

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



600 Merritt Avenue P.O. Box 397 Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54903 OSHKOSH (920) 424-1450 www.ohawcha.org Kay Hinton FSS Program Coordinator 920-424-1470 EXT. 133 kayh@ohawcha.org What's Inside:

- February Letter
 - Rent Smart
- Wise WI Learning Series
 - WI Wayfinder
 - Repair Cafe
 - Free Tax Assistance
 - Adulting 101
 - Community Events
- Fox Cities Habitat Applications
 - Starting Point
 - What are you Saving for?WWBIC
- Top Reasons to get Bank Account
 - Workshops
 - Job Assistance

Dear FSS participants (and community members),

Please wish a **Happy February Birthday to Gloria**! I hope your birthday is fabulous and you are finding a little time to take a step towards your goals.

Let's celebrate Lucha's FSS GRADUATION! Celebrating in the picture is Mel, Lucha, Erin, Katie and Kay. Lucha joined the FSS program as of 11/1/2016. Lucha increased her credit score from 454 to 716, tracked her expenses, made a budget, kept this budget for more than 3 months, met with Habitat about buying her own home, maintained her health, found and maintained employment and has continued to work for at least a year. She is in the process of becoming a manager and sells clothing online. Lucha would like to use this money for a down payment of a home and for her children's educational needs. Lucha graduates with **\$12,483** in her FSS escrow account. Please join me in congratulating Lucha! I can't wait to see you reach your dream of being a home owner!



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

Starting Point: Are you a young woman looking for direction in the areas of education, employment, self-esteem, and a healthy support system? Or maybe you're a mother of young children looking for a way to provide for your family? If either of these descriptions speak to you, maybe Starting Point is for you. Starting Point is a <u>free</u> 13 week program that will empower you in many areas of life and provide a stable learning environment for your children while you learn. <u>Starting Point classes start</u> 2/7/2024 in Appleton and 2/10/2024 in Oshkosh. See pages 11 for more info.

Fox Cities Habitat Homebuyer Applications: Are you interested in becoming a Habitat for Humanity homeowner? Fox Cities Habitat is now taking applications from January 10th through February 7th, 2024. See page 10 for more details.

Please read the rest of this newsletter with educational, employment and community opportunities. I wish you and your family a very Happy and Healthy February! 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

happy Valentine day

FREE Rent Smart



2024 Winter/Spring Online Class Dates & Times

February: 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23 @ 9:00AM-10:00AM; Wed/Fri March: 9, 16, 23 @ 9:00AM-11:30AM; Saturday April: 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19 @ 1:00PM-2:00PM; Mon/Fri May: 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 @ 9:00AM-10:00AM; Tue/Thurs June: 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 @ 7:00PM-8:00PM; Mon/Wed

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

To register, use this link <u>OR</u> scan this 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 todd.wenzel@wisc.edu (920-232-1982)

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





Wise WI Learning Series

Wise Wisconsin Virtual Learning Series

Sessions:

2/7: The Power of Awe!

2/14: Wisconsin's First Nations

ZOOM IN ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 9:00 - 10:00AM FEBRUARY 7TH -MARCH 27TH, 2024

- 2/21: Grandparenting; Connecting through Traditions and Rituals
- 2/28: UW Cancer Carbone Center: Facts, Myths, and Screening for

Cancer

- 3/6: Wise Money
- 3/13: What's the Deal with No Mow May?
- 3/20: Preparing to Care: The what, why, and how of supporting a

loved one through a health crisis

3/27: We Can Do Hard Things: Tools for current and future caregivers



Registration: https://go.wisc.edu/z96rcd For more information, contact Sara Richie at sara.richie@wisc.edu

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

Wisconsin Wayfinder (Children's resources) Family Self Sufficiency

Ask questions. Get answers.

All calls are free and confidential





When you call Wisconsin Wayfinder, you will be connected to a children's resource guide in your area of the state. You will be able to ask questions and share information with your guide about your child. Your guide will help you find a wide array of available supports and services. They respect your wish to choose the next steps to meet your child's needs.



