

# In The Know, UDMO February 2024



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**All Staff Day!**

**September  
17th**

**The Shores**

**Emmetsburg**



The Clay County Deputy Association donated \$1,500 to Clay Outreach for the purchase of hats, gloves, boots, snow pants, and other winter gear.



UDMO recently participated in helping clients enroll in The Affordable Connectivity Program or ACP. This is a government assistance program by the FCC designed to ensure that low-income households can access the internet they need for work, education, healthcare, and more. Households qualify for this by participating in certain Government Assistance Programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, or other programs. This program was facilitated by SWA Connect, they are an authorized provider for ACP. They provided the client with a tablet and us with a portal where we could access people who have applied and also see if they required other or additional documentation to be processed.

We were told that this program would be ending on February 7th. So staff worked hard to enroll people before that date. There was talk of the program possibly starting up again at a later date, but we have not received word on that. As of the writing of this newsletter we have enrolled **137** people in the program! Tablets have been arriving at Central Office, and are being picked up by various staff to be distributed to the families. Way to go, UDMO!!



FaDSS staff spent the day speaking with our state legislators about the FaDSS program and the outcomes from participants in the program. Pictured is UDMO FaDSS Specialists Jamie Johnston, Ronette Rosales-Brown and Ashley Cooklin speaking with Representative Wills and Representative Thompson.

## Executive Director Report by Julie Edwards



### Monthly Happenings:

- **Leadership Training**
  - UDMO Directors have been participating in National Community Action Partnership's data related trainings. January's focus was on **Data Practices & Systems Fundamentals**: key data practices and data systems roles in supporting a data informed culture. This is critical for UDMO to establish the effective analysis practices in order to make program and agency decisions.
  - Sarah Ennis met with the team again for a full day of leadership training on sensitivity at work.
- **DHHS Realignment**
  - The Iowa Health & Human Services has released the Service Delivery Alignment Assessment Report. The 193-page document provides recommendations for changes to current service delivery practices based on approaches implemented in other states. We will follow this closely as the proposed recommendations are considered and decisions are made on how to move forward.
  - **Community Action Agencies was renamed Division of Community Access and Eligibility.**
  - **FaDSS was moved from Community Action Agencies to Division of Family Well-Being and Protection** so as to move it closer to other home visiting programs. At this point, we have been informed the FaDSS model will remain and the contracts with UDMO will continue. More information is anticipated as the state works through the technical details of the transition.
- **Advocacy in Des Moines**
  - ICAA has been instrumental in arranging Legislative Breakfasts for Community Action and Head Start. Shakira Meyer represented UDMO. Letters to policy makers continue to be sent as needed based on subcommittee activities.
- **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
  - Coverage of Head Start due to the resignation of the Early Childhood Program Director.
  - We have also been engaged in recruiting a new ECP Director.
- **FaDSS**
  - Staff attended the Day on the Hill in Des Moines on January 25 to raise awareness about the positive impacts the program produces.
- **Outreach**
  - We have been in discussions with ICAA regarding assistance with UDMO's Fundraising efforts. A formal plan is being developed.
  - Alisa, Heather and each Outreach office has been focused on planning fundraising events in their communities.
- **Housing**
  - CHAMP is an Integrated Case Management program by funding direct assistance for enrolled Amerigroup members to assist them in attaining and maintaining safe and stable housing.
  - Rural Set Aside grant has executed the HUD contract so housing services can begin.

### Stay Survey 2024

Employee's opinions matter so for the second year in a row we have gathered and analyzed the data. This year fewer staff completed the survey.

|                        | 2023 |  | 2024 |
|------------------------|------|--|------|
| Employees Sent Surveys | 205  |  | 197  |
| Employee Responses     | 157  |  | 129  |
| Response Rate          | 76%  |  | 65%  |



### Executive Director-Continued;

The top three responses were the same from the previous year.

| Most Enjoyable Aspect of Work | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|
| The clients/families/children | 52%  | 57%  |
| Coworkers/supervisors         | 24%  | 50%  |
| Flexibility within their job  | 8%   | 9%   |

Responses to other questions saw growth and decline.

