

December 2024

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),

Happy December Birthday to Vernita, Sasharae, Dan and Lestina! ! I hope your birthdays are fabulous and you are finding a little time to take a step towards your goals.



While you are enjoying all the pretty Christmas lights, check out these cool events in the area:

Salvation Army Holiday sign up is now available. **FOX CITIES:** To register go to: www.safoxcities.org. Christmas assistance sign up ends December 4th. See page 5 for more information.

FSS Connection Group Meeting is on **Monday, December 9th at 9:00 am.** **Laurie Koshollek, Compliance Manager of Winnebago County Housing Authority,** will be giving a presentation on Housing Authority's application process, preferences, and income guidelines. **Kay O'Neil, Store Manager of the Oshkosh St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store,** will be giving a presentation on SVDP and what they are doing! Everyone is welcome to attend! **See page 11.**

Oshkosh Public Library: Job Search Assistance is offered weekly at the Oshkosh Public Library by staff from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and volunteers. These friendly experts can assist with resumes, cover letters, interview skills, career counseling and more. Appointments are available on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., or request a time that fits your schedule. To schedule an appointment call 920-236-5205 or email Reference@oshkoshpubliclibrary.org.

Please read the rest of this newsletter with educational, employment and community opportunities. I wish you and your family a very Happy and Healthy December! 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 920-279-3622 or emailing me at kayh@ohawcha.org.

Your success is my success.

Warm Regards,
Kay Hinton
FSS Coordinator

**Happy
Holidays!**



Rent Smart

Taught by Extension Educators

Helping to make renting a great experience for you!

2025 Winter/Spring Online Class Dates & Times

December 2024: 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19 @ 7:00PM-8:00PM; Tue/Thurs

February: 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 @ 9:00AM-10:00AM; Wed/Fri

March: 15, 22, 29 @ 9:00AM-11:30AM; Saturday

April: 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24 @ 7:00PM-8:00PM; Tue/Thurs

May: 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23 @ 1:00PM-2:00PM; Mon/Fri

June: 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 @ 9:00AM-10:00AM; Mon/Wed

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

To register, use this link *OR* scan the QR Code:

<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 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.





Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



MONEY MATTERS

FREE online program designed to improve financial habits. Gain money management skills and build knowledge to share with family and friends.

INTERESTED IN TAKING THE COURSE?

The online program can be completed in partnership with an Extension educator.



OPTION 1
Online Self Study



OPTION 2:
Online Self Study with
Financial Coaching



OPTION 3
Program Partnership
*Contact County Educator for
requirements of Program Partners*

Scan for more information



or visit your
local Extension Page



Todd Wenzel

Human Development &
Relationships Educator

920-232-1982
todd.wenzel@wisc.edu

winnebago.extension.wisc.edu

MONEY MATTERS CONSISTS OF A SERIES OF 14 MODULES INCLUDING:

- ▶ Your Financial Strengths
- ▶ Explore Credit Scores and Credit Reports
- ▶ When You Can't Pay Your Bills
- ▶ Making a Spending Plan
- ▶ Staying Organized
- ▶ Retirement Planning Basics
- ▶ Health Insurance Options for WI
- ▶ How Health Insurance Works
- ▶ Debt Management and Managing Student Loans
- ▶ Credit Unions, Banks, and Other Financial Institutions
- ▶ Money and Relationships
- ▶ Saving Money
- ▶ What is Credit and How to Build It

Complete all modules, or choose those most important to your needs.

Wisconsin residents can receive a certificate upon completion of program requirements.



The Salvation Army of the Fox Cities 2024 Coats for Kids and Christmas Assistance

Coats for Kids



November 11-15 | 1 PM - 3 PM
November 16 | 9 AM - 11 AM

Coats are available for children ages 17 and under.
No pre-registration required for coats.

The Salvation Army Social Services Center
130 E North St., Appleton



Christmas Assistance Registration

Households with children ages 17 and under are eligible for:

Adopt a Family

Online Registration October 14 — 18 or until program is full

Or

Toy Shop (Toys for Tots)

Online Registration November 12 — December 4



TO REGISTER

Use the QR code or go to www.safoxcities.org
follow the link under "Christmas Assistance Programs"



ANGEL TREE

To apply in person, call The Salvation Army front desk after November 12, 2024 at
(920)734-3324 to set up an appointment.