You will receive friendly assistance, including information about programs and services in the network, such as:

- Children's Long-Term Support Program
- Katie Beckett Medicaid
- Birth to 3 Program
- Comprehensive Community Services

Our children's resource guides also provide personalized support, including:

- Access to therapy providers ٠
- Parenting support
- Local events
- Respite care, and more

Wisconsin Wayfinder: Children's **Resource Network streamlines the** journey to find services children need.

If you are a parent or professional wanting to help a child or youth with a delay, disability, mental health condition, or special health care need, please contact us for information and assistance.







All calls are free and confidential

(877) $\underset{877-947-2929}{\text{WiscWay}}$ \square dhs.wi.gov/wiscway

Contact us today!

Repair Cafe



2023 Income Tax Assistance Family Self Sufficiency

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 5 to March 27, 2024. 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. You can call <u>920.424.1454</u> to schedule an appointment.

<u>AARP Free Tax assistance</u> with a special focus on taxpayers who are age 50 years old or older. Neenah/Menasha area: call (920) 215-1040 for an appointment.

Next Pop-Up Food Pantry is Saturday, February 17, 2024

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.



Winter is on it's way! *MOMEGNERGY* Let's talk about Energy Assistance....

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) assists eligible households with their heating and electric bills. Regular energy assistance is a once-a-year benefit available between October 1st and May 15th each year. Please call the statewide Customer Care Center at 1-800-506-5596 with questions about your online application. Due to the high volume of applications, it may take up to 10 business days for an online application to be processed. If you are disconnected or without heat, or will be disconnected soon, please call the Customer Care Center at 1-800-506-5596. To view income limit information, visit <u>energyandhousing.wi.gov</u> Interested in applying? Call their Customer Care Center or apply online <u>energybenefit.wi.gov</u>





Family Self Sufficiency

Adulting 101 Classes



May 28 Kitchen Safety & Cooking

- June 25 College 101
- July 30 Self-Care 101
- August 27Career Planning & Exploration
- September 24 Understanding Credit and Interest Rates
- October 29 Housing 101

All classes will be held Tuesdays from 4:15 - 5:45 pm at Extension Outagamie County Office, 3365 W Brewster St, Appleton.

Open to all ages 14-24.

Come to all or pick and choose the sessions of interest to you. Registration is required one week prior to each class.

https://bit.ly/OCAdulting



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Community Events

Family Self Sufficiency







The Herd is hosting a job and internship fair for students, professionals, and job seekers at Oshkosh Arena before the Herd take on the Knicks that night.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Malachi Murray at 920-744-0254 or malachi.murray@wisconsinherd.com



Family Self Sufficiency Fox Cities Habitat Applications



Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity offers a Homebuyer program to qualified low-income individuals and families in Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca and Northern Winnebago counties.

Individuals interested in home ownership through Fox Cities Habitat will need to complete and submit an application along with a \$30 application fee (one fee per application) when applications cycles are open. Please call (920) 954-8702 for more information.

Applications will be available January 10th through February 7th, 2024.

Please review the Homebuyer program applicant guidelines at: **www.foxcitieshabitat.org/homebuyer/** to learn more about the program. The 2023 proposed income guidelines are based on family size. A family's gross annual income must be at or above the minimum and at or below the maximum to be eligible.

FAMILY SIZE	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
1	\$44,000	\$56,750
2	\$44,000	\$64,850
3	\$48,400	\$72,950
4	\$48,400	\$81,050
5	\$48,400	\$87,550
6	\$48,400	\$94,050
7	\$51,100	\$100,550
8	\$53,500	\$107,000
9	\$56,750	\$113,500
10	\$60,000	\$120,000

Starting Point Classes

Family Self Sufficiency





WHAT ARE YOU SAVING FOR?

SAVE FOR THE "GOOD" KIND OF UNEXPECTED. Don't only save for emergencies, save for opportunities, too!



So what are you saving for?

