



Crossroads

First Call for Help and Encouragement

OUR MISSION

Crossroads of Pella is community supported, and a first call source of help and encouragement for area residents.

From the Director, Jim Hibma

Help and encouragement are words that we have chosen to put in our mission statement. We have helped people in our community for the past 34 years. We help with after school care for children, marital distress or mental health difficulties, Medicare concerns through our SHIIP program, substance abuse issues, and many other services. Another huge part of what we do is encourage people to be good parents, figure out a different employment plan, or be a better husband or wife. Encouragement is a great concept. We all need it. Clients often comment, "I feel better after talking," "thanks, you have given me another way of looking at things," or "your willingness to talk has encouraged me." Last year 685 clients received free counseling.

Be an encourager to someone in your life today.

"Jim: Sending my thanks and encouragement to you for all that you and your staff accomplish. We appreciate your tireless effort and enthusiasm. May you be blessed in 2016."

Summer Fun for Kids, Amy Whitten

After School Kid's Klub had another fun and successful summer! Throughout June, July, and August, Kid's Klub served over 180 children providing them with safe and affordable childcare from Pella Community and Pella Christian Schools. Along with math, reading, outdoor, and gym activities, Kid's Klub also took many field trips. In fact, Kid's Klub set a new attendance record by taking 117 children to Sky Zone. Now, Kid's Klub is busy providing after school childcare to 120 children and families including early outs, delays, and no school days. If you have questions, please call Amy Whitten at 641.780.4299 after 5:00 pm.

Protecting Children, Pam Bettger

Sexual Abuse Prevention program is expanding to reach 8 school districts in 3 counties. Last year 4,229 people attended the children's presentations (188 sessions) and 31 people participated in 3 adult presentations. Central College is collaborating with Crossroads and sponsoring Stewards of Children on October 22. This program has proven to change how adults protect children in their community. Internet Safety classes are also available. Contact Pam Bettger for more information.

2016 Board of Directors: President, Eric Recker; Secretary, Allison Van Wyngarden; Treasurer, Jim Zaffiro; Nick Fynaardt; Karmen Gardner; Maddie Pinegar; Shelly Rikken; and Gene Schmitz.

Grandparent Support, Amy Zuck



Grandparents and Friends, Family & Neighbors (FFN) Child Care Providers are assisted with support and resources to offer a quality early childhood experience for the young children in their care. This year FFN worked with 26 new grandparents serving over 139 children. FFN was contacted by a grandmother who had been trying to help her daughter and grandchildren as they had lost their home and her daughter had also been dealing with substance abuse issues. When the grandmother contacted Crossroads she had custody of her grandchildren and her daughter had not been in contact with her for several days. The grandmother was offered health and safety resources for her toddler granddaughter, including baby gates and diapers. We were able to connect her to local resources to get other items that she would need. For more information contact Amy Zuck.

Edging out Substance Abuse, Deb Kay



This past year 804 individuals have been seen for Substance Abuse through the Edge of Recovery. Help and encouragement are offered through the Edge of Recovery every day. Here is one example: "I am a 47 year old female and an IV meth addict in recovery. I was a hardcore meth user for 23 years and have been to every kind of treatment and incarcerated many times. I have never stayed clean very long after being released from any program. Then I met Deb Kay at the Edge of Recovery. I will be forever grateful for all of Deb's direction and support. I felt I never fit in with my family and I joined the world of drug use where I finally felt I fit in. I can truly say I found a new, safe place at Edge of Recovery."

Medicare Open Enrollment is Now, Barb, Keith, Bob, Nancy



It's time for your Medicare Part D & Medicare Advantage "Check Up"! October 15 - December 7 choose a different plan for 2017. Enroll if you don't have a plan. Apply for extra help with drug costs. Comparing plans can save you money! Need Help? Call SHIIP. Mary called SHIIP on behalf of her mother living in a local care facility. Prescription drug costs were so high that Mary was fearful her mother would run out of money within the next 12 months. While meeting with a SHIIP counselor, they were able to reduce the cost by \$2,000 per year.

Christmas Joy, Julie Johnson



The joy of Christmas happened at Crossroads this past year. As a community, we helped 488 individuals from 149 families. Without your generous gifts of toys, clothing, coats, cleaning supplies and other household necessities this miracle wouldn't have been possible. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for touching so many lives! Of those helped, 60% were from Pella, 40% were from Knoxville, Reasnor, Harvey, Melcher-Dallas, Monroe, Otley and 1 was homeless. This sweet note arrived last week. "Thank you so much for your Christmas donation to our family! Our kids had an amazing Christmas because of you! We are truly blessed. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!"

To give or receive Christmas help contact Crossroads between November 1 and December 7.

English Language Learners Encourage Each other, Kim Huffman, Jacqueline Hale



In Pella, people from different countries stay to themselves and do not socialize with others. At English Language Learners class everything changes! The 12 individuals from 7 countries who attend look forward to coming to class, encourage each other and call themselves friends. One milestone this year was that one student passed his citizenship test and now is proudly an American!

WANTED: Used coats, snow pants and boots.

WANTED: Father-Daughter Dance Dresses.

98 Families Received Assistance

Crossroads helped 98 families and individuals with financial assistance this year: Utility Bills 43%, Rent 27%, Gas 12%, Food 10%, Prescriptions 2%, Insurance 1%. School supplies were given out to 19 children. Recently we received a note from a local property owner. "I want to personally thank your organization for helping one of my renters with her rent in April. We are also having financial difficulties so your helping her pay rent is helping more than one family. It is helping us as well. The service you provide is well appreciated".

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