

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



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Dear FSS participants (and community members),

Please wish a Happy April Birthday to Dominique, Azhar and Marc! I hope your birthdays are fabulous and you are finding some time to take a step towards your goals. We have had 10 FSS enrollments since March 1st. Welcome Sharon, Lisa, Debby, Vernita, Ann, Dominique, Ashly, Hussein, Lestina, and Mary to the FSS program.



Check out these happenings and many more in this April newsletter:

Oshkosh Habitat Homebuyer Applications: Oshkosh Habitat applications are available April 15th-June 15th by visiting them at the Oshkosh ReStore located at 1640 S. Koeller St, online at: www.habitatoshkosh.org/home-buyer-program, Call (920) 235-3535 or Email request at: apply@habitatoshkosh.org. Oshkosh program spots are currently filled through 2023. Recruitment for the 2024 build season will begin April 15, 2023. Contact Habitat to be added to their contact list for 2024. See page 10 for more details.

**Fond du Lac Job Fair:** Looking for a job? Check out the April 5th Fond du Lac Job Fair from 1 pm to 4 pm. See page 4 for more details.

<u>Free Tax Preparation is available.</u> Please check out page 5 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 April! 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 <u>kayh@ohawcha.org</u>.

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**Your success is my success.** Warm Regards, Kay Hinton FSS Coordinator



# **Rent Smart**



### 2023 Online Class Dates & Times:

January: 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 @ 1:00PM-2:00PM; Tue/Thurs February: 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24 @ 9:00AM-10:00AM; Tue/Fri March: 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29 @ 7:00PM-8:00PM; Mon/Wed April: 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27 @ 1:00PM-2:00PM; Mon/Thurs May: 6, 13, 20 @ 9:00AM-11:30AM; Saturday June: 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30 @ 9:00AM-10:00AM; Tue/Fri

Location: Online, live instruction via Zoom; links will be sent after registration

To register, use this link *OR* scan the QR Code: <u>https://go.wisc.edu/Rentsmartregister</u>

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 <u>todd.wenzel@wisc.edu</u> (920-232-1982) OR <u>amanda.kostman@wisc.edu</u> (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.





# Fond du Lac Job Fair



# Mark Your Calendar! 2023 Fond du Lac Regional Job Fair

Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds Expo Center Wednesday, April 5, 2023 1:00 - 4:00 PM



- Look for a job; find a better job
- Meet in-person with area employers
- Determine your fit for a company
- Apply immediately for open positions
- Discover apprenticeship opportunities
- Improve your job searching skills

Are you ready to re-enter the workforce? Do you need a new opportunity? Find your future at the Fond du Lac Regional Job Fair.

Put your best foot forward at the Job Fair. Contact your local job center to get assistance with:

- Resume Preparation
  - Interviewing Tips

- Making a Great First Impression
  - Researching Job Fair Employers

Several ways to get assistance – in person, phone, email, virtual. Call to schedule an appointment (920) 404.6801 or visit JobCenterofWisconisn.com.

### **Sponsors Include:**







A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network

Fox Valley Workforce Development Board is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need assistance with this information, please dial 7-1-1 for Wisconsin Relay Service or at 800-947-3529. At no cost, you may request information in an alternate format, including language assistance or translation information to your preferred language by contacting us at (920) 594-3655.

### What is VITA?

VITA = <u>Volunteer Income Tax Assistance</u>

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free, quality tax preparation from IRS-certified preparers to individuals and families earning up to \$60,000 annually. 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 6 to March 29, 2023. 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 students and other community volunteers. Starting February 1st you can call <u>920.424.3486</u> to schedule an appointment.

*Goodwill Menasha site:* 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. There will be <u>no walk-in</u> services for the 2022-2023 tax season. For an appointment call <u>920-968-6044</u> after 1/26/2023 or go to <u>goodwillncw.org/vita/</u>.

In-Person Valet VITA Hours (Appointment Only)

Monday-Thursday: 12:30-5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AARP Free Tax assistance with a special focus on taxpayers who are age 50 years old or older.

Neenah/Menasha area: call (920) 215-1040 for an appointment

Oshkosh area: Call (920) 385-6756 for an appointment.

### Next Pop-Up Food Pantry is Saturday, April 15, 2023

491 Old Oregon Road, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902 DAYS AND HOURS

3rd Saturday of the Month Registration begins at 9:30 AM Food bundles available 9:30-11:00 AM Hosted by: St. John's Lutheran Church of Nekimi



For a \$25 bundle donation, you will receive \$150+ in groceries. Please bring 2 boxes.