Community Resources





Parent Resource Hours

Have kids? Have questions? We're here to help!



Developmental Screenings: Our staff can help with childhood screenings that look at milestones in playing, speaking, behaving, and moving.



Lead Screening:* Learn how to prevent lead poisoning and get your child screened for lead exposure.



Vaccines:* Protect your child with routine vaccines from public health.



Car Seat Checks:* Learn the correct way to install a car seat and keep your child safe.



Health and Community Resources: Learn about programs like prenatal health care, WIC, and Head Start.



Nursing Expertise: Our nurses can support you to give your baby the highest level of care!



Breastfeeding: Get one-on-one support with our lactation specialist.



Safe Sleep: Learn how to create a safe sleep environment for your child.

EVERY
2ND TUESDAY
1-4 PM
OSHKOSH
112 Otter Ave

EVERY
4TH THURSDAY
11 AM-2 PM
NEENAH
211 Commercial St



*Appointment needed for car seat checks, lead screening, and vaccines. Scan or call to schedule.

Drop in any time during Parent Resource Hours!
All are welcome. Services are FREE!

920-232-3000 / health@winnebagoountywi.gov
WWW.WINNEBAGOPUBLICHEALTH.ORG

Updated 11/23

Next Pop-Up Food Pantry is Saturday, December 21st, 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.




UMOS & the Fox Valley Job Centers

Every Tuesday

12pm until 4pm

Fox Valley Job Center
1802 Appleton Rd.
Menasha, WI 54952



Unemployment Insurance
Navigator Program

Fox Valley Job Center Event
The Fox Valley Job Center and the UMOs Unemployment Insurance Navigator Program are partnering to assist the community in a job center event.

Our Services:

- Bilingual Service
- Initial Claims
- Weekly Claims
- Appeals
- Any Questions?


Why Choose Us?
The Unemployment Insurance System is intended to provide temporary support to workers when they lose their job through no fault of their own. Our Navigators, some of whom are bilingual (English/Spanish), will be assisting clients in navigating the process of filing for unemployment.

Menomonie - Green Bay - Oshkosh - Wautoma - Milwaukee - Racine

UMOS UI Locations

Contact Us!

Oshkosh UI Office Phone:
920-366-6579
ximena.rubindecelis@umos.org



HELP

Homelessness, Evictions, & Loss Prevention

*Are you struggling with unstable housing? Struggling to keep up on rent/mortgage payments?

*Is your housing instability leading to a possible eviction/foreclosure?

*Have you received a Notice to Vacate by your landlord and are having difficulty finding a new place?

*Do you need assistance getting connected with local community resources?


If your answer is **yes** to any of these, please reach out as soon as possible to allow HELP time to brainstorm ways to better assist with your housing needs

Winnebago County Human Services
220 Washington Ave P.O. Box 2187
Oshkosh, WI 54903

Monday-Friday FROM 8 AM - 4:30 PM Walk-In's Welcome
***Appointment preferred**

HELPProgram@winnebagoountywi.gov

HELP On Call Phone
920-509-7629





Your Best Holiday Gift: Mindful Holiday Spending

Here are 3 mindful holiday spending techniques to help you save more, have less stress and enjoy more financial wellness this holiday season.

1. Envision your Holiday Spending: Give some thought on what you want your holiday to look like. Can you imagine a holiday season where you can enjoy the lights, the festivities, and the connections with people without some of the stress and anxiety that comes with it?

2. Make a list, Check it twice! Start making a list of people you want to buy for. And notice the word want to buy for and not need to buy for. Often, we continue holiday habits that are not making us happy or not doing the things that we really want to do. It's often based on a perceived expectation that we think we need to meet. We often go along with these expectations because we don't want to create conflict. We don't like change. We want people to like us, and we want to feel included or connected to people. These are natural emotions and feelings, but often these expectations cause us stress, anxiety, and money. It requires the courage to start a conversation with friends and family. Having these conversations can certainly be hard, as people are often used to established habits and have their own vision of what the holiday looks like. Being mindful of these feelings during the holiday season, is remembering that you need to stay true to your financial situation, and not squeeze your budget or create debt for yourself because of others' gift-giving expectations.