| % of staff who responded "Yes" to the following questions:                                   | 2023 | 2024 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| Do you receive enough recognition?                                                           | 71%  | 84%  |
| Are you able to have a work/life balance?                                                    | 78%  | 76%  |
| Would you apply for your position again?                                                     | 92%  | 94%  |
| Is the support you receive from admin helpful?<br>(Admin = Program Director, Fiscal, HR, IT) | 92%  | 91%  |

### **How does UDMO compare to nation statistics?**

- Gallup reports 37% of workers in the US strongly agree that they receive recognition yearly. Happiness magnifies productivity by 13%. Peer to peer recognition has a 35% impact. UDMO is in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- 60% of employees say they are able to effectively balance their work and personal commitments as per Zippia. Personal perfectionism is noted as the biggest barrier to a good work-life balance. UDMO employees report being above 75% the past two years.
- Gallup notes 63% of employees nationally would not change their job. UDMO has over 90% of employees who would apply for their position again which may correlate with the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of employees feeling their administrative team is supportive and 50% say their co-workers and supervisors are one of the most enjoyable aspects of their work.

UDMO Administrative Team developed a couple goals from the Stay Survey:

- At the interview explain to employees the nuances of working at a non-profit includes a lot of paperwork and raises if there is funding.
- Focus on clear communication whether content is positive or negative.

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

- Finance Report
- Outreach Update
- Unsheltered Rural Set Aside – Update & Vehicles
- Corporate Vehicle
- UDMO Apartment Appraisals
- New Data System
- UDMO Fundraising Update
- Early Childhood Programs Director Update

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





DEB HAS A GREAT ATTITUDE & WILLING TO LEND A HAND TO ANYONE.

DEB STEPPED IN AND HELPED WITH ADOPT A FAMILY, WHEN STAFF WAS OUT.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



DEB HARRIS. ACCOUNTING CLERK - FISCAL

DEB HAS TAKEN ON EXTRA DUTIES WHEN SHORT STAFFED.

DEB HELPS KEEP TRACK OF DAILY ITEMS, & HELPS KEEP THINGS ON TRACK.

*Congrats!*



GOES ABOVE & BEYOND ALWAYS WILLING TO INTERPRET

KIND & CARING

POSITIVE ATTITUDE



Employee

Congratulations

Month

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP OTHERS

HARD WORKER

LUPITA BARAJAS-

HOME BASED TEACHER @ EMMET

Employee of...

- flexible schedule
- ensure basic needs met

- Kind & Caring
- Builds relationships
- Always willing to interpret
- Hard Worker

-Positive attitude  
willing to help others



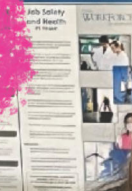
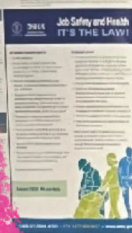
Lesson Plan

Sept/Oct  
Dec/Jan  
March/  
June

my Babies

only Base  
rt+2!

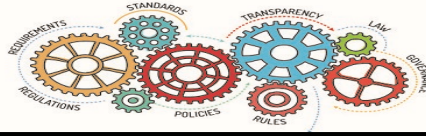
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## Shakira Meyer – Director of Program Development, Compliance & Reporting



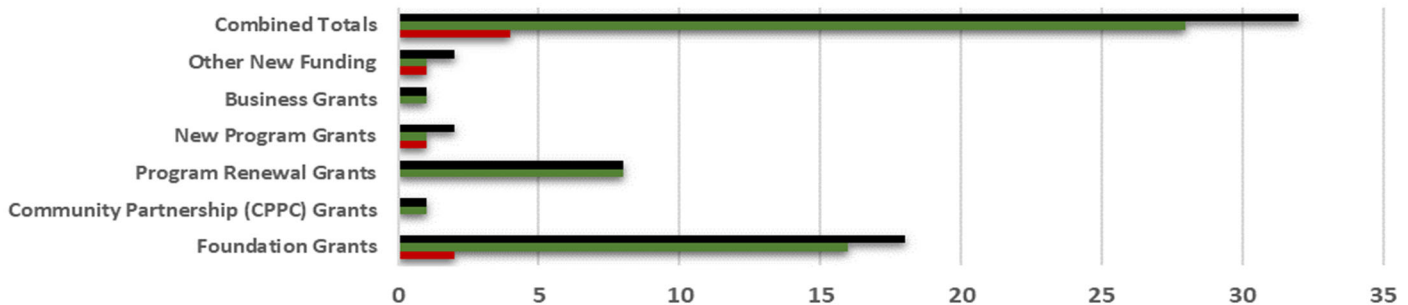
The Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. Board of Directors received a 2023 Grant Funding Request Report at their January 23, 2024, meeting. During 2023, UDMO applied for \$1,836,933 in funding and was awarded \$1,523,158, receiving 83% of the funding requested. These funding requests were from Community Foundations, Business Foundations, Mini-Grants, Program Renewals for KIDS and new and renewal grants for the UDMO Housing Program. Funding requests vary from year to year and amounts awarded are based on fund availability from granters.

