

A HOLISTIC
APPROACH
TO IMPACTING
YOUTH

2019-2020
ANNUAL REPORT





IN YOUR LIFE MENTORING: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO IMPACTING YOUTH

The Dubuque Dream Center's strategy — to Impact Youth and Strengthen Families — begins with our In Your Life Mentoring model. On the foundation of genuine relationships, In Your Life Mentors are strategically

connected around an individualized plan to provide a child with the assets they need to be successful in school and life. In Your Life Mentoring is connecting caring adults to impact academic and character development outcomes of youth.

The Dream Center's long-term vision includes holistic initiatives to benefit the entire family. In our first 5-6 years we set and accomplished goals that focused on Impacting Youth. It is our plan to establish and sustain our organization so that we

may be able to impact this community for years to come. Our sustainability plan begins in 2021 with our goal to become a Licensed Child Care Center. This year's Annual Report will highlight our D.R.E.A.M. Center "In Your Life Mentoring" model and our vision for 2021.

D

DIVERSE

Reflecting the Community

We are intentional in recruiting staff, mentors, and volunteers that reflect the community we serve. We seek to put our youth in a position to build relationships across racial and social-economic lines. Youth will experience what real community looks like.

R

RELATIONSHIPS

Caring (in) Community

When our program hours end, our impact only begins. Our mentors impact youth outside the walls of the Dream Center. We connect caring adults in the child's life to build a community structure of people who genuinely care. It's not just programs, it's PERSONAL. OVER 50% OF OUR MENTORS LIVE AND WORK IN THE RADIUS OF THE KIDS WE SERVE

E

EDUCATION

School Connectors

School Connectors are Dream Center staff members who are trained in reading prescriptions and math improvement strategies, utilized by District educators, to continue teaching the school day curriculum. School Connectors visit students during the school day each week to encourage student success in the classroom and support the Dubuque School Teachers.

A

ACTIVITIES

Youth Enrichment

We are a Sports, Music, and Performing Arts Academy that provides youth with structure, discipline, responsibility, and skills they can continue in high school, college, and career. Dream Center activities include basketball, choir, dance, guitar/piano lessons, and boxing.

M

MISSION DRIVEN

Building Community

We are intentional in building purposeful and healthy relationships with our students and their entire family. Our Parent Focus Group is foundational in creating long lasting relationships in a way that provides parents an additional support system outside of immediate family members. Our desired outcomes for building community includes contributing to a unified, safe, and equitable community.



Left to right, back row: **Tavy** (1st-8th Grade Choir), **Jayden** (3rd Grade Boys Basketball Assistant), **Keith** (Summer Boys Basketball), **Will** (5th/6th Boys Basketball), **Blake** (3rd/4th Grade Boys Basketball), **Jason** (Sports Coordinator)

Left to right, front row: **Nakiah** (5th/6th Grade Girls Basketball), **Latoya** (1st-8th Grade Dance), **Affrica** (3rd/4th Grade Girls Basketball)

IN YOUR LIFE MENTORS

Dream Center's direct service staff are called School Connectors. School Connectors are the Dream Center activity coaches and mentors who are also responsible for overseeing youth academic and character development

outcomes. School connectors supervise and instruct youth at 3 Stations; Academic Center, Club Sports or Music & Performing Arts Activity, & Meal Mentoring.

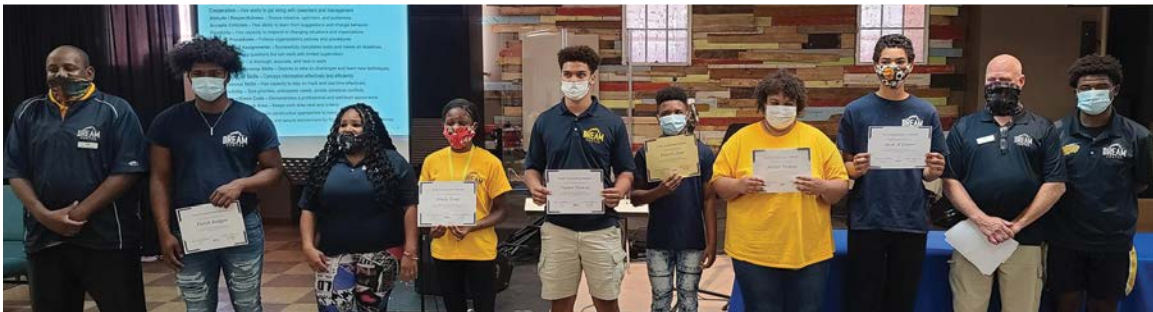
Each School Connector is responsible for a Team. A Team is a Sports or Music and Arts Team such as a

Dance Team or Choir. Our goal is to have a 1: 10 ratio of School Connectors per student for quality impact.