Block out 15 minutes to think about your savings goals and write them down!

SHORT TERM	NEAR FUTURE	LONG TERM

Now that you're clear on what you're saving for, it's time to make a simple plan to achieve it.

Visit <u>americasaves.org/pledge</u> to create your savings plan and take the next step towards success.

AmericaSaves.org 🛛 🚯 🙆

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WWBIC Business ownership Family Self Sufficiency



WWBIC Presents STRONG WOMEN, STRONG COFFEE

Fueled by caffeine & passion, this FREE event will feature a live interview with a strong woman who has achieved success in business or entrepreneurship. The audience will hear her story of success and feel a connection with other strong women on their own journeys, finding inspiration along the way.

OUR SPEAKER



CECELIA BOS

CeCelia Bos is the owner of BOS' Optimal Solutions, LLC which is a business consulting company, specializing in assisting businesses looking to grow to their next level. CeCelia formed her business in 2014 bringing to the table 25+ years of experience and ability to assist businesses through various niches including, but not limited to, initial business establishment, professional bookkeeping, website design, social media and management of various online platforms, project management, document preparation and database development.

QUESTIONS? • Email averhagen@wwbic.com • Call 920-944-2700



Turning your skills into a Business

Are you interested in starting a business, but not sure if you have the skills to start? In this training, we will go through a personal skills assessment, hear from someone who has turned their skills and passions into a business, and the steps they took to turn their dream into a reality.

> Register online by Mar. 4 to make check-in quick and easy You may also register on-site – walk-ins are welcome!

> > QUESTIONS? Call 920-944-2700 Email averbagen@uvubi



Wednesday.

Mar. 6th



Wednesday, February 14th 9:00 - 10:00 am

BOS' Optimal Solutions 816 W. Capitol Dr. Appleton

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wwbic.com/

trainings

REGISTER

ONLINE

by Feb. 12

walk-ins are welcome!

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Introduction to Kiva

and Crowdsourced

Register online by Feb. 14 to make check-in quick and easy You may also register on-site – walk-ins are welcome!

QUESTIONS?

Friday, Feb. 16th

Loans

12:00 - 1:00 pm WWBIC Appleton 1191 N Casaloma Dr.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!



WWBIC Northeast

PLAN NOW TO

ATTEND!

wwbic.com/trainings

Is your Business Idea Expandable?

Do you have a hobby, a business idea, or homebased business that you are looking to expand? In this training, an expert facilitator will discuss how to test if your business idea is ready to grow.

> Register online by Mar. 18th o make check-in quick and easy. You may also register on-site – walk-ins are welcome!

> > **QUESTIONS?**

Wednesday, Mar. 20th

12:00pm - 1:30pm WWBIC Appleton 1191 N Casaloma Dr.





WWBIC Northeast



wwbic.com/trainings

DREAMS

to WORK

WWBIC Northeast

WWRIC

13

Family Self Sufficiency

Top Reasons to get a Bank Account

TOP REASONS TO #GETBANKED

Opening a bank account can be one of the most important steps you take toward reaching your financial goals. Why? Because putting your money in an FDIC-insured bank account can offer you financial safety, easy access to your funds, savings from check-cashing fees, and overall financial peace of mind. If you do not currently have a bank account, but have been thinking about opening one, here are some things you should consider.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FINDING THE RIGHT TYPE OF ACCOUNT FOR YOU, GO TO WWW.FDIC.GOV/GETBANKED WWW.FDIC.GOV/GETBANKED.

