



We're connecting
individuals to
their potential and
achieving greater success....

Mission of the Center:

The Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families uses an integrated support service network to help individuals and families achieve success through education, targeted skills training, real work experience and connection to employment opportunities, helping them achieve their career goals.

“To provide linkage to resources to assist individuals and families to earn a sustaining wage, utilizing a high level of collaboration amongst community members, partners, business leaders and education providers resulting in improved quality of life and a better community.”

We truly believe in this vision, and the heart of Des Moines is becoming a healthier place with everything that we do here at the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families. We want to thank you for helping us serve the citizens of Central Iowa. We are honored to be able to pursue this vision and to connect individuals with meaningful employment.

The Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families provides highly integrated delivery of workforce training and services. The work carried out at the Evelyn K. Davis Center includes:

- Job search assistance and career enrichment programs
- Literacy assessments and improvement aid
- Career benefits screening
- Income tax preparation
- Aid with financial literacy and debt reduction plans

Clients at the Center receive direct placement assistance, support services, training and access to education providers. Visitors to the Center are recipients of an integrated approach facilitated by many community partners. The Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families also includes a re-engagement-to-education component to provide clients with an entry point to complete their education or obtain new skills.

Community leaders, neighborhood residents and local businesses are working together to create change, improve quality of life and facilitate significant impact.

Please enjoy this, our first annual report, and join us in the coming year!

Marvin DeJear
Director, Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families

Every person has potential, and the possibilities to achieve their potential are endless. At the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families we're working every day to help individuals improve their lives, realize their potential and reach their dreams. We're doing this by delivering educational opportunities and on-the-job training, by connecting individuals with employers and providing services that help them improve the way they manage their daily lives. The potential is endless. Our three focus areas include:

Connecting to Education: Education opens employment opportunities

At the Center, we're providing educational opportunities and easy access to educators and diverse programs that help individuals energize their career and job prospects through these options:

- Adult Basic Education
- Gateway to College
- Des Moines Area Community College
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Literacy
- Job Readiness
- Youth Build

Connecting to Support: Multiple services means hundreds of helping hands

We also work closely with other community organizations that deliver services beyond the scope of our programs. Every advisor at the Center is working to make sure each individual has the career and support services, the education, training and coaching that supports their career and job aspirations and the social service benefits they are eligible to receive. Our services include:

- Individual assessment
- Placement assistance
- Housing and transportation assistance
- Financial counseling and education

Our staff also connects individuals to other community-based organizations and support services not located in the Center such as day care services, refugee services, legal aid, immigration issues, general relief, substance abuse, health care and social services.

Connecting to Careers: Job training makes a difference

Connecting Central Iowans with Central Iowa companies: it's one more way we're making a significant difference in the lives of many Iowans. We focus on innovative feedback techniques based on the desires of the employers to ensure a comprehensive approach is taken to land the right position.

The Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families takes people from wherever they are, often unemployed or facing some barrier to employment, right into the workforce, giving them a real chance to improve their lives. It has been an honor this past year collaborating with all of our partners and stakeholders to help lay a solid foundation for the Center. We look forward to the future of how the Center will be able to improve the education and employment opportunities in the heart of Des Moines."

Rob Denson

President, Des Moines Area Community College

3,579

CURRENT
PARTICIPANTS IN
THE CENTER'S
PROGRAMS

4,871

TOTAL NUMBER
OF PARTICIPANTS
IN THE PROGRAM
SINCE OPENING
ONE YEAR AGO

1,519

PEOPLE REFERRED
WITHIN FIRST YEAR FOR
ASSISTANCE FROM
A COMMUNITY PARTNER

Support

192

PEOPLE EARNED
A WORKFORCE
CREDENTIAL

744

HOURS VOLUNTEERED
AT THE CENTER

10,000

INDIVIDUALS SERVED
THROUGH DMARC
WITH HELP FROM
THE CENTER

Education

“I would encourage ANYONE who wants to further their career to look into classes because I am proof that DMACC works!”

