

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

STAKEHOLDER REPORT 2022

2022 IN OSCEOLA COUNTY

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach provides research-based education and engages Iowans in solving today's problems and preparing for a thriving future. We listen, learn, and work with the people of Osceola County for a #STRONGIOWA.



The Osceola County Extension Council

has been elected by the people of the county to guide local educational programming by partnering with extension staff. From needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, the council represents you and your issues. We are always serving Iowans and we are here for you. Now. Always.

Thank you for your support.

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Council Member

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SERVING THE PEOPLE OF OSCEOLA COUNTY

In 2022, ISU Extension and Outreach Osceola County continued to engage Iowans in addressing mental health and to provide access to research-based training and education on mental health literacy and suicide prevention.

In September, local staff partnered with Osceola Regional Health Center CEO Ben Davis to offer ISU Extension and Outreach's "Question. Persuade. Refer" (QPR) Suicide Prevention Program. QPR was free to attend and open to anyone from the community or surrounding areas. In total, 19 attended the program, coming from all walks of the community - city workers, healthcare workers, school personnel, local business owners and others interested in supporting and improving mental health in Osceola County.

"I learned that the QPR method of suicide prevention is intended to offer hope through positive actions. It was an excellent training and good basic information on a very important topic," said Library Director Mary Earll, who participated in the program.

As part of the program, the local mental health provider, shared information on what is currently available locally and what to expect if a person needs to refer an individual for help. Participants agreed the program, discussion and roleplay were extremely helpful in continuing meaningful conversation about mental health and suicide prevention.

PROMOTING FINANCIAL WELLBEING

With news of fraud targeting older Iowans within the local communities, staff saw the need to provide knowledge and support to improve financial security. Individuals and caregivers of all ages were invited to participate in ISU Extension and Outreach's "Spot, Stop and Avoid Fraud" program at the end of June. The program provided consumer advice for protecting oneself and loved ones against fraud by avoiding imposter scams, identifying theft and telephone fraud, and recognizing key signs of fraud and ways to report it.

SUPPORTING THE ECONOMY

This year, Osceola County staff worked to support lowans in reviving the Iowa economy through programs and contests aimed at local businesses and volunteers. With the office's 2021 move to the main street in Sibley, staff is better able to participate in activities and be present at community events and activities.

One program that staff hosted twice this year was a customer service workshop, in partnership with the Sibley Chamber and Osceola County Economic Development.

With unemployment low, local businesses are in dire need of employees, and not just employees, but those who are well-versed in working with the public. Local businesses registered their employees to attend the program and learn the "Five Steps of Excellent Customer Service."

During National 4-H Week in October, ISU Extension and Outreach Osceola County challenged local businesses to a friendly competition, a 4-H Week Scarecrow Contest.

The goal of the contest was to boost a positive community message that showcased area business and their involvement in and support of the Osceola County 4-H program.

Scarecrows could be on display outside or in the window of local businesses, and had to showcase both 4-H and the business. Nine local organizations participated in the program with scarecrows showcased Oct. 2-8. The winning submission came from Iowa State Bank with their financial theme, "You can bank on us to support 4-H."



OSCEOLA COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF



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GROWING LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Every year, ISU Extension and Outreach Osceola County works to expand learning opportunities for youth with innovative programs that spark interests, support academics, and promote resiliency.

Staff worked with the local educators to host programs like Read Across Iowa in the Sibley-Ocheyedan school during March, and summer brought the return of camps, with staff putting increased focus on recruiting new youth and families. Camp numbers saw a domino effect as one new attendee would tell a friend about their good experience and both youth would be present at the next camp.

In addition to summer camps, the local 4-H program saw some fun and educational programs in 2022. One program that gained traction in 2022 is the Share-A-Sheep program which gives 4-H members with little sheep experience the opportunity to exhibit an animal in the sheep project area. Program mentor Dan Berkland guides youth in learning about daily care, health, nutrition and showmanship, while also teaching youth life skills like responsibility and leadership.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH OSCEOLA COUNTY

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