

In The Know, UDMO: January 2024



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JOIN US FOR OUR
WEBSTER COUNTY

*Open
House*

JANUARY 19TH, 2023
2:30-4:00 PM

704 Central Ave.
Suite 200
Fort Dodge, IA

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.



Spencer Daybreakers Kiwanis collected 2 truckloads of toys for Clay Outreach!

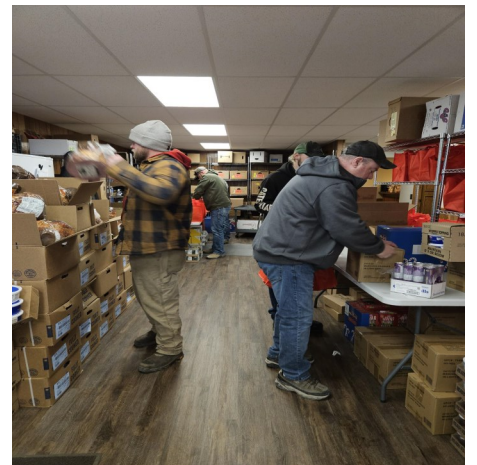
Here is photo from the Humboldt Bike Event.



WOW!



Clay Outreach distributed 250 Christmas meals to families in Clay County.



Executive Director Report by Julie Edwards



Monthly Happenings:

- **Head Start**
 - NPRM Response to newly proposed Head Start Performance Standards that are unfunded.
 - DHHS Grants additional funding to support Health and Safety for each Head Start location
 - Development of a Transition Plan due to the resignation of Irene Mayland, Early Childhood Program Director.

- **Outreach**
 - Hiring new staff for Fort Dodge, Humboldt and Pocahontas

- **Housing**
 - HUD Grant Preparation is taking place.

Finance Committee: Next Meeting February 20th @ 1pm.

UDMO Board of Directors: Next Meeting February 27 @ 5pm.

- **Head Start NOA** - \$1,141.43 to close out project period.
- **LIHEAP-23-16-Amendment #8** – Moved \$50,000 from admin and \$5,788 from Assurance 16 to Program Support.
- **LIHEAP-23IIJA-Amendment #1** – Moved \$3,216 from Assurance 16 to Administration
- **ESG Sub-Grant Agreement** between Iowa Finance Authority and UDMO received for January 2024 in the amount of \$85,517.
- **CSBG grant award notice** which informs UDMO that the remainder of the first and second quarter through 2/24 of FY 2024 CSBG funds have been released in the amount of \$147,512.
- **MOU** between UDMO and Iowa Balance of State Coordinated Services Network and Interagency Data Sharing and Services Agreement (HMIS Agencies) was received.
- **Fiscal Policy Updates** – Auto Accidents & Workers Compensation



Employee's of the Month Gingerbread Kitchen Staff



I see their hard work on a daily basis, they have a smile on their face. Even though the day might be hectic, they do not complain.

Congratulations!

DeAnn Sandgren - 13 years
Lori Smith - 33 years

Our kitchen staff is amazing and have started off the year without the 3rd cook. They have gone above & beyond with feeding us and cleaning up daily. Sometimes they have to do all the things when there is no sub for the kitchen or janitor.

They both step in & help teachers during lunches and engage with children & always make sure the kids are safe.



Counties Served: Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, and Sioux.

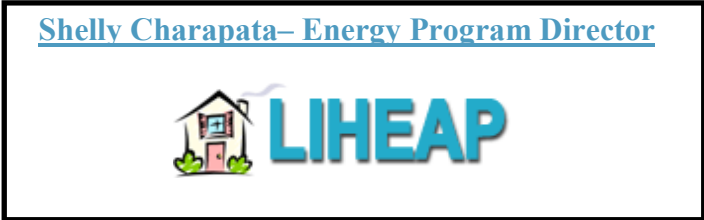
CACFP currently had 36 providers claiming for December.

