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### **Genesis Youth Foundation Unites Central Iowa at the Ubuntu Leadership Summit**

Des Moines, IA, June 12, 2023 - The Genesis Youth Foundation, in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Workforce Development, Iowa Department of Human Services, Drake University, Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Hope+Elim, Kyles AME Zion Church, Change Course, and OPX is hosting the 2023 Ubuntu Leadership Summit from June 19th through 24th.

This week long community sharing event is geared towards information sharing and connecting community members to resources available through state agencies and other community organizations within the Des Moines area.

“When I think of the term “Ubuntu” (an ancient African word meaning I am what I am because of who we all are) I think of being selfless (Servant Leadership), service, empathy, and unity. This is why we created the Ubuntu Leadership Academy in 2019 with the goal to cultivate youth leaders from within the African immigrant and refugee community,” says Executive Director Sam Gabriel. “We have seen great success in instilling this in our culture. Now, we are ready to unite and manifest the spirit of Ubuntu in Central Iowa.”

The theme this year is *Leaders addressing community challenges together*. It is a chance to share knowledge and inspire youths and adults through training workshops, storytelling, small group conversations, and more.

“Our community is interdependent. It doesn’t matter who you are or where you come from, we all must work towards the greater good. I describe this as the Power of We. The summit is a step to this greater harmony and purpose,” explains Gabriel.

There will be round-table conversations regarding challenges facing adults/parents and all youth, including immigrant and refugee youth, black and brown youth, and at-risk youth living within Central Iowa. All community members and leaders are encouraged to attend this amazing event.

If you are interested in attending this year’s summit, visit our website to register and for event details: <https://www.genesisyouthfoundation.org/ubuntuleadershipsummit>. Please call us at 515-343-0149 or email us at [info@genesisyouthfoundation.org](mailto:info@genesisyouthfoundation.org).

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Sam Gabriel is Executive Director of Genesis Youth Foundation, a nonprofit in Des Moines, Iowa that works to level the playing field for immigrant and refugee youth through athletics, the arts, and academics. Sam moved to Des Moines as a refugee from his home country of Liberia when he was 5-years-old and now through Genesis works to provide a safe, nurturing, family environment for underserved youth while fostering community awareness of the lived experiences of vulnerable children.

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