



# 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***

Free counseling is one of the main pillars of Crossroads of Pella. Last year 1,044 people of all ages came in to utilize our free counseling services. Your gift goes to help people who want to discuss a relationship, talk about a concern, or figure out why they are sad or unhappy. Generous donors have provided fantastic support for Crossroads' programs for 35 years. This newsletter provides a glimpse into each program and the support that they provide to our community.



### ***A New Face: Raelynn Schroeder***

Last fall, Crossroads was fortunate to add another team member to our staff. Raelynn is passionate about helping others which has made working in our office a great fit. She was able to jump right in, during one of the busiest times of the year and help with SHIIP and our Christmas Program. Raelynn and her husband Jason have lived in Pella for 17 years and enjoy raising their 2 sons and daughter here.



### ***SHIIP Counselors: Keith, Barb, Nancy & Bob***

Do you have a Medicare health or prescription drug plan? Open enrollment runs October 15 - December 7 for you to make changes to your plan if needed. Don't miss the deadline or you'll likely have to wait until next fall to make changes.

#### **Medicare Open Enrollment: 3 Things You Need To Do**

- Review your plan notice. Read any notices about any changes for next year, especially your "Annual Notice of Change" letter. Look at your plan's information to make sure your drugs are still covered and your doctors are still in the network.

- Think about what matters most to you. Medicare health and drug plans change each year and so can your health needs. Is your new medication covered by your current plan? Does another plan offer the same value at a lower cost? Does your network include the doctors you want to see?

- Shop for plans that meet your needs and fit your budget. Starting NOW you can set up an appointment with SHIIP by calling 641-628-1212. Last year 372 individuals received Medicare help through Crossroads of Pella.



### ***Keeping Our Children Safe: Pam Bettger***

Prevention Education held 231 programs to 4,875 adults and students in Marion, Mahaska, and Jasper Counties. Visiting students annually reinforces concepts about self-protection while practicing how to use one's personal safety plan. 55 adults increased awareness how to protect children from abuse. With so much change in family structures, it is important that all community members step up to protect children from abuse. Stewards of Children is a nationally recognized program for adults to develop their own personal prevention program. As a trainer, Pam is ready and able to visit your community to increase protection of children from abuse.



### ***After School Kid's Klub: Amy Whitten***

The After School Kid's Klub has been very busy this year. During the summer, they enjoyed many field trips that were fun and educational. These included The Science Center, Blank Park Zoo, Pump It Up, and many more. They ended their summer with an end-of-summer party at Madison that included inflatables and a dunk tank. This school year has started off great with the students enjoying healthy snacks, playtime (including gym and outside), and help with homework if needed. ASKK is a state licensed program that serves all students in Pella. They are open after school until 6:00 pm every day, including early outs and no-school days. For more information, Call Amy Whitten at 641-780-4299.



### ***English Language Learners: Kim Huffman***

This fall is the 4th year for ELL instructor, Kim Huffman. Each session brings new attendees and the absence of familiar faces. Attendance varies with each season due to work schedules, travel, various other engagements and movement to and from Pella. In the past 4 years, ELL has served over 30 students from over 8 different countries, with an age span of over 50 years. ELL has met new friends, had guest speakers, toured various parts of Pella and celebrated holidays together. The goals of the English Language Learners' class remain: learning English, making new friends, learning about the Pella community, and becoming good civic citizens. Classes currently take place on Wednesdays from 5-6 pm in room 306 of the Pella Community Center.



### ***Edging out Substance Abuse: Deb Kay***

The Edge of Recovery has been very active. In January 2017, they started working exclusively out of the Pella office. This year the Edge has logged 965 client sessions which would include OWI evaluations, substance abuse evaluations, individual, couple, and family sessions. The Edge continues to partner with the Department of Human Services, probation and parole officers, teachers and parents, plus local mental health counselors. In the past year, they have also continued to work with juveniles in the Marion County area. They have many success stories! Clients have continued in their jobs, improved family relationships, and stopped using alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs.



### ***Saying Goodbye: Amy Zuck***

After 14 years of working at Crossroads of Pella, I am saddened to announce that I have decided to leave. I have truly enjoyed every minute of my time serving as Crossroads Cares Program Coordinator, but I feel it is time for me to move on to different endeavors. I have met some incredible people along the way! The Childcare Providers, Parents, Grandparents and Families that I have served over the years all have a special place in my heart. The other organizations that have collaborated with Crossroads and the Crossroads Board of Directors have inspired me to strive to make our community better. The staff of Crossroads have taught me so much over the years and have always been there cheering me on, for that I am forever grateful. I can't thank you all enough for the friendship and blessings that you have brought into my life. I know Crossroads of Pella will continue to do GREAT things for our community and I can't wait to see all the good that will come. Best Wishes, Amy Zuck



### ***A Note From the Office: Julie Johnson***

It has been another busy year for Crossroads! Many of you were kind enough to donate 210 new and used coats for our coat drive, helping our friends and neighbors stay warm last winter. Christmas at Crossroads was again a huge success thanks to the support of our generous community! 435 individuals from 134 families came asking for Christmas help. Because of our local support, all families were blessed.

**Christmas help begins November 1, 2017!** Throughout the year, Crossroads was able to give financial assistance to 77 local families in need. 84.5% of this assistance went to help with rent/utilities. 11.5% helped with clothing, medical needs, transportation, and short term lodging. The additional 4% covered other miscellaneous bills. This summer we had 38 smiling boys and girls stop in for our free school supplies. New supplies make every child happy as they head back for a fresh school year. 43 Father Daughter Dance dresses were dropped off! Thank you to each girl who was willing to share her dress. Spreading help and joy to others is only possible thanks to the generous hearts in our community.