3. Create a Shopping plan: Create a shopping plan where you evaluate and rethink what you might have done before. Set boundaries for your time and money. I like this quote by Renee Brown.

“Daring to set boundaries, is about having the courage to love ourselves, even when we risk disappointing others.”

Financial wellness is the process of learning how to successfully manage money, and what better way to do that than during all the temptations in the retail holiday shopping season. Part of living that authentic life is wrangling in the holidays to know how you want them to look and communicating your boundaries to others, and maybe you can give yourself the gift of no debt!



**Saving \$8 per day
= \$2,920 per year**

**Never underestimate the
power of small habits.**

Celebration of Lights FREE Community Nights

EAA Grounds (1858 Neunteufel Ave Oshkosh)

- **Sunday, December 1, 2024 5:30-9pm**
• Sponsored by JEK Foundation
- **Sunday, December 8, 2024 5:30-9pm**
• Sponsored by 4imprint
- **Sunday, December 15, 2024 5:30-9pm**
• Sponsored by ThedaCare
- **Sunday, December 22, 2024 5:30-9pm**
• Sponsored by Quandt Plumbing
- **Monday, December 23, 2024 5:30-9pm**
• Sponsored by Academy Travel
- **Sunday, December 29, 2024 5:30-9pm**
• Sponsored by Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and Storm Companies Inc.

FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B CHRISTMAS DAY

MEAL PROGRAM

DECEMBER 25TH, 2024

- DELIVERY 10:30 - NOON
 - Accepting Orders Now
- DINE-IN NOON - 1:30PM
- No Reservations Required

FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B
1062 N. Koeller Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902
920.231.2378

For unto us, a Child is born



23rd Annual

OSHKOSH Celebration of Lights

November 29
to December 31

EAA Grounds
1858 Neunteufel Ave • Oshkosh

OPEN DAILY
5:30-9pm

General Admission
\$20/carload
\$5 off with donation of a sealed hygiene item (shampoo, deodorant, soap, etc.) or non-perishable, in-date food items.

Visit Santa!
Nightly through December 23
5:30 - 8:30 pm
Don't forget your letters to Santa!

FUN GIVEAWAYS!

- December 3
Light Up Christmas Wand
 - December 10
COL Plaid Can Coozie
 - December 17
Mug Ornament
 - December 24
Metal Camp Mug
- While supplies last.

MAJOR EVENT SPONSOR:



WISCONSIN SENIOR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



The Wisconsin Senior Employment Program (WISE) provides unemployed adults age 55+ with training opportunities and PAID part time work experience in community service organizations.

EARNINGS DO NOT AFFECT FOODSHARE OR SUBSIDIZED HOUSING BENEFITS!

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

- 55 + YEARS OF AGE
- UNEMPLOYED AND WANT TO WORK
- LOW INCOME
- RESIDENT OF COUNTIES SERVED



WHAT SKILLS CAN I LEARN?

LIBRARY AIDE
RETAIL/CASHIER
JANITORIAL
CUSTOMER SERVICE
ADULT /CHILD CARE
CLERICAL/OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
AND MORE...



TELL ME MORE

- Train with an employer in your community to learn new skills.
- Earn minimum wage, \$7.25/hour, and train up to 20 hours per week.



Serving Green Lake, Fond du Lac & Winnebago Counties

Maureen Bryden

Program Coordinator

mbryden@fvwdb.com

920-229-5557

CALL TODAY!

www.foxvalleywork.org



GET YOUR DREAM LIFE



Take your next steps with us to get the **career you want** for the **life you want**

Here's what you can get:



Tuition for training and school



A career that's right for you



Someone in your corner all the way!



Help with gas, rent, and other needs



Connections to local employers

OUR SPECIALIZED INITIATIVES



WIOA Adult Program

Provides job services to people looking for a new career path, want to go back to school, or want to train for good jobs that pay well.

