

March 2022

Dream Big!

A Publication of Oshkosh/
Winnebago County
Housing Authority's
Family Self Sufficiency Program



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Dear FSS participants and community members,

Spring comes March 20th! A time to renew and grow. And speaking of growth....Our FSS program now can assist residents in the Oshkosh and Winnebago County Scattered site units along with the Housing Choice voucher (Section 8) program. If you know anyone who is living in our Family scattered sites in Winnebago County, please let them know about the FSS program! FSS has immediate openings! **\$25 Kwik trip gas cards** are available for those that enroll by April 1, 2022.. While you are waiting for spring, check out these cool events in the area:



FSS Connection Group Meeting is on **March 7th at 9:00 am.** Amy Verhagen, Regional Office Coordinator with **WWBIC, A Leading Innovative Statewide Economic Development Organization, will be giving a presentation on the WWBIC and what it can do for you! If you or someone you know is interested in owning a business, this might be the best resource EVER!** Everyone is welcome to attend! See page 14 for more details.

Free Tax Preparation is available. Please check out page 6 in this newsletter for more details. What will you do with your income tax refund?

Please read the rest of this newsletter with educational, employment and community opportunities. I wish you and your family a very Happy and Healthy March! Let's continue to strive to meet your goals and strengthen your self sufficiency. And as always, please let me know how I can help you by calling me at 920-424-1470 ext. 133 or emailing me at kayh@ohawcha.org. **Your success is my success.**

Warm Regards,
Kay Hinton
FSS Coordinator



Sunday, March 13, 2022



Rent Smart

Taught by Extension Educators

Helping to make renting a great experience for you!

Upcoming Class Dates & Times:

- January 2022: 2 consecutive Saturdays January 22 & 29 1-4:30 pm (check in Saturday, January 15)
- February 2022: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-10 am February 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18 (preprogram check in Monday, January 31)
- March 2022: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-8 pm March 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17 (check in Tuesday, February 22)
- April 2022: Monday and Thursdays 1-2 pm April 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21 (check in Monday, March 28)
- May 2022: 2 consecutive Saturdays 9 am - 12:30 May 14 and 21 (check in Saturday, May 7)
- June 2022: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-10 am June 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17 (check in Monday, May 30)

Location: Live, online instruction via Zoom; Zoom links sent after completing registration.

Online registration form: <https://go.wisc.edu/Rentsmartregister>

Cost: FREE!

What you will learn:

- Planning for and meeting monthly expenses
- Tips for finding and maintaining affordable housing
- How to complete an application and why landlords screen applicants
- Strategies for building positive relationships with landlords and neighbors
- Responsibilities and rights of landlords and tenants
- Participants must complete all 6 modules to earn the Rent Smart certificate
- For more information, please contact rentsmartwi@office365.wisc.edu or call 262-741-4951

An EEO-Affirmative Action Employer, UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and ADA requirements.



Outagamie Rent Smart Schedule

2022 Workshop Schedule

Each workshop consists of two sessions. Participants must attend all sessions to receive the certificate.

Registration is required.

Workshops may fill to capacity or may be canceled due to low registration. Call Extension Outagamie County at (920) 832-4763 to register, or online at <http://bit.ly/ExtensionHousing>



February 23 and 24 | 1 - 4 pm

April 29 and May 6 | 9 - Noon

June 27 and 29 | 5 - 8 pm

September 20 and 22 | 9 - Noon

December 6 and 13 | 1 - 4 pm

Can't make these dates? Watch the website for additional dates.

<http://bit.ly/ExtensionHousing>

LOCATIONS

All meetings are tentative online only via zoom a link will be sent after registration is completed.

Contact Information

For questions or more information about Rent Smart, stop in or contact us at:



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

MaryBeth Wohlrabe

Youth Development Educator &
Rent Smart Facilitator
marybeth.wohlrabe@wisc.edu

3365 W. Brewster St.
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 832-4763

outagamie.extension.wisc.edu



[ExtensionOutagamieCounty/](https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionOutagamieCounty/)

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Rent Smart 2022

*Free Workshops to Help You Find
and Keep a Decent Place to Live*



Rent Smart provides practical education to help people looking for rental housing to acquire and keep decent housing. Rent Smart Workshops are FREE and require registration.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

Star Supporter
TUNDRALAND.com presents

COMMUNITY PUBLIC MARKET

Saturdays • Jan. 15, Feb. 12 and Mar. 19 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Inside the Fox Cities Exhibition Center

Sponsored by:

Photo Credit: Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau



ThedaCare

The Next Right Step: Learning Resilience in Times of Stress



Photo Credit: <https://www.psafinancial.com/2020/03/choosing-resiliency-in-times-of-uncertainty/>

Resilience is the process of adapting in the face of adversity, trauma, loss or stress. But what does that look like? Perfection? Peacefulness? No stress? Research shows that resiliency is both something we have and a set of skills that can be learned. Through this training, you will learn several resiliency strategies to enhance your ability to adapt to and grow through challenges, develop a picture of what true resilience looks like and reflect on what might be the next right step for you.

