

2025 Community REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As President of Quad Cities Interfaith, I am proud to reflect on a year of perseverance, partnership, and unwavering commitment to our community. Throughout 2025, we continued working with tenants, immigrant families, and community partners as we worked to build a more just and inclusive Quad Cities.

Through the Tenant Alliance, we supported renters facing unsafe and unstable housing conditions, helping amplify their voices and advance the fight for dignity, accountability, and fair treatment. At the same time, our immigration efforts brought together people across faith traditions, cultures, and neighborhoods to educate, advocate, and foster greater safety, belonging, and stability for all.

While this year brought its share of transitions and challenges, our mission remained steadfast. We focused on strengthening relationships, rebuilding trust, and renewing our commitment to the people at the heart of our work. That dedication continues to inspire us and guide our vision for the future.

Because of the commitment of our members, leaders, supporters, and community partners, we enter the future with renewed energy, growing momentum, and a shared belief that meaningful change is possible when people come together to organize, advocate, and act for justice.

Thank you for your continued support of Quad Cities Interfaith and the work we do together to strengthen our communities and create lasting change.

In solidarity,
Larry Roberson
President, Quad Cities Interfaith

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Quad Cities Interfaith continued to expand its immigration justice work this year, strengthening community protection, leadership development, and rapid response capacity across Davenport and the greater Quad Cities. Grounded in the belief that every person deserves dignity, safety, and the freedom to live without fear, our immigration efforts focused on equipping families, congregations, and community members with the tools needed to navigate an increasingly complex landscape.



A central component of this work was the Immigration Training & Rapid Response Team, which provided structured education and coordinated support when families faced crisis. Through know-your-rights workshops, accompaniment training, and scenario-based response preparation, QCI built a network of leaders ready to act quickly and compassionately during detentions, raids, or other emergencies. These trainings empowered participants to understand legal processes, document incidents safely, and connect families with trusted legal and social-service resources.

In addition to crisis response, QCI deepened its partnerships with local congregations, advocacy organizations, and immigrant-led groups to address systemic challenges facing immigrant families.

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE, CONT.

Leaders organized community forums, supported individuals navigating immigration proceedings, and advocated for policies that promote safety, stability, and humane treatment. This work not only uplifted immigrant voices but also strengthened solidarity across the region, ensuring that families are not isolated when facing fear or uncertainty.

The poster features a background illustration of blue silhouettes of people, including adults and children, walking across a map of the United States. Some individuals are carrying bags, and one person is using a cane. The text is overlaid on this illustration.

IMMIGRATION EDUCATION WORKSHOP

QUAD CITIES INTERFAITH AND ALAS DE ESPERAZA ARE HOSTING *KNOW OUR RIGHTS* TRAININGS TO EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITY AND SHARE RESOURCES TO KEEP FAMILIES SAFE.

Saturday, June 21 10:00 – 12:00
Edwards United Church of Christ
3420 Jersey Ridge Road. Davenport, IA

TOPICS:

- Creating emergency and family plan
- Overview of rights and legal resources
- Interacting with law enforcement
- Understanding public vs private areas
- Differences between administrative and judicial warrant
- Identifying and avoiding immigration fraud
- Community support and resources

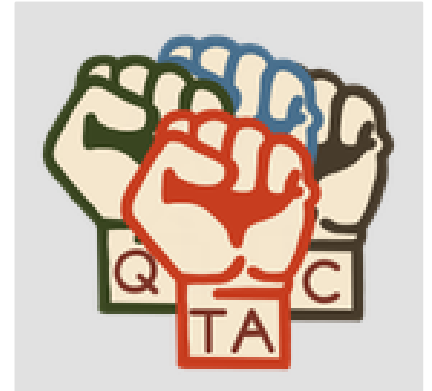
 

QUAD CITIES
INTERFAITH
creating a more just society

ALAS DE ESPERANZA

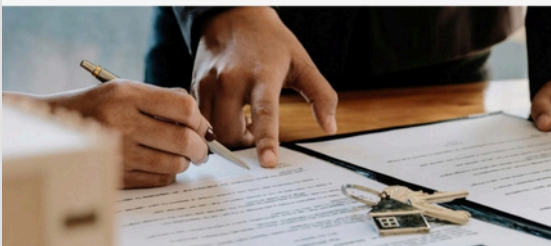
QC TENANT ALLIANCE

Quad Cities Tenant Alliance (QCTA) began 2025 on a high note, celebrating the accomplishment of getting the “Rent Abatement” ordinance passed through the City of Davenport after many months of meetings with City Alderpersons, Inspections staff, and local tenants willing to speak out.