The Dream Center has full-time and part-time School Connectors. Full-time Connectors are Dream Center staff who oversee Dream Center programming after school

and conduct school visits during the school day to support teachers and students they oversee at each school site. Part-time School Connectors are School Teachers/ Paraprofessionals who work after school at the Dream Center.

GREATER DUBUQUE YOUTH CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Daily Tasks Completed:

Helped package meals for families served through our Grab and Go Meal Service

Helped increase facility cleaning and sanitation measures recommended by the CDC

Helped renovate & paint our Multi-Purpose Room through our Carpentry Skill Development Program

Helped academically tutor youth enrolled in our Virtual Summer Program

In Summer 2019, in partnership with Dr. Ed (Pat) Alt, Greater Dubuque Development's Dubuque Works initiative, and NICC, the Dream Center piloted their Career Development Program. The goal of this program is to focus

on the future to impact generational poverty by developing the future workforce. Students gained training and employment experience in partnership with Northern Iowa Community College (NICC). Initially, students will focus on their individual career

assessment, soft skill development, and job & career readiness training.

In 2020 we had 11 students enrolled in our Youth Career Development Program.

Throughout this pandemic the students that enrolled in our Youth Career

Development Program faced adversity by showing up to work each day on time, eagerly learned new skills, and on August 7th, they graduated! Students were evaluated on the following soft skills: accountability, attendance, punctuality, communication skills, work ethic, and more.



LANDON

3RD GRADE

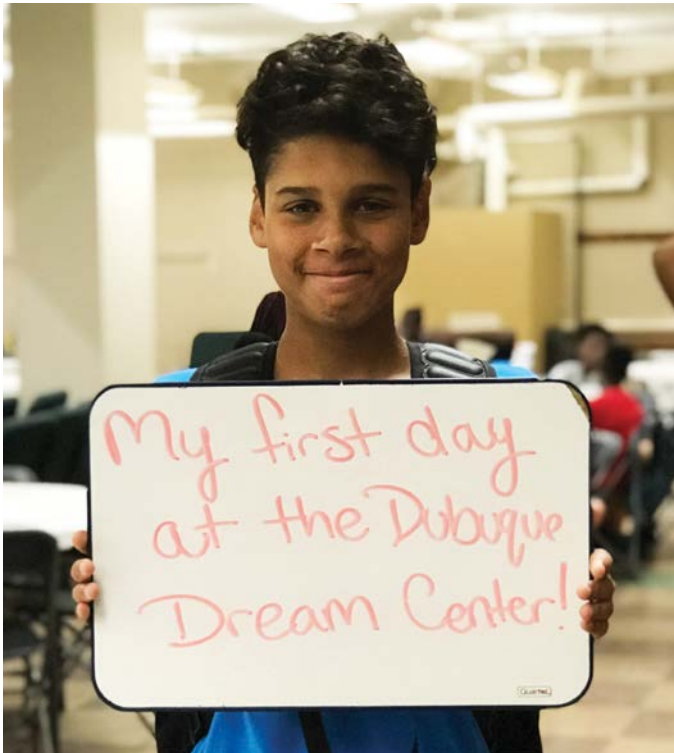
When speaking to his coach and teacher about his biggest improvement this school year they both said the same thing, his attitude and effort. His teacher, Mrs. Davis, said his biggest improvement was his attitude towards writing during his independent work every day. She also said how proud she was of him for meeting his Math MAP testing goal. Coach Blake said Landon really came out of his shell this year and gave a great effort when learning new things, such as reading, which did not come easy. When looking at the data from the past two school years it all aligns, Landon has moved from being at high reading risk in 2nd grade to some reading risk in 3rd grade. He has also improved his Reading MAP score from 161 at the beginning of 2nd grade to 193 in the winter of 3rd grade. This is only 3 points below where he needs to be, to be considered at reading proficiency in the winter of 3rd grade. He has also made big improvements on his Math MAP test by going from a 179 at the beginning of 2nd grade to 198 during the winter of 3rd grade. This puts him at math proficiency for his grade level! It is without a doubt that with Landon continuing to work hard he will meet his reading proficiency goal next year and continue to excel above the expectation in both reading and math.