### **Know Your Rental Housing Rights**



## Register for the "Know Your Rental Housing Rights" Webinar

In this Lawyers for Learners webinar, Mitch, clinical law professor and the director of the Economic Justice Institute at the University of Wisconsin Law School, will cover the basics on how to get your security deposit back, get your rental home fixed and avoid forced eviction.

Registrants will obtain a recording too, so feel free to sign up even if you cannot attend but are interested in the topic. You're more than welcome to forward on to others you believe may be interested.

**Event Information** 

Date: Tuesday, April 11 Time: 11:00 - 11:30am

Register here: https://www.accelevents.com/e/rental-rights

Any questions? Contact lawyersforlearners@ascendiumeducation.org

# IEP Talk Workshop

# IEP Talk From Referral to IEP Parent Education Workshop



Your child has an IEP Referral, or has an IEP in place... Now what? Here's what you need to know, and to feel like part of the team with your child's school.

Bring your questions to Diane! She is the resource in the Fox Valley to answer them! Presenter: Diane Nackers, MS CCC-SLP

Appleton - In-Person Only Monday, April 17 6:00-8:00 pm Cost: FREE



### **Register On-line:**

- Website: <u>www.familyservicesnew.org/parenting-classes</u>
- Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/ParentConnectionWI">www.facebook.com/ParentConnectionWI</a>, see our Events Page!
- Or contact Jen DiMatteo | jdimatteo@familyservicesnew.org (920)739-4226 ext. 109



 Parent Connection is a program of Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc.

 Fox Cities:
 1810 Appleton Road, Menasha WI 54952 | (920)739-4226

 Oshkosh:
 36 Broad Street, Suite 150, Oshkosh 54901 | (920)233-6630

 Shawano:
 607 E. Elizabeth Street, Shawano, WI 54166 | (715) 853-0923

 www.familyservicesnew.org/parent-connection
 United



# Kidz Expo 2023



# Fox Cities Kidz Expo 2023 Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am – 2:00 pm Fox Cities Exhibition Center **Downtown Appleton** 

www.FoxCitiesKidzExpo.com

A FREE family event filled with fun, education & adventure

# Exhibitors - Activities - Drawings -**Giveaways** - **Presentations**

### Fun

Interactive activities & entertainment for children and parents. Activities include face painting, photos with favorite costumed characters, crafts, balloon animals, hands on exhibits, selfie stations, and on-going entertainment throughout the day!

### Education

Exhibitors will present engaging, interactive displays and activities, making it fun for families to participate.

### Adventure

Interactive games, science projects, dinosaur experience, nature adventures and more!



### **Our Presenting Sponsor**







# **State Street Center**

Our State St. mission is to provide holistic support services for any adult that is working to manage their Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder. This can be achieved though mentorships, educational programs, friendships, peer support and community engagement.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	9:00 – 11:00 Breakfast Club 11:00 Seeking Safety	1:00 Smart Recovery 2:00 Mood & 3 Movement <b>4</b>	12:00 Wellness Self- Management 5	2:00 Mood & Movement 6	CLOSED 7	ž
	9:00 – 11:00 Breakfast Club 11:00 Seeking	1:00 Smart Recovery 2:00 Mood & D Movement 11	12:00 Wellness Self- Management 1:00 Foodwise –	1:30 Friends Group – Neenah McDonalds 2:00 Mood & Movement 13	1.00 Piece 14	1
9	9:00 – 11:00 Breakfast Club NO SEEKING	1:00 Smart Recovery 2:00 Mood &	12:00 Wellness Self-	1:00-3:00 Economic Support 2:00 Mood & Movement 20	1:00 Bingo 14	2:
23	9:00 – 11:00 Breakfast Club 11:00 Seeking Safety 2	1:00 Smart Recovery 2:00 Mood & Movement 25	12:00 Wellness Self- Mangement 26	2:00 Mood & Movement 2 <b>7</b>	1:00 Bingo 28	25
Monday Breakfast Club – Join us for coffee & snacks 30	Seeking Safety (Trauma & Substance Use)	Smart Recovery (Addiction Support)	Wellness Self- management (Various mental health topics & discussion)	Mood & Movement – (Stretching & Beginner Exercise)	Personal Finance/ Foodwise – UW Extension Alternating – Monthly	Economic Support – (Benefits renewal & assistance)

# STATE STREET CENTER APRIL 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 4 5 6 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 26 27 28 29 30 31 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

206 STATE ST. DAILY SCHEDULE
8:05 WALKING GROUP – WEATHER PERMITTING
9:00 OPEN/JOURNALING GROUP
10:00 ART GROUP
1:00 MINDFULNESS GROUP
2:00 GROUP GAMES
3:00 CLOSE



### Are you interested in becoming a Habitat Home Buyer?

Habitat for Humanity Oshkosh builds new construction homes within the city of Oshkosh and sells them to qualified families at no profit.