Cost: Free

Date & Time: March 21, 2022 from 12 to 1pm

Location: Via zoom

Registration Deadline: March 11

To register contact us at TCBH@thedacare.org

Additional information will be sent following registration

About the Presenter: Tamara Plath is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She has over 9 years of Behavioral Health experience. Her professional background includes mental health counseling, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, group facilitation, and education/training on subjects such as communication diversity, conflict management, harassment and other compliance & wellness topics.

What is VITA?

VITA = Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free, quality tax preparation from IRS-certified preparers to individuals and families earning up to \$56,000 annually. Several tax credits were expanded for tax year 2021 and are fully refundable for qualifying taxpayers.

Taxpayers who were previously ineligible, and those who do not have a filing requirement, may not realize they need to file a tax return to claim these credits. These credits are: Earned Income Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Child Care Credit. Let VITA help you file for free and get all your money.



UW-Oshkosh site: Appointments available from February 12 to April 2, 2022. UW-O offers the VITA program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) that provides free basic tax return preparation for low-to-moderate income and elderly taxpayers. The program is run by student and other community volunteers. Starting February 1st you can call 920.424.3486 to schedule an appointment.

Goodwill Menasha site: Valet VITA in-person assistance or 100% Virtual service. Schedule an appointment online at: filetaxes4free.org. Meet with an intake specialist and let our IRS-certified volunteers prepare your return. We are located inside the Goodwill Retail Store and Training Center at 1800 Appleton Road, Menasha, WI 54952. If you need more info, call (920)968-6044. There will be no walk-in services for the 2022 tax season. Masks will be required for in-person Valet VITA services regardless of vaccination status. If you are unable to mask, then please use our 100% Virtual service.

In-Person Valet VITA Hours (Appointment Only)

Monday/Wednesday/Thursday: 12:30-6:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 4:30-8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



WINNEBAGO RECOVERS LUNCH & LEARN

Substance Use and Opioid Response

This **FREE** series is intended for everyone who has been impacted by substances and anyone who wants to see Winnebago County grow and thrive as a Recovery- Friendly community. Participants can expect to learn about these topics:

March 1	Resource Navigation & Family/Friend Support
March 8	Breakwater: Prevention Coalition
March 15	Harm Reduction
March 29	Treatment
April 5	Recovery & Housing
April 12	Peer Support

All sessions will be held virtually from 12 - 1 pm

To register for any or all:

<https://wchd.pub/3JE5qec>



So, You Want to Start a Business?



So, You Want to Start a Business?

Saturday, March 2nd | 9 – 10 am

Online

Is entrepreneurship for you?
Explore and discover if so and
where to start.

To join us virtually, please follow the
links below:

Pre-registration is required: [Online](#)



*Education • Lending • Coaching
Entrepreneurship
Financial Impact*

Register at this website: https://www.wwbic.com/events/so-you-want-to-start-a-business_030522/

info@wwbic.com | wwbic.com



11:30-1:00
Every Tuesday
2/1 - 3/31

WINTER WARM UP

Free Community Meal

When: 11:30am-1:00pm, Every Tuesday 2/1 - 3/31

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church
370 Bowen Street, Oshkosh

What: Free meal open to the entire community

Who: Everyone is welcome!

WWW.TRINITYOSHKOSH.ORG

Pop-Up Food Pantry



The poster is for Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Food Pantry. It features a collection of food items illustrated in a simple, hand-drawn style. At the top left, the text 'Ruby's PANTRY' is written in a stylized font, with a small red heart above the 'y' in 'Ruby's'. Below this, 'Pop-Up PANTRY' is written in large, bold, dark red letters. To the right of the title, there is a vertical column of food items: a box of cereal, a jar of pickles, a red bell pepper, a bag of frozen strawberries, a green bottle of dressing, a yellow jug of juice, a blue container of salt, and a jar of jam. Below the title, the text 'Sponsored by St. Johns-Nekimi' and 'StJohnsLutheranNekimi.org' is written in a smaller font. The event details are listed in a large, bold font: '3rd Saturday of every month', '9:30-11a.m.', and 'at St. John's Church of Nekimi 491 Old Oregon Rd, Oshkosh, WI'. At the bottom left, there is a row of food items: a carton of milk, a jar of jam, a box of cereal, and a bottle of dressing. A large black heart with a white outline is positioned in the center, containing the text 'ALL ARE WELCOME'. To the right of the heart, the text '\$22' is written in a large, bold font, with a small red heart above the '2'. Below this, the text 'gets you \$150+ in groceries' is written. At the bottom right, the text 'Questions? Contact Alice at 920.233.2958 or visit RubysPantry.org' is written.