JAMARIA

5TH GRADE

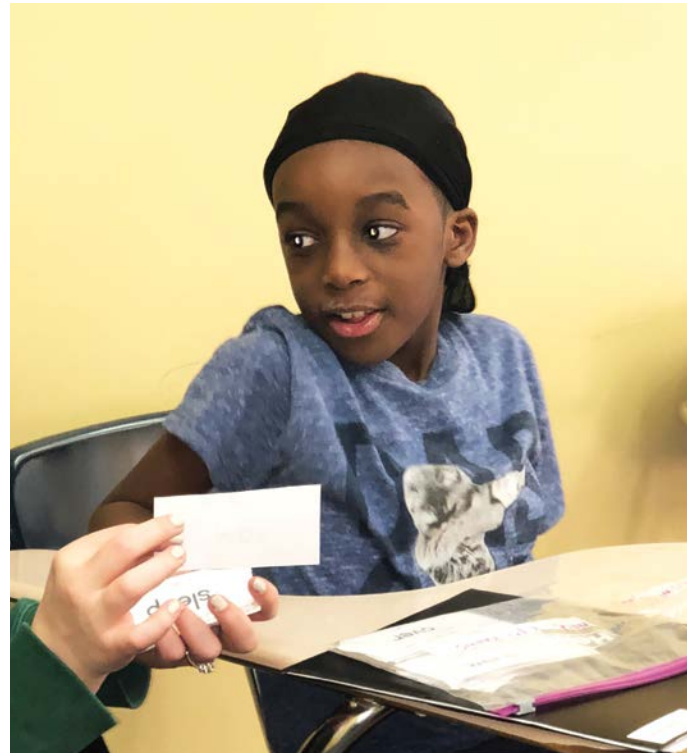
Jamaria just completed her first year in the program. Her coach says, "Jamaria is very helpful, focused, and accountable during our academic station. She has impressed me with her maturity inside and outside of the classroom. She has shown determination in this first year of being on the basketball team and is a very motivated individual. We are so grateful to have her as a part of our program!" Jamaria is a model student when it comes to academics. She's at reading and math proficiency for her grade level, but that does not stop her from pushing herself to excel further. She was awarded the American Legion Award this year. This award is determined by a rubric that encompasses standardized test scores, student involvement in activities, and positive behavior choices. Jamari's principal, Mrs. Chris Nugent said, "Jamaria has always been a good student. As she has matured, it has been fun to watch her leadership skills grow in a positive way." Jamaria's mother also added that, "she is more outgoing, social, and has enjoyed making new friends at the Dream Center. She really loves being a part of a team at the center. Being at the center has helped her build more confidence in herself as far as trying new things."



NICHOLAS

8TH GRADE

Nicholas ended the school year with a 4.0 GPA. He made major improvements in school office referrals. He went from 8 referrals in 7th grade, to only 1 referral in 8th grade! Nicholas' mom said she is most impressed with his overall behavior and respect. She is impressed how he addresses women as "ma'am" and men as "sir." He has also improved on listening to advice from others. She said, "he is a totally different kid from four years ago and none of this would be possible without the Dream Center."



KYRI

2ND GRADE

Kyri has been attending the Dream Center since he was in 1st grade at Prescott. Kyri's mother says, "Since starting at the Dream Center, Kyri has really been working extra hard at home and at school. He enjoys the Dream Center and being able to play his favorite sport, which is basketball. Kyri used to be shy but now he is far from that!" His reading and math test scores are able to prove that he has been working extra hard. His Reading FAST score went from being at high risk of reading difficult to some risk from last year to this year. His Math MAP score went from a 157 to 171, up 14 points, from Fall to Winter of 2nd grade! With Kyri continuing to work hard over the next school year we expect his scores to continue to improve, putting him at grade level in the near future! Kyri's mom added, "Keep up the awesome work Kyri, and keep making your mom and big brother proud!"



RAEVYNN

3RD GRADE

She just completed her 2nd year in Dream Center programming and has a lot to show for it! Raevynn's coach said, "It has been a joy to watch Raevynn's weekly improvements right in front of my eyes. She is constantly growing in the area of reading. She gets more and more fluent each week I read with her and listen to her read. She never settles and is very determined to always do her best." Her academics and behavior have improved since being at the Dream Center. She was able to push herself from being at Reading Benchmark/ Grade Level, in 2nd grade, to being Above Reading Benchmark, in 3rd grade. Her Math and Reading MAP Scores have also made improvements this year, putting her at proficiency level for both. One of her biggest accomplishments this year has also been her improved behavior at school. Last year she had 10 office referrals and this year she had ZERO! We are so proud to have Raevynn as part of the Dream Center and all her hard work this year!