Families help build their home and make monthly mortgage payments. Homes are made affordable through volunteer labor, down payment assistance programs and 0% interest mortgages provided by Habitat.



Visit us at the Oshkosh ReStore (1640 S Koeller St.) or online: <u>HABITATOSHKOSH.ORG/HOME-BUYER-PROGRAM</u>/

# Pre-Applications available April 15<sup>th</sup> - June 15<sup>th</sup>

Interested applicants must meet the below qualifications:

### **Need for Adequate Housing**



Based on current housing conditions, there must be a demonstrated need in order to qualify for a Habitat home. Some examples of need include overcrowding, structural/mechanical problems, mold, insects, etc.

### Ability to Pay

Ability to pay is determined through the information provided on the application, pay stubs, benefit statements, previously filed federal tax returns, and credit reports. Gross income must fall within 30-60% of the median income. Applicants must have a steady, reliable source of income and demonstrate financial responsibility.

### Willingness to Partner

Habitat Home Buyers must be willing to complete "Sweat Equity" hours. Sweat Equity is when a family takes part in building their home, working at our ReStore, or other Habitat activities.

### Residency

Qualified candidates will have lived in or worked in the City of Oshkosh for at least six months prior to submitting an application.

### Contact Elizabeth Last for more information 920-235-3535 or elast@habitatoshkosh.org.

We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achlevement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support affirmative advertising and marketing in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.



# Kids - Money Manual



# KIDS – MONEY MANUAL

### 7 Steps to Raising Money-smart Kids

Take these simple steps to help your kids develop good financial habits that will last a lifetime!

### Open a savings account in your child's name

It's never too early to do this. A savings account is a foundational piece to all financial learning. As your child grows, use the account as a way to open conversations like how much birthday money or other gift money they will save. Take your kids to your credit union when you have business to transact. Show them how to view their account online. Point out how their money is growing through the dividends they're earning. When the balance grows, talk to a Summit financial coach and discuss a higher dividend product, like a certificate.

### 2 Turn buying impulses into learning opportunities

When your child wants to buy something, help them determine if it's a want or a need. If it's not an immediate need, help them set a savings goal to make the purchase. Discuss in advance if you will match a portion of the funds needed to make the purchase and have your child do some research to find the best price when the times comes to buy the item.

### If you provide an allowance, maximize the financial lessons

Determine whether you will pay your child an allowance and how much. Many parents determine the amount weekly based on the child's age, for example; a five year old would get \$5 per week, a 7 year old, \$7. Talk about expectations you have for them to earn their allowance. Give your child three jars or piggy banks; one for saving, one for spending and one for donating/giving. Regularly take your child to your credit union to deposit the money in their savings jar.

### Involve your child in family finances

Develop a family fun budget. Each payday put a predetermined amount of money into a container. Let the children decide what fun things they want to do with the money. It's a great way to start learning how a budget works. Involve kids in making the grocery list with a budget in mind. At the store, let your child use a calculator to make sure you stay within your budget. Pay bills with your kids. It's good for them to know the cost of water, electric, gas, etc. If they want you to buy something, you can relate it back to savings they can contribute to the family by using less water and turning lights off.

### Continue the lessons into the teen years

Create a budget to pay for related expenses, i.e. school supplies, clothing, activities, clubs. When it's time to shop for school clothes for example, give teens a set amount of money. They can purchase what they need, but will learn to look for bargains in order to make the money go further. When it comes time for your teen to drive, consider having them pay for part or all of their auto insurance. If your child sets a goal to save funds for a car, consider matching part of those funds. When kids start working, communicate the expenses you expect them to handle.

### 6 Familiarize your teen with other financial services while you're there to help

When you see growing signs of responsibility, visit your credit union with your teen and open a checking account with a debit card. Teens are often ready by 15 or 16, but some may be ready as young as 12. Teach your child how to keep track of what they're spending and how to balance the account. You may want to teach an older teen about credit by co-signing on a small limit credit card. A Summit financial coach is happy to talk with your teen about handling money effectively. Help them understand how the card should be used and the importance of paying the balance off each month.

### **7** Walk your financial talk

You've probably heard "I can't hear what you're telling me because your actions are speaking so loudly." Well, it's true with money smarts, too. Remember you are an example. And remember, too, that Summit Credit Union is here as a guide for you. We work with thousands of members on financial topics every day. It's likely we have some advice to share!

### Find what you're looking for at SummitCreditUnion.com.

- Budget and goal planning worksheets
- Financial calculators
- Money tips and blogs

Schedule an appointment online or give us a call to get started.

