

# BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

ISU Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources. We are working with the people of Jasper County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

## Jasper County Extension Council

Every Iowa county has an elected extension council that guides local educational programming by partnering with staff. From needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, the council represents the issues and people of the county.

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

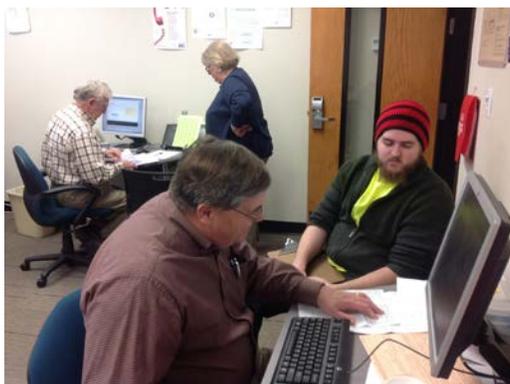
Economic Development example

Health and Well-being example

K12 Youth Outreach Example

## Economic Development

According to the 2010 US Census, 16.8% of the population in Jasper County is age 65 or older, the median household income is \$48,881 and 13.8% of people have incomes that place them at or below poverty level. For these individuals, ever-changing income tax laws and electronic filing requirements make the system increasingly difficult to navigate. Hiring a tax professional is costly and, therefore, may create a financial hardship for Jasper County individuals. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which is sponsored



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We want communities and farmers to thrive, and families and children to be healthy. And eventually we want to turn the world over to the next generation better than we found it.

Dan Badger  
*Extension Council Chair*

Nathan Crane  
*Regional Director*

by Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, offers free tax counseling, preparation, and filing. Through this Tax Assistance program, residents overcome the barriers of complying with federal and state income tax laws. The program also offers them convenient access to electronic filing and possible refunds. During the 2015 tax filing season, 619 local residents were served by our Tax Assistance Program. From these returns, more than \$800,000 was generated for Jasper County residents through refunds received.

## ISU Extension and Outreach Jasper County

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## Health and Well Being

Extension invests in the health and wellbeing of Iowa children. The future prosperity of Iowa, and the U.S., depends on our ability to support our next generation. Affordable, high-quality child care and preschool provide a foundation for lifelong productivity. Indeed, research confirms that investments in comprehensive early-childhood services are among the best investments we can make. In Jasper County, eighty-one percent of children under the age of 6 need child care while their parents work, and there is an ongoing need for well-trained child care professionals. Early Care & Education (sponsored by Iowa State University Extension & Outreach) works to support early child care programs within the county through a variety of local training, educational materials, coaching and technical assistance. Programs offered help providers meet recommendations for staff training, health and safety guidelines, and meaningful adult/child interactions. During Fiscal Year 2016, approximately 134 hours of training were offered on a wide range of topics, in addition to 102 technical assistance requests from programs in the area.

## K-12 Youth Outreach

Jasper County 4-H is a youth-based organization with 368 members, including Clover Kids (K through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders), divided among 14 community clubs with 32 volunteer leaders.

### County Extension Staff

Denice Fischer  
*County Program Coordinator*

Carol Camp  
*ECE Consultant*

Stacey Wilson  
*County Youth Coordinator*

Donita Huegel  
*RSVP Assistant*

Kara Warrick  
*4-H Youth Assistant*

Tammy Welcher  
*Office Manager*

Through 4-H youth have an opportunity to gain specific knowledge and expertise with one of our three special interest clubs, Archery, Canine Connection, Equine Experience. Countywide educational opportunities include 4-H Officer Training, Project Workshops, Meals from the Heartland, & Festival of Trees, where each club conducts its own community service projects while collaborating together to host the Annual 4-H Festival of Trees, which benefits over 13 charitable organizations.

Thirty youth attended the 4-H Officer Training that was offered in November and ninety-two 4-H members turned in record books.

Three Senior 4-H members learned about citizenship and were educated on government procedures as they attended the Citizens for Washington Focus Trip to DC, while sixteen intermediate 4-H'ers discovered the Twin Cities on the Intermediate Trip. Nine 4-H members took their leadership skills to the next level when they attended the State Leadership Conference at Iowa State University in June.

Jasper County Extension and Outreach led programs for k-12<sup>th</sup> grade outreach opportunities and helped educate a total of 1700 students in Jasper County. Programs we had this year were summer day camps in the month of June, Investigation Stations, building a butterfly garden at a school, STEM night for students and families, babysitting classes, FLL, and JR. FLL. This past year we also partnered with the Jasper County Conservation Office and helped with field trips for the five school districts in Jasper County teaching 300 students about archery and G.P.S.



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