AMIRA

3RD GRADE

She has been participating in the Dream Center program for the past two years. Amira's coach said, "she has grown tremendously in the area of her work ethic from when I first started coaching her last summer, to now. During the Academic Center, she is quick to get her homework done with a volunteer and move onto the next task she knows she needs to accomplish." Amira and her family have been committed to making sure that Amira's attendance is great not only at school but also during school year and summer Dream Center programming. By being committed to attending every program day, Amira has not regressed a lot over the summer months, like many kids do. By attending Dream Center summer program, she was able to improve her Math MAP score by 8 points from the end of 2nd grade to the beginning of 3rd grade. This put Amira at math proficiency level! Her consistency and hard work ethic has also put her at reading proficiency.

COVID-19 RESPONSE



Due to COVID-19 and based on recommendations by the CDC the Dream Center canceled our traditional, in-person, after school program. However, the Dream Center is providing the following services:

Virtual Programming

The Dream Center canceled traditional programming to provide virtual lessons, academic support, and delivered

meals to our students, families, and other community members.

Meals

Our meal service provided families with breakfast, lunch, supper, and snacks for all children in the home, 5 days per week. There were many families that struggled with the concept of leaving their homes, especially those with multiple children, so our staff delivered 95% of the meals in various neighborhoods in Dubuque.

Academic Support

We sent customized academic work packets, to our students to continue progress towards math and reading proficiency. This was in addition to what was provided by our local school district.

Communication

Our School Connectors maintained relationships with students through phone calls, texts, and Zoom. These calls served as a way to keep in touch with families to find out how

they're doing and what their needs are, outside of just meals and academic support. Our students and parents continue to depend upon the Dream Center to meet their holistic needs.

Since March 23rd we sent 225 academic lesson plans and delivered 79,122 meals to families in the community. "You do not realize how hard it is to feed five kids all day every day until you have to," says Dream Center parent Erica.



The Dream Choir performing *Lean on Me* by Bill Withers, via Facebook Live.

Virtual Banquet

COVID-19 did not stop us from celebrating all that the Dream Center has been doing this last year! We held our annual banquet via Facebook Live with over 200 people watching. We heard special messages from parents, teachers, volunteers, and Board Members. The Dream Center Choir performed *Lean on Me* by Bill Withers.

We raised over

\$80K!

Our #CovidCantStopGOOD Supporters

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
Premier Bank
Delta Dental of Iowa
Dubuque VNA
Iowa State Dubuque County 4H

Sandra Larson
Eric Lockhart and Domino's Pizza of Dubuque
Dubuque County Board of Health
Dubuque Mattress Factory
Key City Creative Center

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois
Black Hills Energy
Morgridge Family Foundation
Sisters of St. Francis
City of Dubuque

Thank you for supporting the Dubuque Dream Center during this time.



BLACK LIVES DO MATTER

The Dubuque Dream Center's vision is designed to embrace and empower those impacted by systemic racism. As a Christian organization built on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, our mission includes modeling unity across racial and social-economic lines as representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are committed to ACTIONS that influence equality

and equity in education, employment, and other structures to reverse trends that lead to mass incarceration and generational poverty for African American and low-income children and families.

We hosted an event on June 19th, 2020 bringing together many church leaders, community leaders, and next generation leaders of diverse backgrounds. The amount of individuals

who showed up to the event exceeded our expectations! We were able to contribute to the conversation of equality and true unification for all. This event was made possible thanks to the following: Sugar Rays BBQ, Hot Diggity Dogz, Big Apple Bagels, The Food Store, Natural Grocers, Eagles Country Mart, Salvation Army of Dubuque, Family Dollar on Central, Body & Soul, Rumble Tumble

Bounce House, Bel-Aire Rentals, Multicultural Family Center, City of Dubuque, Jeanne Harrington, Summit Congregational Church, First Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Gary & Linda Kirst, Word of Life Church, Sister Patricia Conlan, RSM - Cathedral of St. Raphael, Unitarian Universalist Church, Arbor Oaks Bible Chapel, Panel Guests, and all of our Individual Donors.

