

# Jasper County Cares Coalition

**POST PACKET** Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 10:30 AM

**Attendance:** 48 in attendance at the regular meeting!

**Welcome:** Gary Martin, Friends in Hope, Telephone 515-991-9978

They have lots of beds, couches, chairs, furniture, dishes, etc. They accept good used furniture.

**Job Openings:**

Capstone: Therapist with a sign on bonus (Julie)

ITS: Mental Health Counselor (Victoria)

MICA: Nurse, Child Care Consultant (Jana)

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

Discover Hope: Front Desk and Bread of Life Ministry (Katie)

NAMI of Central Iowa: Facilitator for Family Support Group (Bill)

RSVP, Senior Volunteers. (Sarah or Jasmine)

Jasper Co. Senior Nutrition (Kelli)

**Other:** RSVP looking for sponsors for tax volunteer lunches.

**Attachments:**

Jasper County Habitat for Humanity, Becca Decker, presentation- Thank you!

Safe Haven Baby Box, Nick, Open Arms. Maternal Health Meeting

CAP program, Janelle, Blank Children's Hospital. Schools should contact her for more info.



Reminder, no meeting in January. The next meeting will be February 12.

MICA will be the spotlight agency!

## **Cares information**

- Website: [https://www.jasperia.org/health/jasper\\_county\\_cares/](https://www.jasperia.org/health/jasper_county_cares/)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JasperCountyCaresCoalition>
- Events/calendar: <https://www.jasperia.org/calendar/>
  - Coming soon. You will be able to submit your events to the County calendar.
- Resource Guide: <https://www.jasperia.org/resources/>
- Contact: Becky Pryor [jaspercocoares@jasperia.org](mailto:jaspercocoares@jasperia.org)



# Jasper County Cares Coalition

## Meeting Dates (2nd Wednesday)

**2025**

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Feb 12 | Aug 13 |
| Mar 12 | Sep 10 |
| Apr 9  | Oct 8  |
| May 14 | Nov 12 |
| Jun 11 | Dec 10 |
| Jul 9  |        |

Time: 10:30 AM

Contact: [jaspercocares@jasperia.org](mailto:jaspercocares@jasperia.org)

Jasper Co. Office Building  
Large Conference Room  
315 W. 3rd St N. Newton, IA



Greater Des Moines

**Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>

[gdmhabitat.org](http://gdmhabitat.org)

# Our Mission & Vision

## MISSION

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

## VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.



# The Need

- **More than 11,000** low-income families in our community are stuck in cost-burdened rental situations.
- In neighborhoods with Habitat's focus, more than **1 in 4 homes** need repair to preserve the home or maintain a basic level of safety.



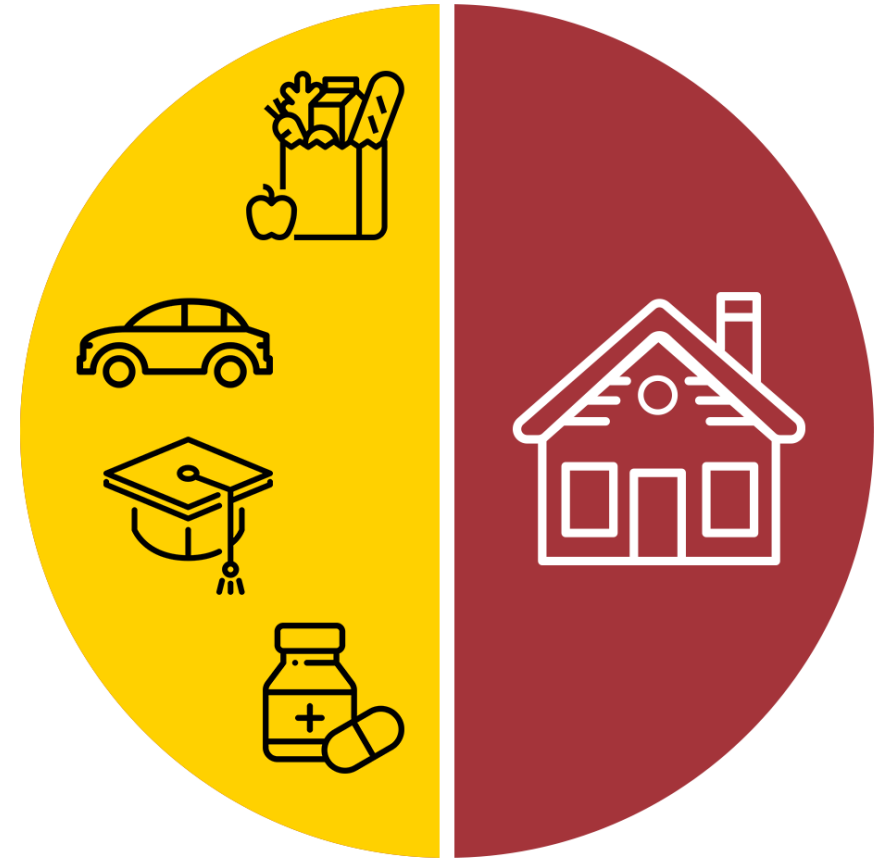
# The Need

- The need for affordable housing continues to grow as our community grows.
- By 2030, Central Iowa will need to add **61,000** net new housing units to accommodate new workers in the region.