QUEST

Addresses the childcare shortage with services to help people run childcare operations. It works with dislocated workers or those who were laid off because of the pandemic.

WIOA Youth Program

Supports youth ages 14 - 24 who are facing barriers find a job, earn their GED, or enroll in post-secondary education or training.

WIOA Dislocated Worker Program

Helps those who've lost employment due to a mass layoff or economic transition find work as quickly as possible.

Ready to start?

Contact us to learn more:

920-278-9264

www.fsc-corp.org/WIOA

foxvalleywioa@fsc-corp.org



The 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 711 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) 594-5655.



Career EXCErate | Wisconsin

Personalized Job Training and Support Services to Transform Lives

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



Launch a lasting career!

Career EXCErate 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.

Career 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!

Complete a short online form at careerEXCEratewi.org

Call: 920-204-7002

Email: careerEXCErateWI@goodwillncw.org



Job Tip Tuesday

Did you know? Series



Assistance available at the Public Library!

Looking for assistance with your resume? Struggling with Interview skills? Have general job searching questions?

Fond du Lac Public Library

Appointments are required

- NEW! Monday 9:30 to NOON
- Tuesday 9:30AM to 4PM
- NEW! Thursday 9:30 to NOON

920-322-3930

www.fdlpl.org/jobsservices

Oshkosh Public Library

- Wednesday 1PM to 4PM

920-236-5205

www.oshkoshpubliclibrary.org/events

Call or go online to schedule an appointment!

1802 Appleton Rd. Menasha, WI - (920) 997-3272

A proud partner of the [American Job Center](http://www.americanjobcenter.org) network

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





Winnebago County Public Health Vending Machines

What are Public Health Vending Machines?

The Public Health Vending machines are a free community resource. Prevention kits such as gun locks, Narcan, Fentanyl testing strips, DETERRA drug deactivation, menstrual products, basic needs kits, and more are individually stocked in discreet brown boxes.

Who will use Public Health Vending Machines?

This resource is meant to give people access to items that will help create a stronger and healthier community for all. Everyone is encouraged to use these machines, including:

- Individuals who use substances
- Friends and Family of those who use substances
- Community members that want to be empowered to intervene in an emergency to prevent unnecessary deaths
- Community members that need access to basic needs items such as safe drug disposal bags or menstrual products

Hours & Locations:

The Winnebago County Public Health Vending Machines are available 24/7 at two convenient outdoor locations:

**David W. Albrecht
Administration Building**
112 Otter Ave
Oshkosh WI

**Winnebago County
Human Services**
211 N Commercial St.
Neenah WI



How do I access the machines?



Step 1: Call the confidential Public Health Vending Machine Hotline to receive a PIN Code:
(920) 232-3313



Step 2: Use your unique PIN code to access up to 3 items from the Public Health Vending Machine.



Step 3: Use the items to help make our community a safer place for everyone. Contact the hotline again for a new PIN code if needed.



For More Information: Call 920-232-3000 or visit <https://wchd.pub/PHVM>



Save the Date!

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

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, December 9, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

FSS Connection Group Meeting is on Monday, December 9th at 9:00 am. Laurie Koshollek, Compliance Manager of Winnebago County Housing Authority, will be giving a presentation on Housing Authority's application process, preferences, and income guidelines. Kay O'Neil, Store Manager of the Oshkosh St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, will be giving a presentation on SVDP and what they are doing! Everyone is welcome to attend! **Let's also share agency updates.**

Join the Teams meeting with this link:



WeCOPE Program



Managing life's challenges in healthy ways allows us to take better care of ourselves and others.

WeCOPE is an evidence-based program that helps adults cope with daily life stress. WeCOPE has been shown to reduce stress and depression, increase positive affect, and improve health behaviors in randomized trials.

Mondays, 12 - 1 PM, January 27 - March 3 (6 Sessions)
Virtual Class on Zoom

- January 27: WeCOPE Overview, Emotional Awareness
- February 3: Gratitude, Noticing and Savoring Positive Events
- February 10: Everyday Mindfulness, Mindfulness Meditation
- February 17: Positive Reappraisal
- February 24: Self-Compassion, Acts of Kindness
- March 3: Personal Strengths, Attainable Goals

Sign up today for this FREE, virtual program!