- 1. Your money is safe. Keeping cash in your home puts you at risk of theft, fire, flood, loss, or damage. Opening an account at an FDIC-insured bank anywhere across the nation ensures that your money is protected in the event of disaster. In addition, when you open an account in an FDIC-insured bank, your money is safe in the unlikely event that the bank fails. You do not need to apply for this insurance; coverage is automatic.
- 2. Your money is protected against error and fraud. Federal laws protect you in the event of a debit card error or unauthorized electronic transaction as long as you notify your bank in a timely manner.
- 3. You get your money faster with no check-cashing fees. When your money is direct-deposited into an FDIC-insured bank account, you get access to your money sooner than you would with a paper check. You can also save money by not having to pay check-cashing fees.
- 4. You can make online purchases with ease and peace of mind. Some bank accounts provide you with a debit card you can use to shop online. If your account is with an FDIC-insured bank, federal law limits your loss in the event of an unauthorized online transaction.
- 5. You have access to other products from the bank. Once you have established a relationship with a bank through a bank account, you can consider other financial products to help you achieve your financial goals: credit cards, auto loans, and home mortgages.

- 6. You can transfer money to family and friends with ease. Person-to-person payments and mobile app payments have become a part of everyday life for many people. With an FDIC-insured bank account, you can use these services and apps to send money to your friends and family without having to write a check, swipe a card, or hand them cash.
- 7. You have proof of payment. Whenever you purchase an item with a checking account or a debit card you have the proof you paid on your monthly statement.
- 8. You can keep an eye on how much money you have. You can use your monthly statements to track your spending, create a budget, compare your budget to your spending, and keep an eye on your payments and balances.
- 9. You can set useful alerts. Most mobile banking systems allow you to sign up for alerts to notify you if the balance in your FDIC-insured account drops below a set dollar amount or set spending limit. This can help you avoid overdraft fees. You may also be able to receive text alerts if your bank sees suspicious activity in your account. (Learn more about how to prevent identity theft or falling victim to potential scams on our identity theft resource page.)
- **10. You can pay your bills from wherever you are.** Your bank's electronic bill-pay services generally allow you to receive, review, and pay bills online from a smartphone, tablet, or computer.



Workshops

Anger & Emotional Management for Parents



Our children bring us incredible joy. Yet there are times we find ourselves crabby, frustrated or angry with the people we love. Learn how to manage anger to improve your relationships. Learn the five stages of anger & the top ten anger producers. Get to know your own anger, anger style & how to manage it to create a more harmonious home.

Free Childcare Available

Registration Required

Register Online:

Family Services Website:

www.familyservicesnew.org/parenting-classes

Parent Connection Facebook Events:

www.facebook.com/ParentConnectionWI

Questions?

Contact the Workshop Team at: workshops@familyservicesnew.org

920-739-4226 ext. 127

Choose One Session from these Three Options:

Online Thurs, Feb 22 | 12:00-2:00 pm

In-Person in Appleton Tue, March 19 | 6:00-8:00 pm

Online Thurs, May 23 | 12:00-2:00 pm

> Cost: \$10.00 per person per session



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 United Way www.familyservicesnew.org/parent-connection

Positive Discipline Parenting



This course will talk about discipline as structure, routine, communication & being our children's role models. Build up your children's positive behaviors & sense of self-esteem. We will talk about how we can start Positive Discipline Parenting in our homes today.

Free Childcare Available for In-Person Sessions

Choose One Session from these Three Options:

Online Thurs, Feb 29 | 12:00-2:00 pm

In-Person in Appleton Tue, March 26 | 6:00-8:00 pm

Online Thurs, May 30 | 12:00-2:00 pm

> Cost: \$10.00 per person per session



Registration Required

Register Online:

Family Services Website: www servicesnew.org/parenting-classes

Parent Connection Facebook Events: www.facebook.com/ParentConnectionWI

Questions? Contact the Workshop Team at: workshops@familyservicesnew.org 920-739-4226 ext. 127