# The Need

- **1 in 8 families** spend 50% or more of their income on housing, forcing them to make decisions between other necessary expenses, like healthy foods, health care, reliable transportation, or good education.
- **No one** should have to pay more than 30% of their income to afford a home.



# Our Programs

Founded on the conviction that everyone should have a decent, safe, and affordable place to live, GDM Habitat seeks to transform neighborhoods and build bright futures through affordable homeownership and owner-occupied repairs.

- Homeownership Program
  - New Construction Homes
  - Direct Loan Program
- Home Preservation
  - Maintenance, Weatherization, and Safety
  - Accessibility Modifications
- Housing Counseling and Financial Education
  - Classes which prepare participants for home ownership
  - A personalized roadmap for financial success



# Additional Programs

Over the last 35 years, Habitat has been on the forefront of addressing affordable housing in Central Iowa. Since 1987, more than 450 families have had the opportunity to purchase a safe, affordable place to live, and 2,300 families have been helped to stay in their homes.

- The ReStore
  - Our two Restore locations (Euclid and Urbandale) help to support our mission through their revenue
- Volunteer Program
  - Through community volunteers we can expand the reach of our work, build more homes, and complete more repairs.
  - Volunteers build community and learn valuable skills
- Neighborhood Launch Grant
  - The newly created grant provides seed funding to projects which build increase community relations in our core neighborhoods and improve quality of life.

# Jasper County Stats as of May 2024- November 2024

Home Ownership Inquires: 61

Home Preservation Inquires: 73

Counseling Sessions Scheduled: 6



# Jasper County Future

- 3 open lots ready to build Newton
- Host a weeklong Build Celebration/Kick off for one home.
  - (Outside Home Preservation Projects/Cosmetic Repairs to the Outside)
  - ( Volunteers will be needed, Businesses interested?)
- Receiving more grants and funding to continue Home Preservation Work through out the year
  - ( Hire Local contractors to complete work)



# 2023 in Review



## **Greater Des Moines Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Program Blank Children's Hospital Center for Advocacy and Outreach**

### **Program Description**

The Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program uses a three-pronged approach to address child assault and maltreatment. This three-pronged approach includes education for school staff, parents, and elementary school age children. Staff Education and Parent Education are approximately one-hour sessions done at the school (virtual option available if needed) in the weeks leading up to the Children's Workshop. The Children's Workshop takes place in the classroom and is done by a team of three trained facilitators. The Children's Workshop is 60 minutes of group presentation followed by 30 minutes of individual review time immediately after the classroom presentation.

The program approaches prevention from a perspective of basic human rights. Everyone has the right to be safe, strong, and free. A repeated mantra of the Children's Workshop is: **Safe, Strong, and Free!**

This empowering approach to prevention explains that when another person tries to take away our rights to be safe, strong, and free – there are problems. These problems are demonstrated through role plays.

The role plays presented are:

- Bullying (peer to peer assault)
- Abduction (assault by a stranger)
- Sexual Abuse (assault by a known person)

The three role plays are presented two times—the 1<sup>st</sup> time demonstrates a child losing their rights to be safe, strong and free. The first time is resolved *unsuccessfully*. Then the situation is processed with the kids. Important safety skills are introduced or reviewed for each situation. The role play is done the second time, and it resolves *successfully*. There is one final role play starring the classroom teacher. This role play shows what it might be like to talk about a problem with a trusted adult.

After the Children's Workshop is Review Time in which kids can talk with a facilitator one on one. Review Time participation is a choice made by the child. It is always offered, many children choose to participate but are never forced to participate—it is ALWAYS the child's choice to attend review time or not. During review time, the teacher will be given CAP worksheet packets to keep students busy during these 30 minutes. However, teachers may opt to have students do other work or activities.



## CAP Concepts and Skills

- Define basic human rights
- Identify safe or trusted adults
- Tricks used by unsafe adults or peers
- When assault happens to a child it is NEVER the child's fault
- Self-protection skills (kicking, yelling, elbowing)
- Turning to a peer for support
- Definition of a stranger
- Telling vs. tattling
- When assault happens, it is important to tell a safe adult and keep telling until someone listens
- It is OK to say **no** to an adult or peer when they make us feel uncomfortable

Overview of the CAP program for school staff:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7772042414075671043>

Overview of the CAP program for parents/caregivers:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2056896421600102659>

Contact person:

**Janelle Ballhagen, BSW** *she/her/hers*

Program Coordinator, Center for Advocacy and Outreach

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*Safe Haven*  
Baby Boxes



# BABY BOX PROGRAM

Iowa





The Safe Haven Act is an Iowa law that allows parents to give up physical custody of their infant without being arrested or charged with abandonment.

(Iowa Code 233.1)



90 Days Old

## Safe Haven Locations



24 Hour Hospitals



24 Hour Fire Stations



Emergency Medical  
Providers



Baby Box

# What is a Baby Box?

Safe Haven Baby Boxes are secure, temperature-controlled devices installed at fire stations and hospitals, allowing mothers to safely and anonymously surrender newborns.