800-236-5560 | 608-243-5000



Insured by NCUA. © Summit Credit Union

# **Everyday Tech** Family Self Sufficiency

# EVERYDAY TECH



# EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

January-May

Hands-on tech sessions to build knowledge, skills & confidence

oshkoshpubliclibrary.org

Everyday Tech (page 2)



**EVERYDAY TECH** 

106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh WI 54901 | Questions? Call 236-5205.

### All sessions are held from 2-3 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room

Jan. 5 March 2 April 27	<b>EMAIL BASICS</b> Learn what email is, how it works, and how to stay safe while using it. We'll have computers available for you to sign up for, read, and send emails. You'll leave the class with your own email account and with the knowledge to use it!				
Jan. 19	SMARTPHONE BASICS				
March 16 May 11	Did you know that your smartphone has GPS, SIM card, and Bluetooth capabilities? Not only do smartphones allow you to make calls and send texts, but they allow you to send and receive emails, browse the web, download apps, and organize your personal life! Bring your smartphone and learn what it can do for you. Android and iPhone users welcome.				
Feb. 2 March 30	FACEBOOK FOR BEGINNERS				
May 25	Learn the basics of using Facebook in this hands-on class. We will discuss ways to keep your information secure. If you already have a Facebook account, come to the class with your username and password information so you can log in to your account on one of our computers.				
Feb. 16	FUN WITH PHOTOS				
April 13	Learn how to save the photos you take with your smartphone, upload to social media sites and send them to others. Learn how to download, save				

Learn how to save the photos you take with your smartphone, upload to social media sites and send them to others. Learn how to download, save and edit photos that were sent to you or found online. Bring your smartphone with you for some hands-on practice.

Programs provided by Bug Tussel University, the educational branch of internet service provider Bug Tussel Wireless LLC.

### **DROP-IN TECH HELP** Offered from 3-4 p.m. after each Everyday Tech session

Drop in to get one-on-one help with your questions about computers, internet, email, social media, your device, or other technology. Bring your smartphone, tablet, laptop or other device with you for hands-on assistance. Drop in any time during the session. Assistance provided on a first-come, first-served basis.



# Back to School Fair Referrals Available

As the school year is winding down, community partners are organizing resources for the 2023-2024 Back to School Fair. The BTSF is Wednesday August 16th 12:00-6:00 & Thursday August 17th 10:00-4:00. To determine the quantity of school supplies, hygiene products, and clothing needed, the Oshkosh Community and Neenah/Menasha Back to School Fairs are looking for referrals to be completed and returned as soon as possible.

<u>Please submit a request in writing</u> for assistance with school supplies and include the following questions answered:

Parent Name
Address
Cell phone number
Email Address
Children's First and last Names
Gender of student
Grade 2023-2024 school year
Name of school attending
Attend BTSF last year?
Qualify for Free or reduced lunch?
Either Parent Active Military or Veteran?
Who does your child live with?
Ethnic Background
Household income
Prefer email or written letter?
How many Haircuts needed the day of the fair?
What days/times work best for you on:
Wednesday August 16th 12:00-6:00 &
Thursday August 17th 10:00-4:00



Upon receipt of this information, the Housing Authority will complete a referral sheet and contact you with follow up questions that you may need to answer about your household. Please submit your written requests with information about each child you are requesting assistance for by:

### Friday, June 30th, 2023.

Sign up asap! There are a <u>limited</u> number of openings in the BTSF. Signing up AS SOON AS POSSIBLE will provide families the <u>best</u> opportunity to receive assistance. Contact Kay today!! 920-424-1470 ext 133 or kayh@ohawcha.org.

Family Self Sufficiency

# **Breakfast with the Bunny**

reakfast and with the Saturday, April 8 11 am to 3 pm Order Tickets in Advance or at Gate Saturday, April 8 8 am to 11 am Advance Tickets ONLY Sunnyview Expo Center New ocation **500 E County Rd Y** Oshkosh, WI **Bunny in the Barn Only Pricing Breakfast Only Pricing** Ages (18 & Older): FREE Must Purchase in Advance Youth (13-17yrs): \$5 Ages (13 & Older): \$5 Children (2-12yrs): \$3 Children (2-12yrs): \$3 Infant (lyr & under): FREE Infants (lyr & under): FREE Special Pricing If You Attend Both Events \$5-Children (2-12yrs) **Tickets Available \$9-Youth (13-17yrs)** March 15 - April 5 Order <u>ONLINE!</u> Purchase in person **Oshkosh Festival Foods Oshkosh Parks Department Office** 757 W 3rd Ave (920)236-5080 Games, Prizes, Egg Hunt, **Bunny Photo Opportunities** 

Winnebago County