Ruby's
PANTRY

Pop-Up PANTRY

Sponsored by St. Johns-Nekimi
StJohnsLutheranNekimi.org

3rd Saturday of
every month
9:30-11a.m.
at St. John's Church of Nekimi
491 Old Oregon Rd, Oshkosh, WI

\$22 gets you \$150+
in groceries

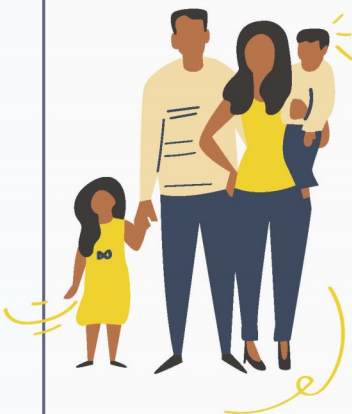
Questions?
Contact Alice at 920.233.2958
or visit RubysPantry.org

**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

*No income requirements
or restrictions

Get Your Child Tax Credit & Earned Income Tax Credit

File Your Taxes



Thanks to President Biden's American Rescue Plan, there is **more money available** to families and/or people with low to moderate incomes. Filing your taxes is how you can claim benefits like the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Whether or not you received stimulus checks or monthly payments in 2021, additional money may be available to you. While individuals who won't owe taxes have longer to file, filing by **April 18, 2022** is how you may get your full benefits the soonest.

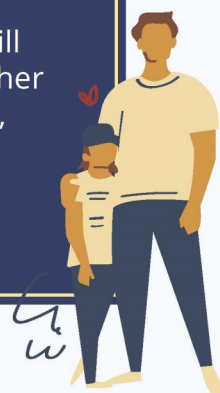
A Historic Increase



Families can enjoy an increased Child Tax Credit (\$3,000 or \$3,600, depending on a child/dependent's age), and more people with low incomes can receive a larger Earned Income Tax Credit.

These Tax Credits Are Not Income

Receiving these benefits will not impact eligibility for other federal benefits such as UI, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, SDI, TANF, WIC, Section 8 or Public Housing.



Not a Frequent Tax Filer?

Even if you didn't earn enough to be required to file taxes, you are eligible for the Child Tax Credit and potentially thousands of additional dollars in benefits. See what you can receive by filing a 2021 tax return!

Find out how to get assistance and file your taxes for free at

ChildTaxCredit.gov



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Habitat Homebuyer Info Session



Dear Potential Applicant(s):

Thank you for expressing an interest in becoming a Habitat for Humanity homeowner. We hope that the Habitat program can help you succeed on your journey towards homeownership.

If you are unsure about whether you qualify or if Habitat for Humanity is the right fit for your housing needs, we encourage you to attend a one-hour informational session to learn more.

**Habitat Homebuyer Readiness
Informational Sessions**

February 23rd, 2022 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

211 Walnut St., Neenah, WI, 54956

1st Floor, Council Chambers

For more information, go to our website:
foxcireshabitat.org/programs/homebuyer

If you are unable to attend the in-person meeting, please contact Nikki 920-967-8915.

10am meeting - Park in the lot right side of city hall (if it fills up be prepared to pay for street parking)

6pm meeting - Can park in the lot right side of city hall, at night street parking is not policed so feel free to park in temporary parking spots.

If you feel you are ready to apply, please follow the steps on page 3.

NEXT OPEN PRE-APPLICATION PERIODS

February 23rd – March 16th, 2022

Pre-apps due no later than 5 p.m. on March 16th.

Thank you for contacting Habitat for Humanity. We hope to hear from you soon!

Habitat for Humanity
Family Services Department

*Habitat for Humanity is a household program. All adult income will be counted.





Unsure of what your next step should be? Understanding your credit can be a daunting task.

Almost Home offers personalized, individual goal setting for families interested in becoming future homeowners.

We are here to help navigate your credit history and determine the next steps you need to take to pay off debt while increasing your credit score.

Hi! My name is Nikki, and I am a program coordinator for Habitat for Humanity. My job is to help families who would like to qualify for our homebuyer program but are unsure if they meet the criteria for Habitat homeownership.

