

Lisa Gross Nomination Essay

Lisa Gross has made and continues to make a powerfully positive impact on Lancaster County through her tireless efforts to resettle refugees. Lisa has volunteered at Church World Service (CWS) for sixteen years, serving in every volunteer capacity. Lisa has consistently volunteered a minimum of sixteen hours a month by serving in the various offices of CWS, but constantly exceeds that number by driving refugees to doctor appointments and other engagements or appointments. Lisa recently helped the organization, No One Left Behind, partner with CWS, to resettle an Iraqi family of four by organizing a local neighborhood, her family, her friends, and a number of churches to completely furnish an apartment for the family. Lisa taught English as a second language to countless refugees in an effort to help them get self-supporting jobs. The local impact to our economy is amazing. Lisa taught a Syrian refugee, who was illiterate in her own language, the questions on the U.S. citizenship test, so the Syrian woman was able to become a U.S. citizen. Her family now runs local businesses in the Lancaster area. There are many hundred, if not thousands, of local lives who have been positively affected by Lisa's volunteer roles. Lancaster is richer for the contributions of these refugees! Lancaster is richer due to Lisa's volunteer roles. Lisa has worked individually over the years with various refugee families to help them settle into life here in the United States. Some of these families now own businesses and are giving back by enriching our culture and community. Lisa has a heart for the "other" and the "outsider" just as our Mennonite ancestors had, so is continuing the legacy to make a wonderful impact on Lancaster County.