

## A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS ALLEN Associate Director

One year of social work. One year of flying by the seat of my pants! Honestly, I feel and think differently about more things than I can even begin to count. In the span of 365 days, I did everything from taking clients dealing with anxiety through acceptance commitment therapy, to getting families adopted for Christmas, to making

campfire nightlights with kids at A Playdate To Do Good Things, to showcasing winter wear donations at an online gala, to playing a part in putting on a little gathering called the Klompen Classic. While some days felt like a crash course in social work, my team was more than able to guide me around the potholes and spur me onwards. I look forward to the adventure of 2024!



## WE NEED YOU

Crossroads is looking for **Helping Heroes**. It is not uncommon for individuals to walk into our office with different needs. From needing a bicycle as transportation when mom works, new clothes for school, a small kitchen appliance when you have none, or warm socks for a husband who works outside. Would you consider helping us with items like this? **Call today to be on our list.**

## MEN TALK MAKES A DIFFERENCE

This relatively new grief program has been very successful. Men with diverse stories find support and encouragement from this program. If you think you could benefit, Jim Hibma would welcome you at any time.



## SHIIP WELCOMES HEIDI PAULIUS

Heidi joins the Crossroads SHIIP Team with Keith Van Hemert, Bob Maurer and Mike Filippini. Every year SHIIP advises over 450 Medicare clients.

## A MEANINGFUL AND FUN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

A **Playdate To Do Good Things** has been a hit! Over 100 children and their parents volunteered for kid-friendly service projects that have benefitted seniors both at the Manor and the Cottages, clients of the Pella Community Food Shelf, users of West Market Park, and the awesome first responders in our town.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPT 1, 2023 - JAN 31, 2024**

Winter Coat Drive - Drop off anytime

**SEPT 5, 2023**

English Language Learners Begins - 4:30 P.M.

**SEPT 11, 2023**

A Playdate To Do Good Things 10:00 A.M.

**SEPT 26, 2023**

Welcome to Medicare Seminar - 5:30 P.M.

**OCT 2, 2023**

Christmas Adopt a Family Registration Begins  
Christmas Toy Shelf Registration Begins

**OCT 3, 2023**

Drive-up Coats & Coffee - 7:30 - 9:30 A.M.

**OCT 15 - DEC 7, 2023**

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment  
*Call now for appointments.*

**OCT 26, 2023**

Winter Wear Gala - 6:00 P.M.

**JAN 15, 2024**

A Playdate To Do Good Things 10:00 A.M.

**FEB 16, 2024**

A Playdate To Do Good Things 10:00 A.M.

**MARCH 11, 2024**

A Playdate To Do Good Things 10:00 A.M.

**MAY 3, 2024**

Free Kids Classic - 6:00 P.M.  
Klompfen Classic 5K - 7:00 P.M.

**MAY 21, 2024**

Welcome to Medicare Seminar - 5:30 P.M.

**SEPT 24, 2024**

Welcome to Medicare Seminar - 5:30 P.M.

**WEEKLY**

Men Talk - Guys helping guys deal with grief  
Alcoholics Anonymous & Narcotics Anonymous  
English Language Learners

## ONE COLD OCTOBER MORNING

It was only 20 degrees as we were outside setting up for our first ever **Drive By Coats and Coffee**. Streamers were hung, fun music was playing, and the coffee was hot. Our hope was that people would be able to easily drive by with their winter coat donations and grab a thank you coffee to go. Having no idea how this would turn out, we were extremely happy to have almost 50 cars come through and donations of many wonderful winter wear items.

## FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM OF A WINTER WEAR GALA

As volunteer models of all ages walked the runway in winter wear, families could choose items from the comfort of their own home. Many of the recipients told us it was fun to watch and a helpful way to find winter wear for their families. We are thankful for our great volunteers and the wonderful people who donated.

## A PROGRAM THAT WELCOMES AND EMPOWERS

We hosted 2 **English Language Learners** sessions last year. Our attendees were from 5 different countries including Ukraine. Some of the items they worked on included: basic greetings, phrases, months of the year, days of the week, community spaces, household items vocabulary, basic English decoding skills, idioms, and homophones.

## WAYS TO DONATE

- Mail a check payable to Crossroads of Pella
- Scan the QR code to donate online.