When we meet, we'll take a look at your income, credit score, any debts/judgements, and anything else you would be concerned about prior to applying, to avoid being declined during the application process.

If there are any concerns, we address them so you can work on them, and get you ready to apply when applications become available.

Please call or email me to set up an appointment time. I look forward to hearing from you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nicole Kordus'.

Nicole Kordus
Almost Home Program Coordinator
Nicole Kordus: 920-967-8915
NicoleK@foxcitieshabitat.org




FSS Connection Group Meeting

Save the Date!

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

**FSS
CONNECTION
GROUP**

A program coordinating committee
for Winnebago County Housing
Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency
Program.



Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

Date: Monday, March 7, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Amy Verhagen, Regional Office Coordinator with WWBIC, A Leading Innovative Statewide Economic Development Organization, will be giving a presentation on the WWBIC and what it can do for you! If you or someone you know is interested in owning a business, this might be the best resource EVER! Everyone is welcome to attend!

Let's also share agency updates.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96684660193>

Meeting ID: 966 8466 0193

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



OUR SERVICES



FSET

FoodShare Employment and Training

FSET can help you find and keep a great job. If you're on FoodShare, you're eligible. It's free, it works, and it can help you get a job that works for you and your family. Our dedicated staff is here to help you with:

- Job search
- Career planning
- Job training and education
- Volunteering to develop valuable skills
- Help with transportation and childcare
- Referrals to other services
- Job retention assistance



WISCONSIN WORKS (W-2)

We build strong families.

If you're a parent having trouble making ends meet or have a disability getting in the way of keeping a job, Wisconsin Works (W-2) can help. This job-based program provides cash assistance to help eligible parents prepare for a career.

- Connections to employers
- Help with transportation to interviews and/or work
- Volunteering to develop valuable skills
- Help applying for Social Security benefits
- Skills training
- Caring career guidance



Call 1-855-733-1311 or
apply online at <http://access.wisconsin.gov/>

WIOA

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

There are so many career options today that it's hard to choose just one. WIOA can help you train for a career in local in-demand industries. Whether you are just out of high school, have been working for a while, or have been laid off, we're here to help you map a new career path.

- Career counseling
- Financial education assistance
- Work experiences
- Job training
- Financial assistance for training



WETAP

Vehicle Repair Loans

Reliable transportation is key for having a career. After all, you shouldn't have to pass up your dream job because you can't find a way to get there. WETAP provides income-eligible adults with a number of transportation services that can help them keep a job, including:

- Interest-free vehicle repair loans
- Interest-free vehicle purchase loans
- Career and budget counselling



TRANS

Transportation Alliance for New Solutions

TRANS trains minorities, females, and other people* for exciting jobs in construction. A free 160-hour training course will prepare you for the industry as you learn about:

- Construction safety
- First aid and CPR
- Blueprint reading
- Physical fitness
- CDL exam preparation
- Flagging
- Apprenticeship exam preparation



* Available in Brown, Dane, Rock, and Winnebago counties. People from neighboring counties are encouraged to apply.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Call 1-800-771-8420 or
apply online at <http://access.wisconsin.gov/>

If you're about to lose your home or have utilities shut off, Emergency Assistance may be able to help. You may qualify for Emergency Assistance if:

- Can't pay your rent or mortgage
- Your family is living in a shelter or temporary place
- Lost your home through fire, flood, or natural disaster
- You received a disconnect notice for your utilities
- Your heat or electricity is shut off
- You have received an eviction notice
- You received a foreclosure notice



Corned Beef and Cabbage

St Patrick's day is March 17th!
Try out this recipe to celebrate the day!

Ingredients

- 3 pounds corned beef brisket with spice packet
- 10 small red potatoes
- 5 carrots, peeled and cut into 3-inch pieces
- 1 large head cabbage, cut into small wedges



Directions:

Step 1: Place corned beef in large pot or Dutch oven and cover with water. Add the spice packet that came with the corned beef. Cover pot and bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer. Simmer approximately 50 minutes per pound or until tender.

Step 2: Add whole potatoes and carrots, and cook until the vegetables are almost tender. Add cabbage and cook for 15 more minutes. Remove meat and let rest 15 minutes.

Step 3: Place vegetables in a bowl and cover. Add as much broth (cooking liquid reserved in the Dutch oven or large pot) as you want. Slice meat across the grain.

Per Serving:

839 calories; protein 49.6g; carbohydrates 68.9g; fat 41.3g; cholesterol 147mg; sodium 3377.5mg.