LEADERSHIP



photos taken by Ashley of Rae of Light Photography

1 Robert Kimble

Executive Director

2 Racquel McClellan

Executive Assistant
and Donor Relations
Coordinator

3 Nellie Kimble

Operations and Kitchen
Manager

4 Ricardo Cunningham

Finance Director

5 Molly Huhn

Grant Writer and
Marketing Coordinator

6 Cori Lieb

Technology and
Marketing Administrator

7 Tim Gaffney

Facility Manager/Youth
Career Development
Coordinator

8 Gabby Sullivan

Academic Center
Coordinator

9 Jason Zelle

Boys Program
Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



1 Board Chair/President

Tim Conlon
President and CEO,
Conlon Construction

2 Treasurer

Ricardo Cunningham
Business & Accounting
Department Head,
University of Dubuque

3 Secretary

Anderson Sainci
Resource Management
Coordinator, City of
Dubuque

4 Member

Robert Kimble
Executive Director, The
Dubuque Dream Center

5 Member

Racquel McClellan
Executive Assistant,
Dubuque Dream Center

6 Member

Donnelle Fuerste
Chief Executive Officer,
The Metrix Company

7 Member

Chad Chandlee
President & COO
Kendall Hunt Publishing

8 Member

Phil Ruppel
Parco Ltd (Retired)

9 Member

Dr. Andy DeWitt
Great River Oral Surgery

10 Member

Dave Cushman
Executive VP, Morrison
Brothers Company and
Owner, Park Farm Winery

11 Member

Bjorn Hill
Principal, IT
Consulting, RSM

DREAM CENTER OPERATIONAL BUDGET FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES

73%

PRIVATE DONORS

19%

GRANTS

8%

OTHER

CHILDCARE AND STUDENT SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Dream Center raises 73% of our operational budget through fundraising from generous private donors from the community of Dubuque to support low income and working families who need affordable care for their children.

In order to progress towards sustainable income to continue to provide quality and affordable care

to the children of working families, the **DC is seeking to become a Licensed Child Care Facility and generate funding support from the State of Iowa by Fall 2021.**

The Dubuque Dream Center becoming a licensed childcare facility means access to affordable childcare for working families.

Our Student Sponsorship program is designed to assist low income families that do NOT meet the Department of Human

Services requirements for financial child care assistance, but are unable to afford the annual program fees.

The Dubuque Dream Center is running an Annual Student Sponsorship Campaign from October–December 2020 to secure funding for 2021 in order to serve 200 students and their families as we seek to become a Licensed Child Care Site and receive income from the State of Iowa.

Programming costs: \$4,000 annually per student. Total Student Sponsorship Campaign goal \$800,000.

Facility Renovation Project: By renovating the present Dubuque Dream Center facility, we will be able to obtain a childcare license.

Renovations needed:

- ADA accessibility on all 4 levels
- Bathrooms and Elevator
- Green Space



DREAM MAKER LEVELS

\$4,000

Sponsors one student through a FULL YEAR of Dream Center Programming (includes holistic services such as Continued School Day Curriculum, Healthy Meals, Skill/Character Development and more!)

\$2,500

Sponsors one student through a 9-MONTH school year session of Dream Center Programming

\$1,500

Sponsors one student through a SUMMER session of Dream Center Programming (includes full day structured programming and transportation)

\$500

Supports one student's enrichment activities for a FULL YEAR of Dream Center programming (includes athletic tournament/league expenses, field experiences, music & performing arts equipment)

\$150

Supports one student's Academic & Character Development Curriculum for a FULL YEAR (includes classroom materials and supplies)



DREAM TEAM

The Dream Team is composed of a group of dedicated donors who have pledged to donate \$1,500 or more annually for 3–5 years.

Donate today!

dubuquedreamcenter.com/donate

HELP MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE

A Dream Maker is an individual or organization that desires to see a student reach their fullest potential by sponsoring their tuition costs related

to the holistic services they receive at the Dubuque Dream Center. This system is designed to help support low-income families that cannot afford the costs of the program, but have ambitions of seeing their children succeed in life.

A Dream Team member is an individual or organization committed to sponsoring a student's needs long term. Dream Team partners commit to a multiple year pledge, receive regular updates

of student/program progress, and are invited to special events to hear success stories of children and families that include volunteer and donor appreciation ceremonies.



DREAM TEAM DONORS

The Dream Team is composed of a group of dedicated donors who have pledged to donate \$1,500 or more annually for 3–5 years. The Dream Center's goal is to have \$300,000 pledged each year.