Maria

Recent Graduate of the Workforce Training Academy’s Medical Office Billing and Coding Adult Continuing Education Certificate course

Maria now has a rewarding career at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in the Patient Access Department. She has been employed for about 6 months and has already been promoted to the Outpatient Surgery Department.

Maria had the honor of working with the counselors at both DMACC Workforce Training Academy and Central Iowa Works. Together they helped make her dreams of a career a reality.



21
STUDENTS IN
AN EDUCATIONAL
CREDIT EARNING
PROGRAM

Success Through The Summer Youth Experience Program (SYEP)

We initially interviewed 124 youth for the summer youth experience program. We accepted 31 participants into our program. The youth completed a two-week orientation covering resume building, career planning, proper communication, dress code, ethics, mock interviews, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

100% of participants have a plan to attain the skills/education needed for the career they would like to pursue in the future.



“I saw a change in her attitude regarding working in an office setting. She mentioned that the tasks given to her helped to organize her thoughts and work efficiently and proficiently. In the beginning she may have felt she was not able to work in an office setting due to her dyslexia but this job gave her complete confidence in her ability.”

Kelli Carter

Parent of a SYEP student



“A higher level of confidence and maturity. I have also seen my son with more of a willingness to accept responsibility and eager to work. I noticed that he is proud of himself.”

Shaoah L. Miller Sr.

Parent of a SYEP student

Careers

Workforce Training Opportunity

We provide our clients with a variety of workforce training opportunities through training and referrals. At the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families, individuals receive a head start on employment and improving their chances for long-term work and careers with Central Iowa companies.



"I have a meaningful job and can provide opportunities for my son because of the career assistance I received at the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families. The Center staff didn't give up on me, so I didn't give up."

Affie Robinson
Certified Nursing Assistant
Bickford Cottage

514
PEOPLE REFERRED
TO OUR
WORKFORCE
TRAINING PARTNERS

311
PEOPLE PLACED
INTO JOB
TRAINING
PROGRAMS

163
JOB PLACEMENTS
OVER THE PAST
SIX MONTHS

“The Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families has exactly all of the programming and partnerships in one place to truly impact generational poverty. It is a model we need to have across the country. We need to implement these best practices of having programs such as YouthBuild, Gateway to College, the partnerships with community colleges and corporations all within one location.”

Dr. Peter B. Edelman
Professor of Law
Georgetown University

\$692,772
GRANTS ACQUIRED
AND BUDGET
FOR NEXT YEAR



At the grand opening of the Center, Des Moines City Manager Rick Clark shared about the importance of the partnerships created to make the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families possible.

Community-Based Organization Partners

The Center partners with multiple community organizations to assist people in gaining employment. Community organizations include:

- Anawim Housing
- Capax Infiniti Housing Inc.
- Central Iowa Center for Independent Living
- Children and Families First, Inc.
- Creative Visions
- Drake University Literacy Center
- Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa
- Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa
- Iowa Legal Aid
- Iowa State University Extension
- ISED Ventures
- Life-Line Resources
- Mecca Services
- Optimae LifeServices
- Primary Health Care
- Project Iowa
- Proteus, Inc.
- Spectrum Resources
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- United Way of Central Iowa-Building New Careers
- Urban Dreams
- YMCA

Funders

- City of Des Moines
- Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
- Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Leadership Circle
- Des Moines Area Community College
- Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino
- United Way of Central Iowa

Community Partners

- Des Moines Public Schools
- Evelyn K. Davis Advisory Committee
- Evelyn K. Davis Community Committee
- Evelyn K. Davis Planning Committee
- Evelyn K. Davis Public Relations Committee
- Evelyn K. Davis Summer Youth Experience Committee
- Greater Des Moines Partnership

Evelyn K. Davis Center For Working Families

801 University Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50314

Hours:

Monday–Thursday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday: closed

515-697-7700

info@evelynkdaviscenter.org

www.evelynkdaviscenter.org

The Center honors the legacy and vision of one of the most recognized community leaders in Des Moines who was relentlessly dedicated to quality and community betterment.