



## IWR joins discussion at Cornell symposium on current outlook for refugee pathways



Photograph by Serge Petchenyi

On December 3rd, IWR's Executive Director Casey Verderosa spoke on a panel at a public symposium at Cornell titled Refugee Pathways: Upstate NY & Beyond. Around 50 people took part in the event, which was organized as part of Cornell's Refugee Pathways and Resettlement Policy course with support from the Mellon Foundation. The symposium opened with a thought-provoking talk by author Heba Gowayed on her book *Refuge: How the State Shapes Human Potential*. The panel, which included representatives of local resettlement agencies as well as IWR, addressed questions on the post-election landscape for refugee resettlement in upstate NY. Discussion continued with insightful presentations from student groups working with community partners on refugee pathways and resettlement policy, and a keynote address by Lindsay Jenkins, Senior Advisor for Population, Refugees and Migration at the U.S. Department of State. A recurring theme from the panel discussion was the value of partnership and information-sharing

between community actors as we navigate policy changes brought by the new federal administration.

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## 2024 End of Year Appeal

As 2024 comes to a close, our End of Year Appeal is well under way. As well as enabling us to continue our existing programs to welcome and support refugees and immigrants in need in Tompkins County, this year donations will contribute to new efforts to help our refugee partners navigate national-level changes that may put them at risk.

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to this appeal! So far, your donations total \$18,536. These funds will be doubled thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who will match any funds we raise by 31 December up to \$50,000. If you have not yet done so, please consider making a gift to help keep our community a place of welcome for all in 2025!

[Donate](#)

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## Current needs

**Winter clothing:** A refugee family is in need of the following items. Please get in touch if you have any of these to donate:

1. Men's winter coat - medium
2. Men's winter gloves - medium
3. Women's winter hat (not beany style)
4. Women's winter gloves
5. Children's coats — boy size 14/16 & teen fitting upper Boys/ small Men's
6. Gloves - two pairs for teenaged boys

**New arrival needs list:** We are collecting furniture and household items for a family of 4, recently arrived from Ukraine. Please [check this list and complete the form](#) if you can donate any of the items.

**Children's clothing:** Sorting items your family has outgrown over the holidays? You can donate gently used baby and children's items to the Jillian's Drawers & Mama Goose store on Clinton Street and ask them to add any store credit to

IWR's account for newcomers in need to use. Our account is now low and support with clothing makes a real difference in winter! Check the [website](#) for drop off dates.

For the most up to date information on needs, check the [Current Needs](#) on the IWR website or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [X](#).

For questions about needs or to donate, contact IWR Programs Coordinator Leigh Bacher at [leighb@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org](mailto:leighb@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org).

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## **'Bread not Bombs' T-shirts at Wide Awake Bakery**

This week, [Wide Awake Bakery](#) has launched a special T-shirt sale with a positive message in its Franklin Street store in Ithaca. All proceeds from the sale of 'Bread not Bombs' T-shirts will be donated to IWR. Stop by to pick up a unique holiday gift along with your bread!

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## **Solstice dance fundraiser at Argos Inn**

This Saturday, December 21st, celebrate the winter solstice with an [energizing evening](#) at Argos Warehouse! Dance for free to music curated by vinyl DJs Tuggle and Kamal Naeem, 8 til late. Proceeds will be donated to ACLU and IWR.

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## **Benefit jewelry sale a resounding success**

Last month IWR supporters Yvonne Fogarty and Debbie Benzer led a team of volunteers in organizing an all-day sale of gently used jewelry at the First Baptist Church, Ithaca. This event proved very popular and raised a total of \$10,242 for IWR programs! Our thanks go out to everyone who helped make the day a success, including all those who donated and purchased jewelry, and who volunteered their time and effort.

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## **Thank You, residents of Kendal at Ithaca!**

A shoutout to residents of Kendal, Ithaca, who collectively donated \$14,000 to IWR to support our ongoing work with refugees locally! Residents nominated IWR for an award in recognition of our work in the community, and the donation was presented at a ceremony held on November 24th as part of the Thanksgiving service organized by the Kendal Interfaith Committee. To all who contributed, thank you for your kindness!

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