QCTA continued to work hard at being an impactful organizing body, advancing tenant rights and holding landlords accountable in providing safe, livable housing for renters in the Quad-Cities by holding tenant education/information events in partnership with Iowa Legal Aid and other social justice partners, helping tenants understand their rights and equipping them with the tools needed to advocate for themselves and their neighbors.

Tenant Know Your Rights!



The first session of this three part series will be dedicated to educating tenants from Illinois and Iowa about their landlord and tenant rights and responsibilities, understanding the definition of a lease, recognizing what constitutes retaliation, and learning how to report it.

**Thursday
May 29
530pm**



more information



registration requested!
register here



QCTA connected with neighbors by “tabling” at community events such as the Out Sports Kickball league, Pride party at Bass Street landing, and (summer 2026) two City of Davenport “Party in the Park” events!

QCTA, CONT.

Formed in partnership with Quad Cities Interfaith, the Tenant Alliance brings together renters from diverse backgrounds to address unsafe housing conditions, displacement, and inequitable landlord practices. Their work is grounded in the belief that housing is a human right and that tenants deserve a collective voice in shaping the policies that affect their lives.

QCTA organizes building-level tenant unions, trains residents in leadership and advocacy, and supports renters navigating unsafe or unstable housing situations. Their efforts were instrumental in advancing policy solutions, expanded accountability for negligent landlords, and stronger city oversight of housing safety.

The Tenant Alliance's work reflects the core values of justice, dignity, and collective action. By centering the experiences of renters and building power from the ground up, they are reshaping the local housing landscape and ensuring that those most affected by housing insecurity have a seat at the table. Their leadership continues to inspire broader movement-building across the region, demonstrating what is possible when tenants organize together for systemic change.

DAVENPORT



DAVENPORT

Tenants push for 'rent abatement' policy

SARAH WATSON
swatson@gazette.com

When Gavin Gassmann first moved into a unit on Third Street in Davenport, everything seemed fine. Then, he noticed a crack in the ceiling and water damage that grew. The landlord didn't fix it. That winter, the furnace went out and the pipes burst, causing water damage. After six months of cracking, the ceiling caved in over his bed while he wasn't home. He got the city involved, and inspectors ordered the landlord to fix it and other hazards. But Gassmann had had enough. He decided to move out. He noticed later the building had been condemned. Apparently, the fixes had not been enough. "If inspectors had better tools for motivating owners to make repairs, that building might still be available to rent," Gassmann said. Tenants like Gassmann are pushing for the City of Davenport to adopt a rent abatement ordinance, which would allow the city to order a landlord not to collect rent until serious code violations were resolved. The Quad Cities Tenant Alliance, which formed after the 2021 evacuation of Crestwood Apartments in Davenport, is hopeful a rent abatement ordinance can be another tool for city inspectors to enforce the city's housing code and motivate landlords to fix problems before buildings deteriorate to a point of needing to be shut down.

SARAH WATSON, THE GAZETTE
Iowa City's Senior Housing Inspector Stan Laverman is interviewed June 3, at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport.

Please see **RENT**, Page A7

2025 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Our 2025 banquet “Bridging Our Communities” brought together community members for an evening of reflection and celebration. The program opened with welcoming remarks that acknowledged the year’s accomplishments and the collective effort behind them. Leadership highlighted the organization’s mission, the progress made across key initiatives, and the resilience shown throughout the year.

The keynote address by Reverend Dr. Dwight Ford offered both inspiration and direction as we reflected on the year’s accomplishments. The speaker shared a thoughtful message that connected our mission to the broader needs of the community, emphasizing the importance of sustained engagement, collaboration, and hope. His remarks underscored the progress made throughout the year while challenging us to continue building on that momentum. The keynote provided a meaningful bridge between celebrating what we have achieved and envisioning the work that lies ahead. A central part of the program was the recognition of this year’s Msgr. Marvin Mottet Leadership Award. This year’s award was presented to Rabbi Henry Jay Karp honoring his outstanding commitment to justice, community organizing, and systemic change.



2025 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET, CONT.

Overall, the banquet served as a meaningful capstone to the year—celebrating achievements, strengthening relationships, and setting a hopeful tone for the work to come.

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Join us October 25, 2026 at Hickory Creek Event Center for our 40th anniversary celebration.



Dinner & Music

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

YOU ARE INVITED TO COME CELEBRATE 4 DECADES OF
SERVICE, DEDICATION, AND UNFORGETTABLE MILESTONES

Quad Cities Interfaith

OCTOBER 25TH, 2026 - 5:30-8PM

Hickory Creek Event Center - Davenport, Iowa
Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

Tickets: Individual - \$65 Group of 8 - \$455

RSVP: www.qcinterfaith.org/invest
or call: (563) 499-7854