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spark. Self-Love WORKSHOPS Are you ready to ignite your self-love and self-confidence? Join us for a dynamic workshop dedicated to strengthening the most important relationship in your life - the one with yourself. What's your spark? Adults (18+) These 3-hour workshops for women will provide practical strategies to boost self-esteem, develop self-compassion, and 1:00-4:00 PM 625 E County Road Y Oshkosh, WI 54901 14 cultivate a deeper love for the mind, body, and spirit. Join us for Young Adults (12-18) 1:00-4:00 PM 625 E County Road Y Oshkosh, WI 54901 11 Mothers & Daughters 1:00-4:00 PM 625 E County Road Y Oshkosh, WI 54901 3 SÇ Cost: \$10 per participant* | Limited Spaces Available Sign up today at **pdsfusion.org** to secure your spot! **Register today!** reporter-terms in employment and programming, including Title VI, Tatle IX, the Americans with equests for mean-table accommodations to ensure equal access to educational program as incommodations in languages dher that Englats, please contact oac@extension.witc.edu. For les al: heather stelljes@wisc.edu for the public. Parent & Caregiver Support Group **@**nami Fox Valley be kind NAMI Fox Valley (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in collaboration with Parent Connection Monthly Parent & Caregiver Support Group for parents and caregivers of school-aged children with behavioral or mental health challenges Our Parent & Caregiver Support Group provides participants with a relaxed, trusting and safe environment to share with and support others who can empathize with their experiences. Participants share strategies and coping skills, discover community resources and experience the benefits of mutual compassion. Join us the 2nd Monday Free Childcare Available Registration Highly Recommended of Every Month Walk-Ins are welcomed In-Person - Appleton Register On-line: 6:00-7:30 pm | Cost: FREE Family Services Website: Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13 www.familyservicesnew.org/parenting-classes Community Early Learning Center (CELC) Parent Connection Facebook Events: 313 S. State St., Appleton www.facebook.com/ParentConnectionWI For questions about this group Contact Vivian Flanagan NAMI Fox Valley Family Program Coordinator vivian@namifoxvalley.org or (920) 740-3499 Parent Connection Fox Cities: 1810 Appleton Road, Menasha WI 54952 | (920) 739-4226



15

v.familyservicesnew.org/parent-connection

NAMI Fox Valley: 211 E Franklin St, Appleton, WI 54911 | (920) 954-1550 www.namifoxvalley.org



Family Self Sufficiency

Job Assistance



Menasha Mini JOB FAIR

wisconsinjobcenter.org/events/

Monday, February 12, 2024

Menasha Job Center 1802 Appleton Road Menasha, WI 54952 - Redwood Room -

1:00-3:00 p.m.

- Toys for Trucks
- Clarity Care
- Agape
- UMOS
- Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley

Participating employers are subject to change

 UW Oshkosh QPS Employment

RGL Logistics

- Ornua
- Right At Home

CENTER A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter*network

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities



Career EXCELerate Wisconsin Personalized Job Training and Support Services to Transform Lives

ative program from Goodwill NCW, Fox Valley Technical College and Rawhide Youth Services



Launch a lasting career!

Career EXCELerate Wisconsin is a highly personalized training program offered at no cost to individuals who want to find a career pathway but are struggling and would benefit from individualized support.

areer educational certificate options: Choose from eight certificate programs that range from approximately two months to two semesters.

Educational and Health Services

- Nursing Assistant Early Childhood Teacher Aide
- Construction Woodworking Technician Pipe Trades

Manufacturing

Welding Fundamentals
Industrial Manufacturing Technician

- Truck Driving and Maintenance
 Professional Truck Driving Class A and B CDLs
 Heavy-Duty Vehicle Maintenance –
 Diesel Technology Assistant

Get started or refer someone today!



Call: 920-204-7002 Email: careerEXCELerateWI@goodwillncw.org







Join us at the Job Center to meet with recruiters from Home Instead!

- OPEN INTERVIEWS!
- Recruiting for multiple positions! Find out about compensation and benefits!
- Utilize Job Center computers for any required applications!
- Bring a friend! SEE YOU THERE!
- 1802 Appleton Rd Menasha 920-993-3272



The Fox Valley Job Centers and Local Workforce Partners The Fox Valley lob Centers and Local Workforce Partners are Equal Opportunity Employers and Service Providers. If you have a disability and need assistance with this information, please call us through Wisconsin Relay Service (7-1-1). To request an alternate format, including language assistance or translation of the information, please contact us at (888) 258-3966