

UCDA



# THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPER

QUARTERLY REPORT

The Neighborhood Revitalization Grant for Uptown Creston included a housing rehab component. SWIPCO has been selected as the organization that will manage this piece of the grant. The Update Uptown subcommittee will offer assistance in recruiting homeowners in the designated boundaries to consider making improvements to their homes utilizing these grant funds. Progress continues at 1001 W. Jefferson St. to build 36 one and two bedroom apartments.



Also, The Fuller Center For Housing is now a coworker at The Roundhouse. This will allow for greater collaboration to help recruit board members and housing opportunities.

## WORK/LEAD

*Vision: Union County education stakeholders and industry leaders collaborate to ensure all area youth are future ready.*



The 2024/2025 Lead UC class is nearing graduation, which means the Service and Legacy Projects are in full swing. This year, the Lead UC and Lead UC Youth programs are continuing to improve and promote the Paul and Becky Kelly Family Natural Wilderness Area through a video highlight and clean up day. On April 23rd, the Lead UC Program and Southwestern Community College are pairing up to bring Meals from the Heartland back to Union County.

The “Game of Life” activity took place during the January leadership session. As a part of UCDA’s three year strategic goals, the Work/Lead committee will continue to refine this activity and work towards sharing this with a broader reach of high school students in Union County.

The First, “What’s So Great About...” Career Hype Video is in the works. UCDA is partnering with the Creston CAST Classroom and area business professionals to highlight career pathways that exist in Union County. If you would like to help feature a career, contact Mindy @director@unioncountyiowa.com

## WHAT’S SO GREAT ABOUT...

massage therapy  
dentistry  
engineering  
health care  
accounting

welding  
education  
human resources  
plumbing  
entrepreneurship

child care  
agriculture  
linemen  
cosmetology  
...your career?

# DISCOVER

*Vision: Union County is the most desirable place to live.*



The Update Uptown committee continues to discuss plans for the Neighborhood Revitalization grant received in October of 2024.

Uptown Clean Up days are returning to the Uptown District! The first Uptown Clean Up will be on April 24<sup>th</sup> with Southwestern Community College during their Pay It Forward (PIF) week. The following clean-ups will continue to land on the first Thursday of the month in May through October.

Road-trip Wednesday continues to explore Union County's seven communities, highlighting events, programs, businesses, history and more!

The Uptown Hanging Flower Basket Project is seeking sponsors for the 2025 season. These hanging flower baskets are a great compliment to the planters along the sidewalks. To sponsor a hanging basket, email [director@unioncountyiowa.com](mailto:director@unioncountyiowa.com).

A county wide trail plan is on the forefront of both UCDA and the Afton Development Corporation. This concept is still in the very early stages of research.

*Vision: Union County is the most desirable location to conduct business.*

# GROW

Another successful just start: Introduction to Entrepreneurship was held at The Roundhouse on March 7th. For future just start workshops, UCDA encourages individuals to express interest through the Just Start Interest form located on their website. Pictured to the right: just start graduates, Kimberly Hobbs and Chris Walter.

On April 16th, Kelsey Buck returned to The Roundhouse for a Visual Communication & Marketing Design for your Small Business workshop. In addition to the April workshop, UCDA and SBDC will also be hosting "Exploring AI in the Workplace" with Olivia and Jamie David. To sign up for these events, visit UCDA's Facebook page.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, UCDA is hosting a SOS, Summer Employment & Career Exploration Expo at the Creston High School for Creston Students for the first time. Students will be visiting local area businesses offering summer & fall placements for work and career exploration.



# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Union County Young Professionals (UCYP) have been working to incentivize engagement and involvement for future events. The UCYP Planning Committee are coordinating quarterly professional development events in addition to occasional networking and social events. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, UCYP is hosting a *Lessons Learned* workshop with business professionals in the area discussing their path to success and the hardships along the way.

Fridays after Five is right around the corner! This is a great event for local nonprofits to raise awareness and funding each week. To get involved with the UCYP's, join their Facebook Group or contact Olivia @marketing@unioncountyiowa.com.

UCYP also facilitates the The Intern IT UP program for area interns during summer, with opportunities for college aged students to see more of what Union County has to offer.



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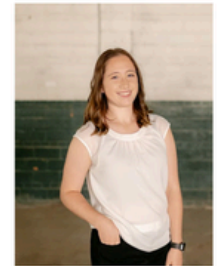
Tyler Kaczmariski  
BUNN



Aleah Calvin  
Greater  
Regional  
Health



Angelo Ducato  
Greater  
Regional  
Health



Jodie Bowsby  
Greater  
Regional  
Health

## 2024 Intern IT UP Participants

## UPCOMING Q2 EVENTS

### Area Business Coffee:

- April 18th:** Iowa State Savings Bank
  - April 25th:** East Union High School
  - May 2nd:** KSIB
  - May 9th:** Crossroads Behavioral Health
  - May 16th:** Hull Monument
  - May 23rd:** Three Little Birds Marketplace
  - May 30th:** Weaver Meats
  - June 6th:** Family Shoe Store
  - June 13th:** Greater Regional Health
  - June 20th:** Feel Better Training
  - June 27th:** Top Knotch Fireworks
- ### Fridays after Five:
- May 23rd:** The Elks Lodge
  - May 30th:** The Lions Club & PCSB
  - June 6th:** Kiwanis, Hometown Insurance & Realty & Edward Jones-Kyle Wilson
  - June 13th:** MATURA & Stalker Auto Group
  - June 20st:** Lead UC & Northwest Bank
  - June 27th:** Dog Gone Rescue & KSIB

### Uptown Clean Up Days:

- April 24th:** Southwestern Community College
  - May 1st:** Northwest Bank
  - June 5th:** Greater Regional Health
- \*all clean ups hosted at The Roundhouse

### Other Community Events:

- April 16th:** Visual Communication & Marketing Design for your Small Business w/ Kelsey Buck
- April 17th:** Student of Service & Summer Employment & Career Exploration Expo
- April 23rd:** Meals from the Heartland
- April 24th:** UCYP Lessons Learned Event
- May 10th:** Market on Maple
- May 14th:** Entre-Conn
- June 3rd - August 12:** Tuesday Nights in the Park- Afton
- June 18th:** Exploring AI in the Workplace
- June 28th:** Greater 8 & 5K
- June 28th:** Kansas Street Boogie- Afton