feel you can be part of a PSG, but would still like to help

- tutor English—we will provide curriculum and training—you are already an English expert!
- provide transportation to appointments, shopping, etc.
- provide interpretation—do you speak a second language? We'd love to add you to our list of interpreters!
- provide tech support/instruction—using a cell phone, texting, emailing, etc.
- provide financial guidance—opening a bank/checking account, handling bills, budgeting, etc.
- if you have a skill you'd like to share with us that could be helpful to a newcomer family, let us know!

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Meet the PWC Advisory Board

What does the Pella Welcome Corps Advisory Board do?

The PWC Advisory Board handles the administrative needs of Pella Welcome Corps and provides support and services for local PSGs who come under our sponsorship. We can provide financial support and tracking for your PSG. We send out this newsletter and other communications to promote Pella Welcome Corps. We provide volunteer training and management. We can provide guidance in areas such as filling out a Welcome Plan, finding housing, employment and medical care for newcomers, and covering topics and material that could be used for cultural orientation. We have begun to explore a 1:1 ELL tutoring program in collaboration with Crossroads of Pella, evaluating ELL curriculum and creating training for tutors. The PWC Advisory Board currently works under the umbrella of Crossroads of Pella, but also continues to take steps toward becoming an independent 501(c)(3).

Who is on the PWC Advisory Board?



Chris Allen

Chris is Associate Director of Crossroads of Pella. He represents Crossroads on the board and provides valuable guidance on non-profit processes and key social work insights.



Joan Corbin

Joan is president of the PWC Advisory Board. She brings with her 20 years of experience on the Pella Community School Board. Joan compiled the initial draft of the PWC bylaws and is our expert on meeting procedures.



Dayrel Gates

Dayrel is the Advisory Board's treasurer. Now retired from Principal Financial Group, Dayrel assisted with financial and technology guidance for PWC's first newcomer family.



Laura Reif

Laura is the volunteer coordinator for Pella Welcome Corps. Laura brings past experience both in law and in counseling clients of the Well. She coordinated housing for the first newcomer family sponsored by PWC.



Noreen Vander Wal

Noreen is the Advisory Board's secretary and communications coordinator. She taught English and journalism at Pella Christian High School for over 20 years. She coordinated ELL for PWC's first newcomer family.