### UDMO Funding Requests Update:

| Recent Foundation/Organizational/Trust Grants Submitted & Status: February 2024 | County                         | Program                                                                           | Submitted/Pending | Awarded | Denied |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|--------|
| Clay County Community Foundation                                                | CL                             | Outreach – Food Pantry                                                            | X                 |         |        |
| Iowa Health & Human Services                                                    | BV, CL, DI, EM, OB, OS, PA, PO | 9 Individual Grants - 1 per Site – Health & Safety and Minor Repairs as allowable | X                 |         |        |
| Enhance Hamilton Foundation                                                     | HA                             | Outreach – Client Services                                                        |                   | X       |        |
| Sheldon United Fund                                                             | OB                             | Outreach – Client Services                                                        | X                 |         |        |
| City of Sheldon                                                                 | OB                             | Outreach – Client Services                                                        |                   | X       |        |
| City of Storm Lake                                                              | BV                             | Outreach – Client Services                                                        | X                 |         |        |
| City of Spencer                                                                 | CL                             | Outreach – Client Services                                                        | X                 |         |        |
| Dickinson County Good Neighbor Fund                                             | DI                             | Outreach – Client Services                                                        | X                 |         |        |
| Barkema Trust                                                                   | WR                             | Outreach – Client Services                                                        |                   | X       |        |

| Program Grants Submitted and Status as of February 3, 2023 | County                         | Program                     | Submitted/Pending | Awarded | Denied |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------|--------|
| Head Start                                                 | BV, CL, DI, EM, OB, OS, PA, PO | Head Start/Early Head Start | X                 |         |        |

### Grant Summary: January 2023 to December 2023 All Grants Applied For and Funding Outcome



|                       | Foundation Grants | Community Partnership (CPPC) Grants | Program Renewal Grants | New Program Grants | Business Grants | Other New Funding | Combined Totals |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Applied For         | 18                | 1                                   | 8                      | 2                  | 1               | 2                 | 32              |
| ■ Funding Awarded     | 16                | 1                                   | 8                      | 1                  | 1               | 1                 | 28              |
| ■ Funding Not Awarded | 2                 | 0                                   | 0                      | 1                  | 0               | 1                 | 4               |

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




**CSA4 – January 2024 Monthly UDMO Board Report**

***Meredith Mickelson, 1<sup>st</sup> Five Site Coordinator***

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

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

*FY24 – 1<sup>st</sup> Five new incoming referrals listed below by county of referring clinic for current FY24*

| Referring County Provider/Clinic                                        | <br><b>New Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Five Referrals for CSA4</b><br><i>(Meredith Mickelson, 1<sup>st</sup> Five Site Coordinator)</i> |                                  |                                  |                                 |                                 |                                  |                                 |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                                                         | FY24<br>(July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)                                                                                                                                                                                 | JULY<br>2023                     | AUG<br>2023                      | SEP<br>T<br>2023                | OCT<br>2023                     | NOV<br>2023                      | DEC<br>2023                     | JAN<br>2024 | FEB<br>2024 | MAR<br>2024 | APR<br>2024 | MA<br>Y<br>2024 | JUNE<br>2024 |
| <b>CALHOUN</b>                                                          | 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 0                                | 0                                | 0                               | 0                               | 1                                | 0                               |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
| <b>HAMILTON</b>                                                         | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 8                                | 6                                | 1                               | 4                               | 1                                | 2                               |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
| <b>HARDIN</b>                                                           | 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2                                | 0                                | 0                               | 0                               | 3                                | 0                               |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
| <b>HUMBOLDT</b>                                                         | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 0                                | 0                                | 1                               | 0                               | 1                                | 0                               |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
| <b>POCAHONTAS</b>                                                       | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 0                                | 0                                | 0                               | 0                               | 0                                | 0                               |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
| <b>WEBSTER</b>                                                          | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 11                               | 9                                | 4                               | 0                               | 6                                | 1                               |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
| <b>WRIGHT</b>                                                           | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1                                | 5                                | 3                               | 2                               | 1                                | 3                               |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
| <i>New monthly incoming referrals</i>                                   | <i>11</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>22</i>                        | <i>20</i>                        | <i>9</i>                        | <i>6</i>                        | <i>13</i>                        | <i>6</i>                        |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
| <b>TOTAL CSA4 FY24 referrals (July 1, 2023-current)</b>                 | <b>11</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>33</b>                        | <b>53</b>                        | <b>62</b>                       | <b>68</b>                       | <b>81</b>                        | <b>87</b>                       |             |             |             |             |                 |              |
| <i># of Different Primary Care Providers who referred current month</i> | <i>9 primary care providers</i>                                                                                                                                                                                      | <i>13 primary care providers</i> | <i>16 primary care providers</i> | <i>9 primary care providers</i> | <i>5 primary care providers</i> | <i>12 primary care providers</i> | <i>6 primary care providers</i> |             |             |             |             |                 |              |

**Focus Area 1: Meeting with Primary Care Physicians/Clinics**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Five has created a 2023 Gold/Platinum Referring Provider Recognition Certificates for each provider who referred into 1<sup>st</sup> Five between Jan 1, 2023-Dec 31, 2023.
  - Gold Provider Recognition Certificate:** Referring provider successfully referred and partnered with Upper Des Moines 1<sup>st</sup> Five.
  - Platinum Provider Recognition Certificate:** Referring provider successfully documented a completed developmental screening along with referral and partnership with Upper Des Moines 1<sup>st</sup> Five.
- On January 30, 2024:** Meredith and 1<sup>st</sup> Five Medical Peer Champion, Dr. Andrea McLoughlin, MD, successfully completed a Lunch & Learn “1<sup>st</sup> Five Partnership Basics” clinic presentation with UnityPoint Family Medicine Clinics (Pocahontas & Laurens clinic staff).
- 1<sup>st</sup> Five encourages accredited developmental screenings at well-child visits and if a delay or concern is identified a simple referral to UDMO 1<sup>st</sup> Five to help connect family with local resources.

**Focus Area 2: Meeting with Community Partners**

- Meredith continues to share information about 1<sup>st</sup> Five by attending community partner meetings in person or virtually. Information gathered at these community partner meetings/events is shared with 1<sup>st</sup> Five Developmental Support Specialists and/or other community partners. 1<sup>st</sup> Five promotional items, screening, EPSDT guidance are all available and distributed at these meetings/events.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Five Site Coordinator continues to reach out to be active with county community events and partnership meetings
- 1/30/24: Meredith UDMO 1<sup>st</sup> Five booth “Slam the Stigma” in Rockwell City (*Calhoun County*) partnership with McCrary Rost/Stewart Memorial.

**Focus Area 3: Referrals/Communication with Families:**

- Upper Des Moines Opportunity 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



**On-Going Efforts/Upcoming Changes:**

- Continuing staff supervisions written summaries, required Iowa HHS training and verification before subcontract payments are processed through UDMO. All subcontracts are complying.
- UDMO 1<sup>st</sup> Five determined to discontinued the Wright County 1<sup>st</sup> Five Subcontract effective 1/31/2024.
- Currently, Kristi Radtke, continues to assist with DSS Family Worker support while CSA#4 continues to interview for potential candidates for 1<sup>st</sup> Five DSS family worker position to cover the increasing need, referrals and provide additional support coverage within CSA4 - 7 county service area.

**Some pictures from UnityPoint Pocahontas/Laurens Peer Consultation Meeting (1st Five Partnership Basics)**



**KIDS Program: Jessie Hansen**

In January, I completed midyear reports for all six counties that we provide services. Our number of families and children served per county have slowed from last year. Last year we had two home visitors, and this year we have four. We have a number

Mid-year numbers: 33 Families, 47 Children and 100 home visits.

Last year comparison: 49 Families, 65 Children, and 183 home visits.

Average: 34 families and 55 children.

**Interesting facts:** Families are split equally between Clay, Dickinson and O'Brien Counties and the Emmet, Palo Alto, and Kosuth. 21 out of 47 children are two years of age and under.

We are in preparation for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and looking at marketing and promotional events.

We also will be reaching out to Board of Supervisors and County Representatives to sign a proclamation again this year.

The KIDS Program applied for a Lakes Area Decategorization/Community Partnership for Protecting Children Grant and found out we were denied. The Community Partnership for Protecting Children group is made out of service providers that know and work in the community with children and families. Applications were submitted to this group, which were then discussed and recommendations to support the communities of Clay, Dickinson, Osceola, and O'Brien Counties. The CPPC group submitted their recommendations to the DECAT Board. There were three grants out of the CPPC group recommendation to the DECAT were not funded, which included ours. It's unfortunate, but we will look for other opportunities for funding to support the KIDS Program.



# Admiring our Valued Partnerships with Primary Care Providers

**February 2024**

**1st Five: CSA-1**

Recognized 15 referring providers  
for their work in 2023.



## Platinum Recognition

**8 Providers** performed universal  
screening & referred to 1st Five

## Gold Recognition

**7 Providers** referred children birth to  
five for developmental concerns



Clinics included:  
Sanford, Avera, MercyOne,  
OCHS, & PACHS



***1st Five***

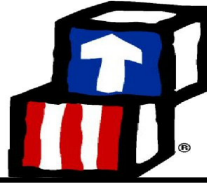
Loves Making a Difference,  
One Referral at a Time



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

*Serving Clinics & Providers in Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien, Osceola, and Palo Alto Counties*

## 0-5 Early Childhood Programs– Submitted by Julie Edwards



### **Enrollment:**

Early Head Start is fully enrolled with 183 children.

Head Start is fully enrolled with 289 children.

### **Disabilities:**

Last month during our monthly Head Start Regional Office meeting. Tina Younger, Program Specialist, informed us that we can count children whose parents have signed written consent in our disability number so that is why this section looks a little different than previous months.

Early Head Start students served on IFSP's: 18

Head Start students served on IFSP's: 21

**Total served: 39**

Early Head Start students whose parents have signed written consent for evaluation: 0

Head Start students whose parents have signed written consent for evaluation: 4

**Total with written consent: 4** (with 3 of these moving forward with an IEP. 1 still in progress)

**Grant Total is with our target number: 43**

### **TEACH – CDA, 2 year or 4-year Degree:**

CDA certification in progress: 7 with 2 more starting in March 2024

Associates degree in progress: 1 completed in January 2024 and 1 in progress

Bachelor degree in progress: 1

### **Coaching:**

Teachers – 5

Home Base Teachers – 2

### **What's Happening:**

- Staff have done a fabulous job securing in-kind to finish out the Head Start grant year which ends on 2/28/24!
- Transition Plans are in place and being carried out by Head Start leaders in the absence of the Director and Education Coordinator. Thank you to those leaders for continuing to push through challenging times with dedication to the children, families and staff. Can't thank you enough for the team work exhibited!
- Balancing workloads through job responsibilities is being examined.
- Recruitment for the 2024-2025 school year is underway with acceptance planned to begin in April.
- Head Start's annual Self-Assessment is getting planned and will be carried out over the next few months.





Lovely housing ladies representing at the Calhoun County Slam The Stigma event on 1/30/24-Submitted by Meredith Mickelson, 1st Five Site Coordinator

53 Households (127 Individuals) were assisted.

|                                                        |                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>ESG:</b><br/>5 Households and 19 Individuals</p> | <p><b>ERA:</b><br/>Homeless Prevention: 36 Households and 86 Individuals<br/>Rapid Rehousing: 12 Households and 22 Individuals</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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.

**Other Meetings and Trainings:**

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

**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. Call backs are being made within 24-48 hours.

**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.**

**Kyle Dietrich-Weatherization Director**



**Number of Families Served in January 2024: 10**

**Number of Families Served in FY 2024: 10**

**Goal for 2023: 110 Homes**

### Weatherization Update:

The Weatherization Department for the month of January we started of the month on track with our 10-home minimum. This was a great month starting the new year off on the right track we also have had great weather this winter and has been really bringing in the homes and helping our clients get the work done quicker. We have also started this year with a large amount of responses from clients and have more than enough homes to push through the year to meet our goals of 110 Homes this year. I would like to meet or exceed this year since we fell a tad short of only 102 homes last year still a good year, but I would like to improve on that in 2024. We are currently working on hopefully getting our utility contracts in February since we didn't in January from the state so hopefully that will come in this month and I can let everyone know where we stand with that funding. We did however receive our new HEAP funds of a total of \$686,394.00

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.





**Please continue to review your paystubs every pay day. If you are not satisfied with the State & Federal taxes coming out of your check, submit a new W4 form AFTER consulting with your tax professional!**

Congratulations to our February Employees of the Month, **Head Start: Maria Barajas (Emmet Head Start) & Non-Head Start: Deb Harris (Central Office).** All nomination forms are due to HR by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**The following positions have recently separated employment:**

- WRAP Assistant Teacher, Jefferson
- HS Janitor/Food Service, Sheldon
- Sub, Gingerbread
- Home Based Teacher, Gingerbread
- HS Teacher, Gingerbread
- Education Coordinator
- ECP Director

**Wellness Challenge: Don't Wait, Hydrate!**

- Challenge: January 8, 2024 – February 4, 2024
- Participation Incentive: UDMO Shaker Bottle
- 101 employees registered
  - 91 employees completed the challenge
- HR will deliver the incentive to those employees as they are able. THANK YOU to all who participated!

**HR TIDBITS:**

- Space heaters are strongly discouraged in the workplace, but for those of you who may be using one in your office, they MUST be plugged directly into an outlet, NOT a power strip.
- During the winter months, pay attention to your direct walking path to avoid a slip, trip or fall on the ice!

**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.**

- January 2024: 3 incident reports
- YTD Total: 3

**ALL STAFF DAY: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 \*\*\* ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED**



## Family & Community Services Director-Alisa Schlieff



### FaDSS:

Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Webster and Wright  
**January 2023**

**Number of Families Served: for January 2024 78 families**

**Year to Date Families Served: July 1, 2022 to January 31, 2024: 98 families**

### Success Story:

FaDSS attended their annual **FaDSS Day on the Hill on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. They were able to meet with 5 of our local legislators regarding the importance of the FaDSS programs and share some of our success stories.

### Outreach:

Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Webster and Wright

All of our Outreach offices are in the planning phase of multiple fundraisers. We will work on getting these out to all staff, board members and communities. Please watch our social media platforms-Facebook and Instagram.

Outreach continues to take applications for LIHEAP and Embrace Iowa. Our food programs continue to increase in all of our counties and at times we are struggling to keep our shelves stocked.

10 of our 12 Outreach offices completed our CHORE program with 114 household (65+)receiving \$100 to assist them in the costs associated with services to help them continue to live independently.

Outreach currently has 1 open positions: Humboldt

### Upcoming Fundraisers:

February 18<sup>th</sup>-Omlete Meal-Clay County

February 29<sup>th</sup>-DJ BINGO-Clay County

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

## UDMO, Kiwanis helping to celebrate birthdays

*Gazette-Tribune  
Wed 4pm 31.2024*

BY SANDRA JENSON  
SJENSON@GIZMOTO.COM

The Sibley Kiwanis Club helped Upper Des Moines Opportunity take the first step in restarting a benefit for county children.

A surprise visit from club members resulted in Osceola County outreach specialist Pam Braun accepting a delivery of cake mixes, frosting and candles to distribute to families as part of a birthday recognition program.

After completing her first year in the position, Braun aims to build back

programs reduced or cut because of funding shortages.

The birthday program provides items such as a cake mix, frosting, candles, plates and napkins, as well as the chance for the birthday child to choose a toy. Donations of toys and paper goods are welcome anytime.

Children up to 10 years old whose families are registered in a UDMO program are eligible to participate.

This adds to several other programs run through the

Sibley office.

"The food bank is always taking donations, whether monetary or food," Braun said.

Common products hard to keep in stock are ketchup, mashed potatoes, cereal and laundry soap.

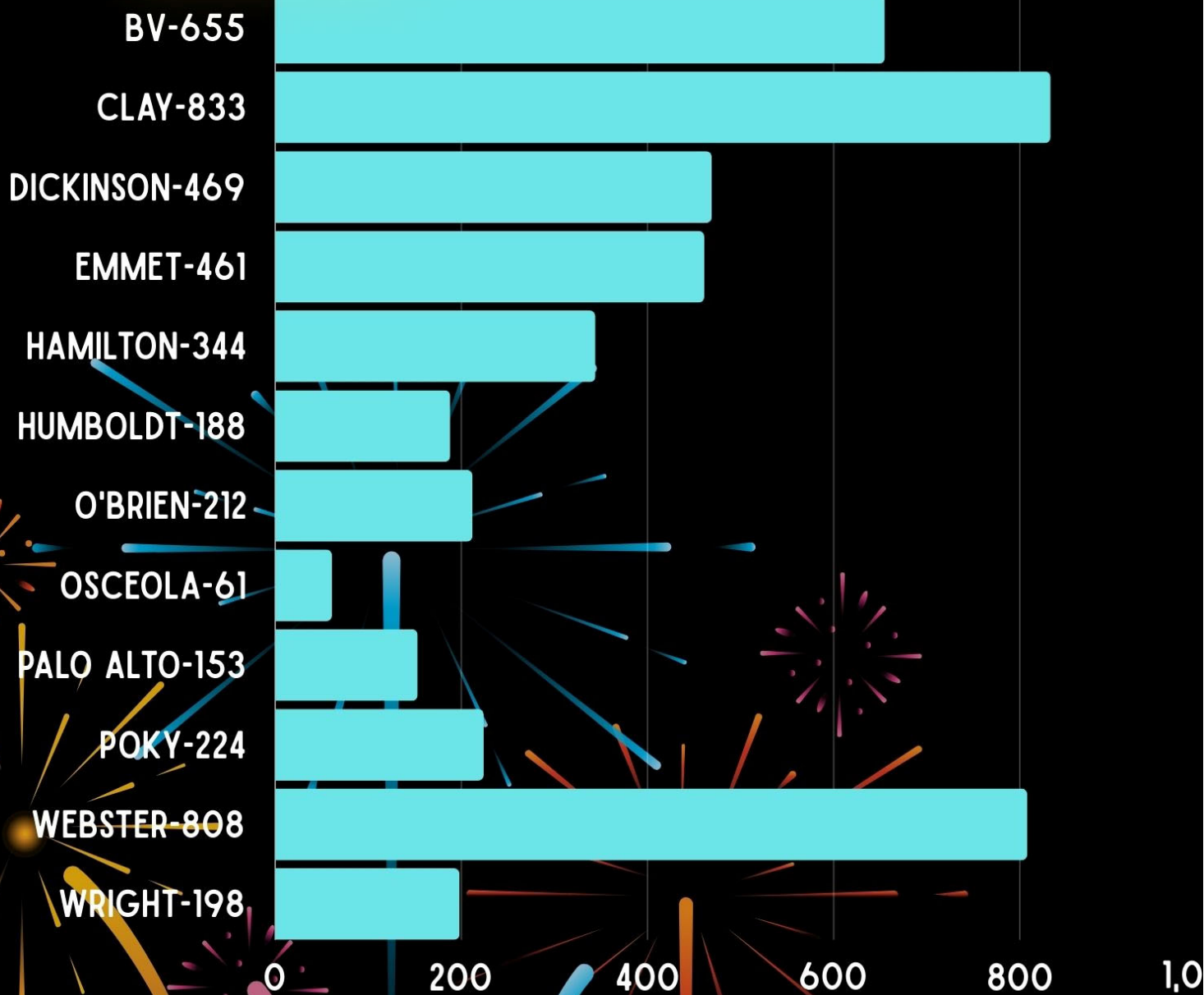
"Cleaning supplies are also tougher to get a hold of," Braun said.

UDMO also offers energy assistance, Head Start programs and housing programs.

For questions or to register for services, contact Braun at 712-754-4573.

**Pam Braun of Upper Des Moines Opportunity holds a cake mix tub of frosting received in a donation from the Sibley Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, Jan. 23. Club members Mitch Giese, Karen Van Westen, Mill Kruger and Phill Hager delivered the items that will be used to provide birthday supplies for eligible county children. Photo by Sandra Jensen**

# INDIVIDUALS SERVED

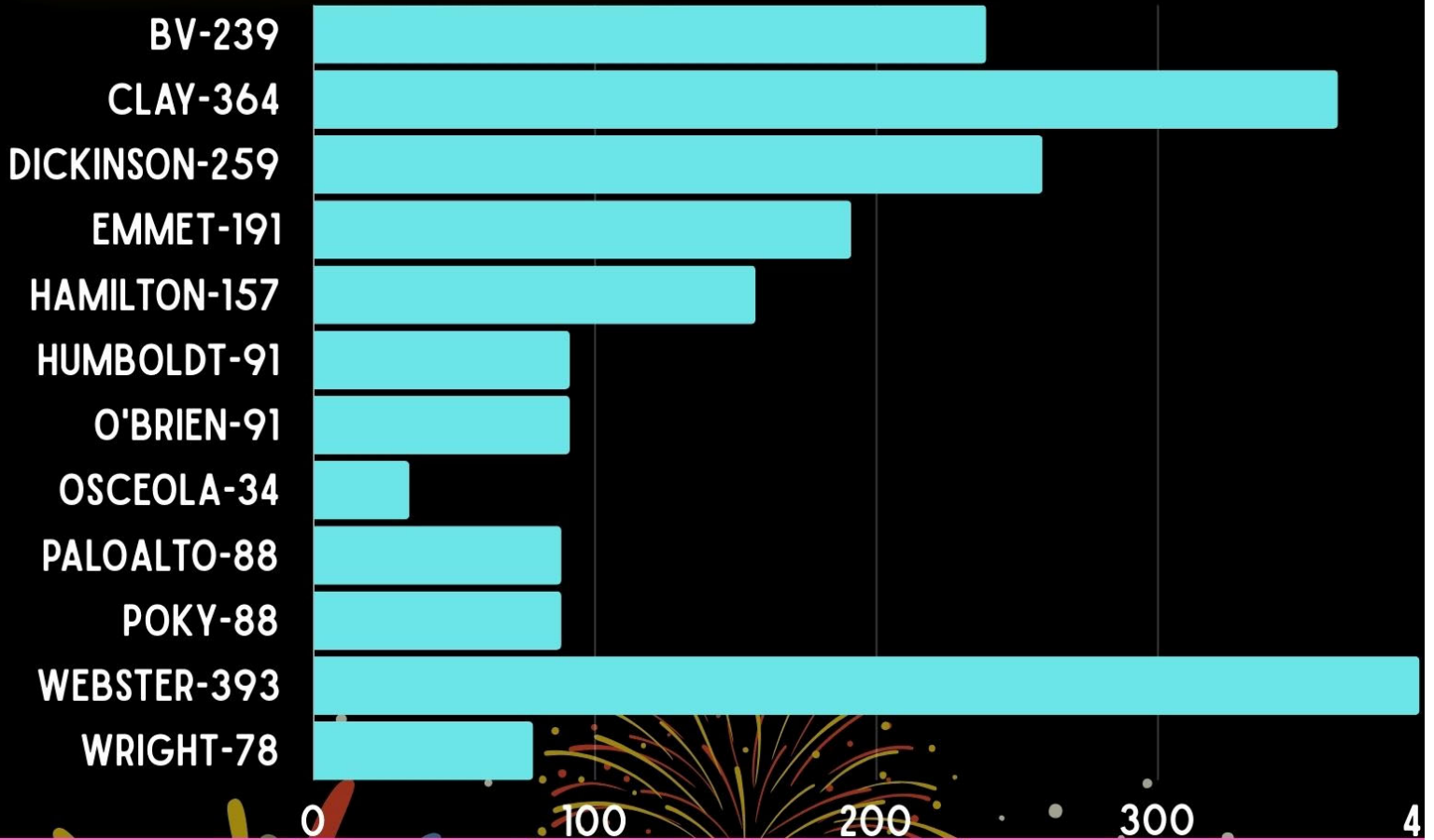


**HAPPY**

*new year!!!!*

# OUTREACH - JANUARY 2024

## HOUSEHOLDS SERVED



## Monetary Donations

BV- \$1,680.00

Clay- \$13,828.71

Dickinson- \$7,310.46

Emmet- \$745.00

Hamilton- \$240.71

Humboldt- \$200.00

O'Brien- \$300.00

Osceola- \$753.29

Palo Alto- \$1,650.00

Pocahontas- \$1,660.00

Webster- \$470.00

Wright- \$850.00