Alt, Ed & Pat	Dubuque Bank & Trust	Horstmann, Doug and Karen	Ryan, Steve & Tami
Bausch, Doug	First Congregational Church	Jansen, Caden	Sanders, Cynthia and Ray
Chandlee, Chad and Laura	Foddrill, Judith	Knight, Wendy & Russell	Schatz, Brian and Lynette
Colvin, Mark & Abby	Fuerste, Donnelle & Rommel	Krueger, Otto & Vrotsos, Barb	Schiesl, Michael & Christine
Conlon, Jason & Poppy	Gilloon, Penny & Art	McKeag, Bryan & Linda	St. Peter Lutheran Church
Conlon, Tim and Christine	Great River Learning	Mozena, Jeff & Janet	The Bullock Family
Cook, Keith & Kress, Sharon	Hauptert, Carolyn	Ottavi, John and Stephanie	The Sirk Family Foundation
Cunningham, Ricardo	Hill, B'jorn & Sarah	Parco, LTD. (Wendy's)	Terrell, Josh & Tina
Dalton, Dr. Michael and Molly	Hillary, Dan & Luann	Premier Bank	Wahlert, David & Nancy
DeWitt, Andy and Anna	Hillary, Eric & Jeana	Ruppel, Phil & Judy	Weitzel, Tim & Diane



DREAM MAKERS

A Dream Maker is an individual that sponsors a Dream Center student or team. The Dream Center's goal is to have every low-income student sponsored each year.

Babler, Karen	Doland, Michael & Priscilla	Lockwood, John	Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Beaves, Peter & Margaret	Dutrac Community Credit Union	Mathis-Pfohl Foundation	Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Behnke, Tricia	Finnin Family Foundation	McAuliffe, Mr. & Mrs.	Sisters of St. Francis
Benda, Thomas & Anne	Fraternal Order of Eagles	McClain-Cullen, Teresa	Smith, Dick & Joyce
Biegler, Debra	Freund, John & Eleanor	McCullough, John & Lynn	Sushko, Elizabeth
Bitter, Carol & Purtell, James	Friedman Insurance	McCoy, Mike & Judy	Theisen, Christopher & Pamela
Bowers, Colby & Darlene	Galena Bible Church	Milroy, Mike	Theisen, Jim & Marita
Burbach, Ryan	Giese, Charlie & Linda	Olk, Doug & Marilyn	Timmerman, Emily
The Butler Family Foundation	Gunsolley, Jessica & Brian	Pinkham, Joel & Megan	Uncle Ike's Sound & Music
Cavanaugh, Thomas & Mary	Hauptert Family Foundation	Raber, Ed & Erika	VanMilligen, Mike & Nancy
Cheever, Doug & Jean	Heiar, David & Jane	Rissler, Grant	Vogt, Larry & Julie
Claussen, Linda	Hoffman, Mike & Natalie	Rissler, James	Weber, Richard & Kathleen
Cushman, Dave & Elizabeth	Holthaus, Elaine	Rissler, Jean	Weston, Megan
Cushman, James & Briana	Howes, William	Rissler, Matthew	Wilberding, Katrina
Cushman, Dave & Holly	Jackson, Ernest & Peggy	Risma, Justin	Wolf, Judy
Decker, Randy & Joni	Kelly, Katherine	Sayler, Gwen	Zuccaro, Dr. Pat & Janet
	Lockhart, Eric	Scherr, Matt & Ann	
		Schiesl, Jay & Terri	



GRANTS & PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Black Hills Energy
City of Dubuque
Community Foundation
of Greater Dubuque
Delta Dental of Iowa
Dubuque County

Dubuque Racing
Association
Greater Dubuque
Development's Dubuque
Works initiative
John Deere

Kiwanis Club of Dubuque
Kwik Stop
McDonough Foundation
Morgridge Family
Foundation
Purchase of Service

Target Circle
United Way of Dubuque
Area Tri-States
USDA
Wahlert Foundation



GET INVOLVED

There are many ways that one can get involved in the life changing work happening at the Dream Center, starting with becoming an Academic

Center Volunteer! The role of an Academic Center Volunteer consists of tutoring, assisting with homework, and providing genuine support for our students through building positive and consistent

relationships. If YOU would like to be a Dream Center Academic Center Volunteer or if there are other skill sets and talents that interested individuals would like to utilize at the Dream Center, please visit

our website and complete our online volunteer application!

DubuqueDreamCenter.com/volunteer

OUR SPONSORS

THANK YOU

*Thank you for your continued support in Impacting Youth,
Strengthening Families, and Building Community.*