On a positive note, I did sign a new provider in Clay county on December 28th. She will begin claiming on January 2, 2024, which will put me back to 37 providers. From the CCR&R monthly list I have also been talking to a gal from Hull. I am trying to help her through the HHS licensing process. So, fingers crossed I can sign her in a month or two.

Recruitment efforts will continue. I will make monthly cold calls from CCR&R's list of people that have contacted their office inquiring about becoming registered day care providers. Currently there are zero licensed daycare providers in both O'Brien and Pocahontas counties.

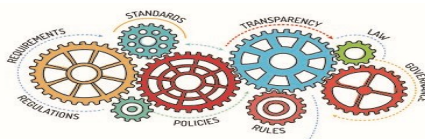
CACFP In-home Providers served the following meals in December:

	December 2023	December 2022
Breakfast:	4,175	4,318
Lunches:	4,235	4,616
Snacks:	5,032	5,329
Suppers:	125	139
Total Meals Served:	13,567	14,402
Providers Served:	36	45



- Liheap (Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program) is from November 1 - April 30.
- Anyone that applies for Liheap and are eligible, cannot be disconnected from their electric or natural gas from Nov. 1 – April 1. This is known as the Moratorium on winter disconnections.
- **LIHEAP APPLICATIONS:** For December, Outreach took and processed 591 Liheap applications and of that number 544 were eligible. 45 denied and 2 on pending.
- Received 61 Online Liheap Applications.
- **YTD TOTALS:** From 10-01-2023 to 12-31-2023: Total applications 4,195. Total eligible 3,995.
- Last year at this time: 4,143 applications were processed and 3,984 were eligible
- **CRISIS:** For December, 13 households received ECIP-Liheap Supplement 23ES also called ECIP 23 Extended Crisis funds in the amount of \$17,138.91. At this time, we are not assisting with crisis for Service Continuity, due to they are protected from being disconnected from the Moratorium.

Shakira Meyer – Director of Program Development, Compliance & Reporting



Funding for all 501(c)3 organizations is very competitive and potential funding sources (Federal, State and Local) continue to request more information in their grant applications. Therefore, the information and data collected by all staff is instrumental in demonstrating the work the entire Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. team does in making a difference in the lives of our consumers. Information being requested by potential funders includes:

- What is the need or problem to be addressed?
- How will this project benefit the citizens of the community?
- Who are other partners are in this project?
- How do you know the project is making a difference or having a positive impact?

UDMO Funding Requests Update:

Recent Foundation/Organizational/Trust Grants Submitted & Status: November 2023	County	Program	Submitted/ Pending	Awarded	Denied
Sheldon United Fund	OB	Outreach – Client Services	X		
United Way	BV, CL, OB	Outreach – Client Services		X	
Dickinson County Good Neighbor Fund	DI	Outreach – Client Services	X		
Barkema Trust	WR	Outreach – Client Services	X		
William Morrison Trust	HA	Outreach – Client Services		X	
City of Storm Lake	BV	Outreach – Client Services	X		
City of Spencer	CL	Outreach – Client Services			
CPPC/DCAT Mini-Grant	CL, DI, OB	KIDS		X	
Enhance Hamilton Foundation	HA	Outreach – Client Services	X		



Jessie Hansen-1st Five Project Director/KIDS Program Director



CSA4 – DECEMBER 2023 Monthly UDMO Board Report

Meredith Mickelson, 1st Five Site Coordinator

Counties Served: Calhoun, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster & Wright Counties

1st Five Services: Partnership between Primary Care Providers and Community partners to support child development in children birth up to their 5th birthday.

FY24 – 1st Five new incoming referrals listed below by county of referring clinic for current FY24

Referring County Provider-Clinic	New Incoming 1 st Five Referrals for CSA4 (Meredith Mickelson, 1 st Five Site Coordinator)											
	JULY 2023	AUG 2023	SEPT 2023	OCT 2023	NOV 2023	DEC 2023	JAN 2024	FEB 2024	MAR 2024	APR 2024	MAY 2024	JUNE 2024
FY24 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)												
CALHOUN	0	0	0	0	0	1						
HAMILTON	3	8	6	1	4	1						
HARDIN	0	2	0	0	0	3						
HUMBOLDT	4	0	0	1	0	1						
POCAHONTAS	1	0	0	0	0	0						
WEBSTER	2	11	9	4	0	6						
WRIGHT	1	1	5	3	2	1						
<i>New monthly incoming referrals</i>	11	22	20	9	6	13						
TOTAL CSA4 FY24 referrals (July 1, 2023-current)	11	33	53	62	68	81						
<i># of Different Primary Care Providers who referred current month</i>	9 primary care providers	13 primary care providers	16 primary care providers	9 primary care providers	5 primary care providers	12 Primary care providers						

Focus Area 1: Meeting with Primary Care Physicians/Clinics

- 1st Five delivered handwritten holiday cards, chocolates, referral form, updated Iowa HHS 1st Five brochure to clinics in the 7-county service area.
- 1st Five Site Coordinator and Medical Peer Champion continues to work towards scheduling peer consultation with UnityPoint Family Medicine in Pocahontas County.
- 1st Five encourages accredited developmental screening at well-child visits and if a delay or concern is identified a simple referral to UDMO 1st Five to help connect family with local resources.

Focus Area 2: Meeting with Community Partners

- Meredith continues to share information about 1st Five by attending community partner meetings in person or virtually. Information gathered at these community partner meetings/events is shared with 1st Five Developmental Support Specialists and/or other community partners. 1st Five promotional items, screening, EPSDT guidance are all available and distributed at these meetings/events.
- 1st Five Site Coordinator continues to reach out to be active with county community events and partnership meetings

Focus Area 3: Referrals/Communication with Families:

- Upper Des Moines Opportunity 1st Five continues to help support referred children and their families with services.
- Documentation into Iowa Connected Iowa HHS data entry system encouraged same day, but completion within 10 calendar days.



1st/Five Continued:

On-Going Efforts/Upcoming Changes:

- Staff supervisions written summaries & required Iowa HHS training and verification before subcontract payments are processed through UDMO. All subcontracts are complying.
- Fiscal end of year review discussion of moving shared UDMO DSS, Kristi Radtke, to CSA1 & CSA4 to 100% in CSA1. Then fiscal discussion of CSA4 discussion of subcontracts and posting a new position of internal UDMO Developmental Support Specialist Family worker to cover increasing need, referrals and help provide additional coverage support within CSA4's - 7 county service area and subcontract overflow.

KIDS Program-Jessie Hansen

The month of December has been incredibly busy! In December, we completed our group parent education meetings virtually. We had one participant and it was a great group. We will be offering this again in the Spring. For our individual services, we continue to receive referrals on an on-going basis and evaluate caseload sizes, include referrals for Palo Alto County. We also have a new worker Hailey Ferguson that will be starting January 8th and serving Palo Alto County under the Early Childhood North Central Iowa Contract. She will be in the process of training her through March when she will be able to provide visits on her own.

Quarterly reports are due January 15th and I will be working on getting those completed on time. I also scheduled home visit observations in December and due to the holidays and illness, we were unable to get them completed.



"Weatherization Report for December 2023"

Number of Families Served in December 2023: 15

Number of Families Served in FY 2023: 102

Goal for 2023: 110 Homes

Weatherization Update:

The Weatherization Department for the month of December we completed 15 homes more than our average. We were a little short of our goal of 110, but between contractors and weather I am very pleased how close we came to getting this number of homes completed. As far as the rest of the month not much for changes or new announcements for the Weatherization program, but we did receive notice from the state that we should be receiving our new contracts sometime in January 2024 from the State which is our HEAP contract and from our 3 Utility Vendors BHE (Black Hills Energy), MEC (MidAmerican Energy), and IPL (Alliant Energy). Then of course we will get our DOE (Department of Energy) funding at the beginning of March of 2024. I am looking forward to FY24 year to start and see what the future holds for our program and our employees moving forward and see what results we can accomplish and how many families we can impact in a positive way through our program.

