



# Refugee Engagement & Support Alliance of Pella

Sponsoring Refuge. Building Community. Inspiring Hope.

Spring 2026

info@resapella.org

## A Message from Our New Executive Director

Hello, friends! I am thrilled to join RESAP as Executive Director and to continue the important work of welcoming and supporting newcomers to Pella. I come to RESAP inspired by the resilience of the families we serve and the dedication of this community. Our mission remains strong: *include, understand and empower international newcomers through comprehensive support services, advocacy and community engagement so each individual has the opportunity to thrive and flourish in Pella and surrounding communities.* I look forward to meeting many of you and continuing this work together.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Banfield  
Executive Director, RESAP

## What Our Families Have Been Up To

The families we work with continue to make inspiring progress as they grow their new lives here in the Pella community. RESAP has actively supported and played an integral role in:

- ❖ **Driving:** Two individuals recently received their driver's licenses and purchased cars, leading to an important step in their self-sufficiency.
- ❖ **English Learning:** Volunteers continue to provide tutoring and support the English program at Vermeer Corp., helping English Language Learners grow in confidence and communication skills.
- ❖ **Entrepreneurship and Employment:** We are assisting a woman from Thailand in finding garden space so she can sell produce at the Farmer's Market and save for her daughter's college tuition. Two other individuals received promotions at Pella Corp., making exciting advancements in their careers.
- ❖ **Housing Goals:** A family of five is exploring the possibility of homeownership, transitioning from their current two-bedroom apartment to a more stable housing opportunity.
- ❖ **Green Cards:** Several families have applied for green cards after completing their required one-year residency in the U.S.
- ❖ **Policy Awareness:** We have been meeting with families to review current refugee policies, ensuring they have the necessary documents and information to stay informed and prepared.

# RESAP Updates

## Welcoming a New Executive Director

RESAP is pleased to welcome Jordan as our new Executive Director. Jordan brings a strong background in refugee resettlement and community-based support through previous roles with a Refugee Resettlement Agency in Des Moines, where she served as an Education and Employment Coordinator and Case Manager. In these roles, she led culturally responsive education and workforce initiatives for refugee and immigrant adults, developed multilingual programming, and supported newly arrived families and individuals in reaching self-sufficiency goals. Jordan has also partnered with community organizations across the state to expand access to critical services and advocate for equitable systems of support. RESAP is excited to have Jordan's leadership as we continue to grow and strengthen our impact in the community.



## Welcoming a New Board Member



RESAP is excited to welcome Mr. Larry Hanthorn to the Board. Larry retired from a 35+ year career in the software industry where he led major projects with clients and team members from around the world. Mr. Hanthorn brings financial stewardship, strategic planning and leadership development, plus several years of nonprofit management and mentoring experience to the RESAP Board. He and his wife, Sheryl, are blessed with a family that now includes 3 married children, 9 grandkids – 2 of whom are now married, and one great grandchild. Larry steps into the role of Treasurer as Dayrel Gates transitions to his next chapter. Thank you, Dayrel, for your service!

# Current Policies on Refugee Status

Recent policy changes have created uncertainty for many of the families we serve. Even individuals who are lawfully present in the United States and have completed extensive federal vetting processes may now face heightened uncertainty and risks regarding their status, stability, and ability to remain in their communities.

New federal initiatives, such as efforts to re-interview already admitted refugees to re-verify eligibility have added to confusion and concern. These efforts have initially focused on individuals without green cards, especially those with applications that remain pending.

A Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) in Minnesota is currently limiting some enforcement actions and has resulted in the release of affected individuals. However, this protection is temporary and may not extend nationwide.

RESAP is closely monitoring these rapidly evolving developments and responding proactively. We are working to ensure that families have access to accurate, up-to-date information, understand their rights and options, and receive the support needed to navigate an increasingly complex and uncertain environment.

## **What's Changing & How RESAP Is Responding**

### **Current Changes Affecting Families:**

- Re-verification interviews for some refugees already living in the U.S.
- Delays or pauses in green card processing
- Increased scrutiny of immigration status and documentation
- Changes to humanitarian immigration pathways
- Growing uncertainty impacting employment and financial stability

### **How RESAP Is Helping Families Navigate These Changes:**

- Providing up-to-date information on policy changes
- Assisting families in organizing and maintaining documents
- Connecting individuals with trusted community resources and referrals
- Offering financial assistance and emergency support when possible
- Supporting employment navigation and stability during documentation delays

## **How Can You Help?**

Monetary donations are urgently needed to support immigrant families whose work permits have been delayed due to federal re-vetting processes. Families are especially in need of assistance covering essential expenses including housing while waiting for documentation approval.

### **Donations Can Be Sent To:**

RESAP  
PO Box 165  
Pella, IA 50219-0165

### **Volunteer Opportunities Include:**

- One-on-one English tutoring or conversation practice
- Supporting English Language Learning classes
- Assisting with transportation, appointments, or navigating local systems
- Offering cultural orientation and community connection

To get involved, email: [info@resapella.org](mailto:info@resapella.org)

### **Thank you for your support!**

Whether through volunteering, donating, or spreading the word, your support helps newcomers thrive in Pella. Together, we are building a welcoming community where everyone has the opportunity to flourish.

RESAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization