

Wapello County Children's Alliance 2024 Annual Report



This year has been a time of transition and resilience for the Wapello County Children's Alliance. With the stepping-down of Cara Galloway as chair due to the CASA Bureau's shift from DIA to HHS, we welcomed Angie Mach as our new Chair. Despite the uncertainty surrounding funding, we have remained steadfast in our mission to support children and families in our community.

Navigating Uncertainty Throughout the year, we faced significant challenges due to changes in both federal and local funding. The executive board engaged in in-depth discussions about the future of the Alliance and explored various options to sustain our programs in the event of lost grant funding. While a new grant opportunity has emerged, we recognize that funding is not guaranteed and continue to develop strategies for sustainability.

Program Success and Expansion Despite these challenges, we remained committed to enhancing our successful initiatives. Programs such as Parent Cafés have proven to be impactful, and we are actively exploring ways to continue them in our communities. Angie Mach and Dee conducted a test run of Vitality Cafés, which demonstrated promising results, further reinforcing the importance of these supportive community gatherings.

New Community Initiative: Poverty Experience Megan Logan has spearheaded bringing Poverty Simulation to Wapello County. This is a program designed to foster community awareness and engagement around poverty-related challenges. This initiative will launch in April, with sessions to be planned throughout the year.

Community Support and Funding

- We distributed \$1,500 in mini-grants to support important community initiatives, including Wave of Light, SIEDA, and OCSD.
- Our annual golf tournament was a resounding success, generating \$8,125 in funds to support our work.
- A grant from the Ottumwa Legacy Youth Council provided us with a unique opportunity to increase community awareness during Child Abuse Awareness Month. This funding allowed us to engage the community in creative ways, such as decorating doors and windows, hosting a community partner lunch, and distributing pinwheels window clings that continue to be displayed throughout Ottumwa.

Looking Ahead As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission, exploring funding opportunities and expanding successful programs. The dedication of our team, partners, and community members ensures that the Wapello County Children's Alliance will continue to make a lasting impact in the lives of children and families.



We will also see the end of the Resilient Communities Program as the grant ends this year. While the funding for this program ends, the work that Resilient Communities has done has strengthened the Children's Alliance Mission. This is and will always be a part of the Children's Alliance. CPPC will also continue to be a supportive community partner and source of funding to blend with Alliance funds in efforts to achieve our goals and meet the needs of children, young people and their families.