Until then we will continue to push hard and create results and effectively assist our clients with their energy needs on their homes in our 17- county area that we serve.

Celebrating 1ST Five CSA-1 in the New Year

2023
A year of growth
for
1st Five CSA-1

We welcomed-

13 Referring Providers

9 Referring Clinics &

25 Children

to the 1st Five referral
process since June!

Additionally,

- ✓ Held our 1st Peer Consultation with 12 in attendance
- ✓ Provided 4 ASQ-3 training sessions to 60+ clinic staff
- ✓ Presented at community partner meetings to increase awareness of our 1st Five mission.

“

The purpose of human life
is to serve, and to show
compassion and the will
to help others.

—
ALBERT SCHWEITZER

2024 Work Plans

Priority Area 1

(Primary Care Providers):

- Continue building & sustaining strong relations with providers and clinic staff
- Focus on more consistent implementation of universal screening during well-checks

Priority Area 2

(Community Partnerships):

- Network with community partners to better understand the importance of the 1st Five initiative
- Elevate our awareness to different resource connections
- Work in partnership to better utilize all possible resources

Priority Area 3

(Documentation):

- Ensure timeliness & accuracy of documentation with providers, clients, and state data system
- Monthly data management review for quality assurance

Priority Area 4

(Performance Improvement):

- Focus on increasing the number of providers utilizing universal screening during well-checks and referring when developmental delays arise
- Provide universal screening trainings to support this plan

Teresa K. Ball, MA
1st Five Site Coordinator, CSA-1
(712) 298-6751
tball@udmo.com

Housing Report- Tanya Thelen
Housing Director



42 Households (99 Individuals) were assisted.

<p>TBRA: 4 Households and 9 Individuals</p>	<p>ERA: Homeless Prevention: 26 Households and 66 Individuals Rapid Rehousing: 12 Households and 24 Individuals</p>
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We have been attending several meetings and training revolving around the new **Rural Unsheltered Funding** from HUD. We are hoping to have the program launched soon.

Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) for Homeless Prevention has returned and we are now accepting applicants.

Other Meetings and Trainings:

- Iowa Balance of State CoC Board Meeting
- Coordinated Entry Committee Monthly Meeting
- IA Bos CoC Membership Task Group
- Fort Dodge Housing Coalition Meeting
- ESG Homeless Prevention & Rapid Rehousing Quarterly Call
- DEI Training with IA BoS CoC Presented by IMAN Consulting, Dr. LaDrina Wilson

On December 14th Housing staff attended the **Slam the Stigma Night** held at Fort Dodge Senior High School. We handed out information about UDMO Housing Programs as well as UDMO trifold brochure to those who attended.

2024 Point-In-Time Count mailers have been sent to roughly 500 community partners. The PIT Count will be held this year on Wednesday January 24th. The purpose of the Point-In-Time count is to capture an accurate snapshot of how many individuals are experiencing homelessness on one of the coldest days of the year in Iowa. We're looking for volunteers to help with this year's count. Please call Tanya at 515-269-7105 if you would like to help. More information on the Annual Point-Time-Count can be found here:

<https://icalliances.org/iowa-point-in-time>

If you would like to learn more about Point-In-Time please watch these videos:

2024 PIT 101 Basic Overview <https://d217465ul2v2fl.cloudfront.net/Iowa/Kasper%27s%20Shenanigans/PIT%20Vids/PIT%202024/PIT%20101.mp4>

2024 PIT 201 Unsheltered/Street Count

<https://d217465ul2v2fl.cloudfront.net/Iowa/Kasper%27s%20Shenanigans/PIT%20Vids/PIT%202024/PIT%20201.mp4>

