Wellpoint Community Initiatives

John McCalley Whole Health & Equity Director August 22, 2024



Starts Right Here Partnership and Grant

Starts Right Here serves at-risk urban youth through alternative educational opportunities to obtain a high school diploma while transforming lives.

Wellpoint granted Starts Right Here \$100,000 to support the expansion of their new facility and programming.

Facility and Program Expansion:

- Larger classrooms
- Fitness and dormitory rooms
- Establish a Peer Support Program
- Organize a career and apprenticeship fair





Oakridge Studio Teen Tech Center powered by Wellpoint



Oakridge Studio – Tech center developed in partnership with Wellpoint, Best Buy Teen Tech Program and the Oakridge Neighborhood in Des Moines

- Wellpoint grant of \$300,000 over 4 years
- Available to young adults from 13 21 years old
- Location: 900 Keosauqua Way, Des Moines

Features:

- Recording studio
- Photography
- Videography
- Equipment: 3D printers, drones, laser cutting, virtual reality headsets and tools for programming robotics
- Workshops, instructors and 1:1 training

Life Connections Partnership and Grant



Life Connections provides peer-run respite and a wellness program in Clinton County.

Wellpoint granted Life Connections \$100,000 to build capacity and fund:

- Wellness Recovery Action Plan Training,
- Enhance the Wellness Center in Clinton
- Purchase technology and enhance the current Peer-Run Support Program
- Support to open a second Peer-Run Support Program serving members virtually throughout the state.



Partnership Spotlight



Humility Homes & Services, Inc. Davenport, IA| Scott County

Partnered with Wellpoint since 2021

Mission: Humility Homes & Services, Inc. is committed to ending homelessness by offering housing opportunities and supportive services in the greater Quad Cities area.



Pictured: Members of Wellpoint's LTSS case management team volunteer to help sort clothing and other shelter donations at Humility Homes.



Pictured: Wellpoint Iowa was invited by Humility Homes to be part of a homeless immersion project. People who have faced and who were currently facing homelessness led a walk throughout Davenport, highlighting the many challenges of what it's like to be homeless.



Pictured: Wellpoint Iowa sponsored Humility Homes' open house and annual block party event, bringing people experiencing homelessness and the neighborhood around the shelter together. Wellpoint sponsored the Kona Ice truck that was able to help keep everyone cool on the warm summer day.

Other Highlights: July 2024



WESCO Industries

Denison, IA | Crawford County

WESCO received a \$2,500 Wellpoint Community Transformation Grant for resources needed to help move from their current day habitation space to a space more suitable for their program needs.

Wellpoint Community Relations Representative Travis Gabeler joined WESCO Industries to help them move from their current day habilitation space to their new space.





Special Olympics Iowa Ames, IA | Story County

Wellpoint Iowa sponsored another year of the Special Olympics Iowa Summer Games in Ames. More than 40 Wellpoint associates volunteered during this event.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) Cherokee, IA | Cherokee County

Wellpoint Iowa sponsored LSI's HOPES Program in Cherokee County by providing funds for a community baby shower. Attendees were able to access resources and services critical to ensuring a happy and healthy delivery and first few months.

32 Community Events

42 Coalition/Interagency/CBO Meetings

27 Counties in Iowa



Snapshot: Recent partnerships and events



Statewide | Community Baby Shower Sponsorships



Cedar Rapids | Day of Play Event Partnership



Davenport | Humility Homes and Services' Annual Block Party



Keokuk | In Plain Sight Event



Statewide | Family Fun Festivals and Health Fairs



Statewide | Mental Health Awareness Events



Ames | Special Olympics Iowa Summer Games Sponsorship



Volunteering throughout Iowa