When a baby is placed inside, the exterior door locks, and medical personnel are alerted to retrieve the infant quickly, ensuring immediate care and protection.



# Safe Haven/Baby Boxes in Iowa

- In 2023 there were 10 infants surrendered via the Safe Haven Act.
- Since 2002 when the Safe Haven Act was implemented – 72 total infants.
- Two Boxes Currently – Fort Dodge (Fire Department) and Des Moines (MercyOne).
- No surrenders via Baby Box – yet.



# Safe Haven ≠ Safe Children

- Norwalk, Iowa 2023:
  - 25 year old mother gives birth at home and baby's grandfather conspires and place baby in box for two days without any care.
  - The baby was alive at the time, but thrown into a garbage bag.
  - Baby dies and was disposed of in a ditch with the mother and father charged with First Degree Murder.
- Marion County, Iowa 2024:
  - Mother gives birth in a camper/RV.
  - Parents avoid HHS and Law Enforcement.
  - Child is found deceased 48 hours after birth.
  - Investigation Pending.

# Safe Haven ≠ Safe Children

- Lisbon, Iowa 1996:
  - Newborn found dead in barn (actual barn photo).
  - Cold Case until January 2024 - genetic genealogy testing revealed someone who was a great grandfather of the child.
  - Both parents were teens at the time (15 Dad/16 Mom).
  - Investigation pending.



# How Does the Baby Box Work?



## WHY DO COMMUNITIES NEED A BABY BOX?

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graph TD; A[WHY DO COMMUNITIES NEED A BABY BOX?] --> B[Lack of knowledge about the law has historically produced catastrophic results of babies being abandoned.]; A --> C[Provides the community the opportunity to proactively save the lives of children since many are not aware of Safe Haven Laws.]; A --> D[Many mothers in crisis want and need anonymity when surrendering an infant.]; A --> E[Face-to-face surrender will always be preferred, but Safe Haven Baby Boxes hotline provides counseling to women in crisis and only suggests use of the baby box as last option.];
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Lack of knowledge about the law has historically produced catastrophic results of babies being abandoned.

Provides the community the opportunity to proactively save the lives of children since many are not aware of Safe Haven Laws.

Many mothers in crisis want and need anonymity when surrendering an infant.

Face-to-face surrender will always be preferred, but Safe Haven Baby Boxes hotline provides counseling to women in crisis and only suggests use of the baby box as last option.

# Why Baby Box in Jasper?

- **Limited Services:** Limited local OBGYN or childbirth care increases crisis pregnancies.
- **Distance Barrier:** Nearest baby box is in Des Moines—too far for rural mothers in crisis.
- **Rural Challenges:** Transportation and awareness gaps hinder access to resources.
- **Health & Safety:** Ensures immediate medical care and reinforces Iowa's Safe Haven Law.



## **Intial fee: \$15,000**

### **Pre-installation Services**

- A. Examination of location
- B. Administrative/Legal resources
- C. Consultation on programs
- D. Assitance with raising funds to support cost of the Baby Box (optional)

### **Installation Services**

- A. Inspection of Installation
- B. Training to all emergency personnel

### **Post Installation Services**

- A. Marketing of the Baby Box
- B. 24/7 Hotline available to community
- C. Advertising of the Box
- D. Efforts to support raising awareness on local, state and national levels supporting the Baby Box in each community

## **Annual fee: \$500**

### **Annual Fee Services**

- A. Recertification of the Baby Box by a licensed contractor
- B. Maintenance of the Baby Box from expected use
- C. Unlimited repairs and parts replacement as a result of a malfunction and not as a result of negligence or vandalism

## **OTHER FEES NOT INCLUDED IN INTIAL FEE (ESTIMATED AT \$5,000-\$7,000)**

\*Fees vary based on location and/or services donated by local community members. The items below are estimates and not a guarantee of cost.

A. Delivery: Minimum \$500 charge if you would like to have the Baby Box delivered. You can pick up at our Fort Wayne, IN manufacturing facility to waive the delivery charge. (Must be pre-scheduled)

B. installation: Labor and materials: \$2000- \$3,500 (location may be able to have this donated)

C. Electrical and Alarm: hook up to internal alarm system (Internal alarm must go to 911 dispatch for use with the Baby Box) ~ \$1,200

D. Annual Alarm Services: Annual fee for monitoring ~\$500 annually paid by location to Alarm Company

E. Transportation: Cost based on location and transportation from Indiana

F. Permits or other requirements prior to construction. (varies)



## Jasper County Sheriff's Office

*Honor \* Service \* Integrity*

Jasper County Sheriff's Office  
would like to announce the retirement of



Jasper County Sheriff  
**John R. Halferty, 50-30**

Thank you for 27 years serving Jasper County,  
and 38 Years of Service in Law Enforcement.

*Please join us as we celebrate with the Halferty family.*

*Saturday, January 4, 2025*

*3 - 8 pm*

*Jasper County Fairgrounds*

*359 N. Walnut - Colfax, Iowa*