Point-In-Time Promotional Video

https://d217465ul2v2fl.cloudfront.net/Iowa/Kasper%27s%20Shenanigans/PIT%20Vids/PIT%202024/What_Is_The_Pit_nm.m4v



Housing Continued:**Point-In-Time Scenario Video**

https://d217465ul2v2fl.cloudfront.net/Iowa/Kasper%27s%20Shenanigans/PIT%20Vids/PIT%202024/pit_scenarios_2023.mp4

Statewide Crisis Line Update: Clients in need of rental assistance should call the **Statewide Crisis Line** at 1-833-739-0065 to complete the intake process. Due to staffing shortages the Call Center is reporting delayed call backs. UDMO Housing staff are accommodating as many as possible with the intake process to help alleviate long wait times.

Effective January 1, 2024 the Statewide Crisis Line will no longer offer 24/7 live operator service. Normal business hours will be 7am-8pm. Clients calling outside of these hours will still be able to leave a message and will be triaged the next business day.

**Enrollment:**

Head Start Program is fully enrolled with 289 students. Early Head Start Program is fully enrolled with 183 students for year-round programming.

Disabilities:

- EHS students being served on IFSP's: 17
- HS students being served on IEP's: 16

Continuing Education

- Head Start CDA TEACH in progress: 5
- Early Head Start CDA TEACH in progress: 1
- Total CDA's completed- 0

TEACH – 2 year or 4 year degree

- Associates degree in progress: 0 completed
- Bachelor's degree in progress: 1 in progress
- Bachelor's degree completed: 1 completed

COACHING-number participating

- Teachers: 5
- Home Base Teachers: 2

What's Happening:

- Recruitment efforts are ongoing and will continue to increase to start planning for the 2024-2025 school year



Spencer Legion Riders donated toys for all the children in the Spencer Classrooms at Jefferson Head Start!

Tiffany Harris– HR Director



Please continue to review your paystubs every pay day! Open enrollment EDI file feeds processed with several errors. We are working through those and all should be fine now. We have heard from several of you about insurance cards --- everyone should have those within the week. If you still haven't received them, please reach out to Ashley.

In an effort to begin recognizing our staff members for their outstanding performance, **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH nominations is ongoing.** The nomination form can be found out on SharePoint, or requested from HR. Please have all nominations to HR by the 15th of each month.

Congratulations to our January Employees of the Month, **Lori Smith & DeeAnn Sandgren**, Storm Lake Cooks!

Despite having some technical difficulties with our job postings reflecting as 'remote' on Indeed, there has been a major uptick in applicants for many positions.

- Outreach Specialist, Pocahontas: 19 applicants
- Outreach Specialist, Humboldt: 24 applicants
- Outreach Specialist, Webster: 34 applicants
- KIDS Family Support Specialist: 14 applicants
- Home Auditor, Weatherization: 24 applicants

The following positions have recently separated employment:

- Outreach Specialist, Webster
- Outreach Specialist, Humboldt
- Sub, Gingerbread

Wellness Challenge: Don't Wait, Hydrate!

- Challenge: January 8, 2024 – February 4, 2024
- Log in to DAILY to record task completion
- Participation Incentive: Shaker Bottle
- 89 employees registered

Work Comp Incident Report Recap:

In order to keep our rates from rising, our goal is to provide a safe working environment to keep these incident reports to a minimum and avoid preventable work comp claims.

- October 2023: 5 Incident Reports
- November 23: 3 Incident Reports
- December 23: 2 Incident Reports
- YTD Total: **50**

Alisa Schlieff– Family & Community Services Director



FaDSS:

Webster, Wright, Hamilton, Humboldt, Palo Alto, Emmet, Buena Vista and Pocahontas

December 2023

Number of Families Served: for December 2023 74 families

Year to Date Families Served: July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023: 92 families

Success Story:

FaDSS Specialists have been partnering with Outreach over the last month to assist with all the amazing events that have been going on in Outreach. Outreach is so grateful for their support and partnership!