Register at: <https://forms.gle/8uK8JavLebKUZ36o7>

Please register by January 3, 2025. A Zoom link will be emailed to you prior to the first session.

Questions? Contact Us!

Waukesha County: Jillian Smith, jillian.smith@wisc.edu

Winnebago County: Katie Jaegly, katie.jaegly@wisc.edu





ATTENTION ENTREPRENEURS

At ADVOCAP, we understand the challenges and dreams of small business owners like you.

That's why our Business Development Services are here to provide the support you need to turn your vision into reality!

**TAKE THE FIRST STEP
CONTACT US TODAY!**

 www.advocap.org

 920-922-7760

 elisabeth.stockton@advocap.org



Starting Point

Starting Point is designed to help women ages 18 and older in the areas of financial planning skills, empowerment, and career planning that will lead to further education and/or a new career. Women will gain the necessary skills to go to college, learn how to network and access available resources, meet other women with similar life experiences, gain confidence and build self-esteem, and learn how to manage finances and relationships. This program is open to mothers and women without children. Women must be a resident of Outagamie, Calumet, Shawano, Waupaca, or Winnebago County.

Fall 2024 Dates & Times

Appleton: 9/11/24 to 12/4/24, Wednesdays 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Childcare Provided

Oshkosh: 9/14/24 to 12/4/24, Saturdays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Childcare Provided

Virtual: 9/11/24 to 12/4/24, Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm, No Childcare

Spring 2025 Dates & Times

Appleton: 2/12/25 to 5/14/25, Wednesdays 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Childcare Provided

Oshkosh: 2/15/25 to 5/14/25, Saturdays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Childcare Provided

Virtual: 2/12/25 to 5/14/25, Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm, No Childcare



"Starting Point has helped me build skills I didn't have and to sharpen skills I already had."

Women Will Learn

"I felt like I had some control over my life and where it was going."

- Time Management
- Self-Esteem
- Goal Setting
- Community Resources



- Career Development
- Study Skills
- Assertiveness
- Healthy Relationships



Grants available for moving forward with education without financial stress.



FVTC ID available for free busing on GO Transit.

Children Will Learn

Child Development Topics

Sharing With Others

Early Literacy

Resiliency

Recognize Feelings and Emotions

Age Appropriate Activities

Making Good Choices

Exploration Through Play

Listening Skills

Discipline Strategies

Mothers will learn

Parenting Resources and Referrals

"Starting Point has helped me plan a way to go back to school and provide for our family."

"This program has helped me learn all the resources within FVTC, to help as I go back to school. It has even given me the help I need in my personal life."

Why would I want to take this workshop?

- Free, no cost educational opportunity
- Support System for you and your child
- Direct access to one on one support with FVTC
- All school fees for admission are waived (\$45 value)
- Give your children a healthy environment to thrive
- Gain support from other parents

"I have really bad anxiety and self-doubt. This program made me feel more comfortable entering a new transition. I wanted to go back to school but did not know where to start or who to ask for help. I feel that now I have a better view on where I want to see my future go."

Contact Information: Kara Nowak | (920) 735-5722 | kara.nowak7593@fvtc.edu
 To find out if you are eligible and have a staff member contact you, fill out this survey: www.fvtc.edu/StartingPoint



Winter Market 2024 - 25

SELECT SATURDAYS

NOVEMBER 9, 2024 – APRIL 19, 2025

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

SPECIALTY MARKETS:

MARKET AND HOLIDAY BAZAARS

4IMPRINT BIG HOLIDAY BAG GIVEAWAY

DECEMBER 14 & 21

SEE SANTA ON DEC. 21

Winter Market

Selected Saturdays
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Check schedule for location

Next Market:
 Nov. 23 - Oshkosh Arena
December Markets:
 Dec. 14 - Oshkosh Convention Center
 Dec. 21 - Oshkosh Convention Center
 Dec 28 - Oshkosh Convention Center

