

From the Board
Submitted by Janell Bradley

New name for Residential Care Facility

That big, three-story brick building at 18569 Lane Road, halfway between West Union and Fayette has a new name.

In fact, while some county residents can still remember the era when the county funded care for the indigent on this site, and before that it was also a working 'farm' of crops and livestock and had it's own cemetery – the building truly hasn't been 'The County Farm,' for decades.

Over the past century, the mission of the programming in the facility has changed tremendously.

The residential care facility in Fayette County formerly known as 'Prairie View' has both a new name and a new logo: Inspiring Lives. Administrator Laura Van Horn says the impetus for the name change was to better represent the services provided.

"It is really about helping individuals receive the mental health services they deserve and haven't been able to receive in the traditional world," she said. All staff took part in developing the new mission/values and emblem.

"Our mission is provide quality recovery through person-centered guidance. We are committed to providing quality services. We work together to build long-term partnerships that improve the communities we serve," added Van Horn. An added benefit would be to reduce the number of mental health-related ER visits.

Many may not know that Inspiring Lives' community-based programming has been growing – now serving a six-county area of Northeast Iowa. The program has expanded to provide services to 65 individuals with daily and hourly services - most often in community-based housing. Some of these towns include West Union, Fayette, Ossian, and Sumner.

The RCF (Residential Care Facility) formerly known as Prairie View is also renovating its physical structure, which had seen an average census of 55 clients just over a year ago. The RCF provides services to about one-fifth that number now and will offer programming to another 10 clients once a sprinkler system just installed on the second floor passes inspection.

While the average length of stay for clients over the past year, was 14.1 months, the new RCF programming is designed for a client stay of no more than three months.

Inspiring Lives also operates a 16-bed RCF at New Hampton. That center recently started mental health skill building groups for all clients, with a goal of helping them learn skills to aid them after discharge from the facility.

Inspiring Lives operates independently and is not an arm of Fayette County. Oversight is provided by a five-member board appointed from the public.

The Board of Supervisors appoints one individual who attends a portion of the Inspiring Lives Board meetings as a liaison between the RCF and the County, because Inspiring Lives is housed in a county-owned building on county property.

* * *

On another topic, the 2021 Fayette County Community Foundation grant application period opens September 15. The deadline for applications is Dec. 31, 2020. Organizations must provide benefits to the people of Fayette County and meet the following criteria:

- Be classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be a government entity. Tax-exempt organizations classified as *other* than 501(c)(3) are also eligible ***if and only if*** the project is deemed charitable.
- Be current with all state and federal reporting requirements, such as filing of 990 forms.
- Must not have any past due grant reports for previous Fayette County Community Foundation grants.

For groups, projects, or initiatives that do not meet the above eligibility requirements, the Community Foundation will consider your requests if submitted through a fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsors must be classified as a 501(c)(3) or a government entity.

It is suggested that applicants, in particular first-time applicants, contact Program Manager Dotti Thompson (319- 243-1358 or dthompson@cfneia.org) to explore the appropriateness of requests and for any further guidance. ^{SEP} And lastly, the Covid-19 Disaster Response Fund (an arm of the Fayette County Community Foundation) continues to seek donations to earn a \$10,000 match challenge. About \$3,000 more is needed to reach the \$10,000 match that benefits those in Fayette County impacted by the pandemic. The intent of the fund is to be responsive to nonprofits serving Fayette County providing basic needs services and organizations working with individuals and families who have been disproportionately impacted by the public health and economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

Online gifts can be made by clicking on the “Give Today” button using the web address <https://www.cfneia.org/giving/find-a-fund3366>. Gifts can also be directed to the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, 3117 Greenhill Circle, Cedar Falls, IA 50613. Checks should be made out to Fayette County COVID-19 Disaster Response Fund. Online gifts are strongly encouraged to have funds accessible for quick response to needs.