FaDSS will be attending their annual **FaDSS Day on the Hill on January 25th, 2024**. The theme for this year is FaDSS Forward.

Outreach:

Webster, Wright, Hamilton, Humboldt, Palo Alto, Emmet, Buena Vista and Pocahontas

December was a very busy and overwhelming month for our Outreach Specialist. They completed multiple holiday events, LIHEAP appointments, food drives and most importantly spending time with their families during the holiday season.

Outreach currently has 3 open positions: Webster, Humboldt and Pocahontas. We have been overwhelmed with the number of applicants that we have received and are sure we will find someone that will make our team even stronger.

Humboldt, O'Brien and Wright Counties starting Jan 1st, 2024 will be open M-TH 8-12, 1-4.

Osceola and Pocahontas Counties starting Jan 1st, 2024 will be open T-TH 8-12, 1-4

Webster County is having an open house to show off our new space on Jan 19th!



Spencer Fire Department and UPS drivers delivered Christmas gifts to families in Clay County.





Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS)

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT FaDSS



WHAT IS FaDSS?

- Evidence-informed program focusing on long-term change for low-income Iowa families.
- The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services collaborates with 15 Community Action Agencies and other non-profit organizations to provide FaDSS in all **99 counties**.
- Fiscal Year 2023: FaDSS served **2,143 families** (including **1,680 children**)

WHAT SERVICES DOES FaDSS PROVIDE?

- Skill development, including:
 - Budgeting
 - Parenting
 - Healthy Behaviors
 - Self-advocacy
- Work readiness
- Community connections
- Help communities in understanding poverty
- Strengths and barriers assessments
- Goal-setting and attainment

HOW HAS FaDSS HELPED IOWANS OVERCOME BARRIERS?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

212

families experienced domestic violence

79%

accessed assistance

79%

accessed assistance with the help of FaDSS

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

419

adults with substantiated mental health issues

87%

accessed treatment

92%

accessed treatment with the help of FaDSS

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

135

families experienced substance abuse

87%

accessed treatment

81%

accessed treatment with the help of FaDSS

*All statistical information is from FY 2023.

FaDSS FAMILY WAGES GENERATED SAVINGS IN FIP

\$9,942,658 = **\$785,047**
total FaDSS family wages total FIP savings

IMPROVED LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT AT EXIT INCREASED FAMILY INCOME

\$3,201 ↑ **\$1,623**
average monthly income increase in average monthly income

35%

of families engaged in career development activities

153

adults exited FaDSS with a change in education status

FaDSS FAMILIES IMPROVED IN SELF-SUFFICIENCY CATEGORIES



HOUSING

27%↑

of families improved



TRANSPORTATION

28%↑

of families improved



CHILD CARE

25%↑

of families improved

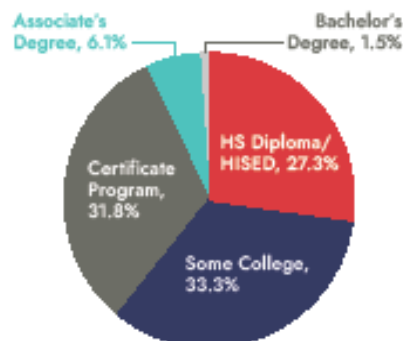


SUPPORT NETWORK

38%↑

of families improved

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FY23



Outreach - December 2023

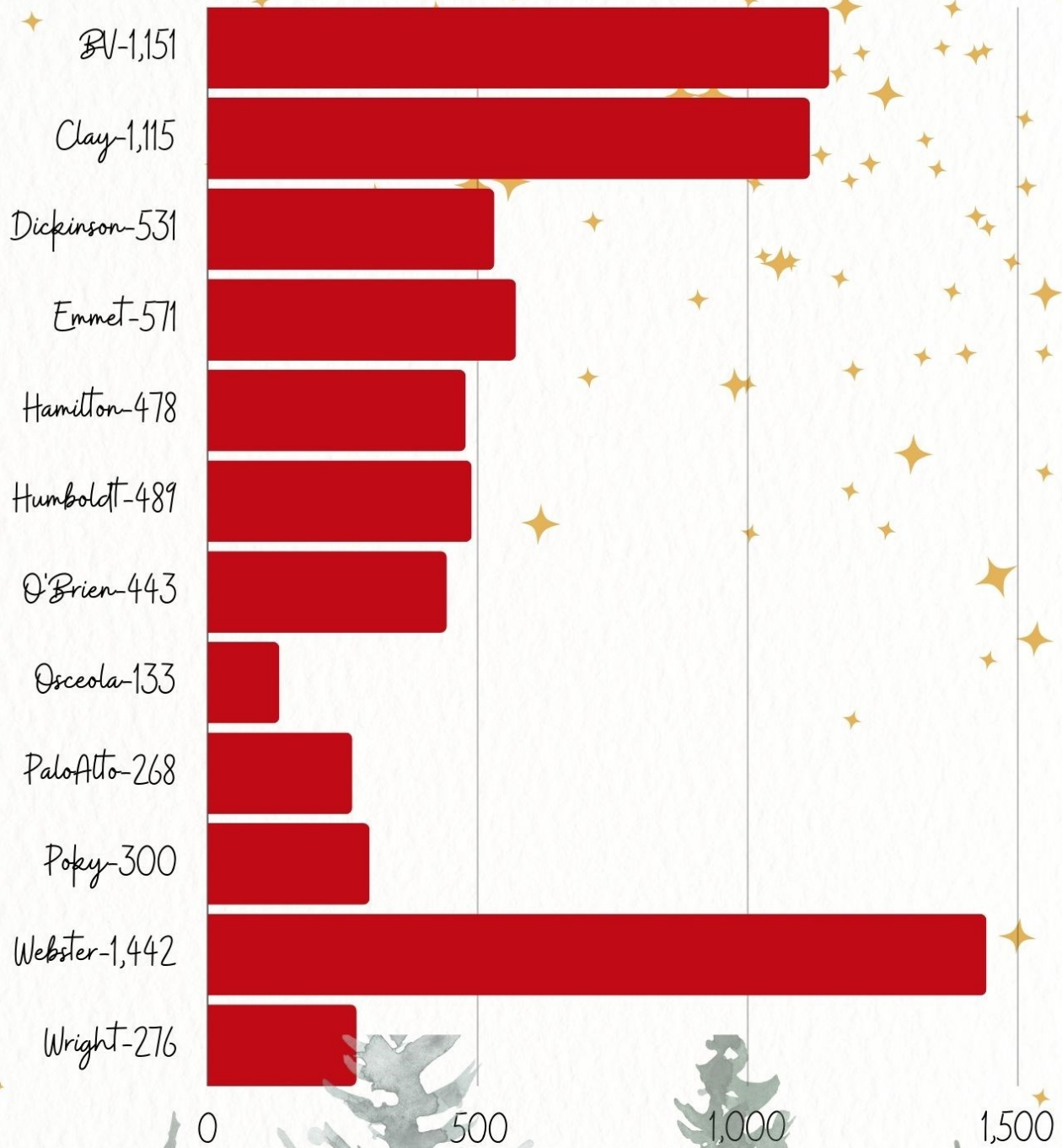
Individuals Served



MONETARY DONATIONS

BV- \$0	O'Brien- \$5,027.50
Clay- \$22,429.11	Osceola- \$2,686.28
Dickinson- \$10,295.00	Palo Alto- \$5,554.00
Emmet- \$20,329.00	Pocahontas- \$5,695.00
Hamilton- \$8,110.00	Webster- \$1,675.00
Humboldt- \$7,640.00	Wright- \$2,245.00

Individuals served



Outreach was very busy in December with many holiday programs! Happy New Year!