

2022 Annual Report



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Agency Overview

American Home Finding Association (AHFA) was incorporated as a not for profit, private social service agency in Iowa on July 16, 1899. AHFA has continued to operate as a child welfare and placing agency continuously since its incorporation date. Throughout the years the Agency has expanded its services to provide the community with child welfare and public health services, as well as a wide array of ancillary services.

The Agency bylaws were reviewed and re-filed with the Secretary of State on the 4th of August 2004. The Agency currently holds a certificate from the Secretary of State as an Iowa Incorporated Business in Good Standing, along with licenses from the Department of Human Services as a childcare facility, group foster care facility (including emergency shelter and foster group care for children, as well as a child-placing agency and a letter from the IRS supporting our status as a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization.

The Agency has a twelve member policymaking Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is made up of individuals from our service area. The Board meets monthly to review programs and general agency operations. Meetings are held at each program site once a year and program personnel covering the various services provided through our Agency give reports. The Board hires the CEO and reviews that position annually and charges the CEO with hiring appropriate personnel to manage the various agency programs.

History

American Home Finding Association was incorporated on July 16, 1899 by three local people; a judge, a minister, and a business man, who were concerned about the welfare of children. The Agency was incorporated as an adoption agency and continues to provide adoption services today. After the initial Board was set up, it was expanded to have up to twelve people from in and around the Ottumwa community (see above for more information on current Board structure).

As an Agency, we are affiliated with the United Way of Wapello County, the Wapello County Human Resource Association, and the Coalition for Family and Children's Services of Iowa.

The mission of American Home Finding Association is to provide exceptional services that nurture and improve the quality of life for children and families.

Some of the Agency's base values are:

- Each person is an individual with a unique set of experiences
- Each person has dignity and worth

- Each person has a right to access the power structure
- Each person is free to make his or her own decisions
- Each person has potential
- Each person has a need to be wanted and needed
- Each person is to be respected
- We can all learn from one another by working together

The Agency has several programs that support family centered services to individuals and family units; including Maternal/Child & Adolescent Health, WIC, Adoption services, Aftercare/PAL, AMP, Pre-Aftercare, Emergency Shelter Care, Corinthians House Group Home, Youth Counseling, a Teen Health Center, a Child Care Center, and the Foster Grandparent Program. Throughout its 122-year history, the Agency has been dedicated to helping children and families in a variety of programs that strengthen family life. The Agency, combined for 2022, served approximately 4,807 unduplicated clients.

The Agency has been a leader in collaborating and working with other community agencies to improve the quality of life for children and families.

Mission statement

The mission of American Home Finding Association is to provide exceptional services that nurture and improve the quality of life for children and families.

Vision statement

To support children and families of Southeast Iowa to live healthier lives through dedicated and meaningful services.

Programs American Home Finding Association Provided during 2022

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC is a nutrition program for pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women and infants and children up to five. The program provides supplemental food through a voucher system, nutritional education, and referrals to appropriate services.

Unduplicated WIC clients: 3,830

WIC is funded by grant dollars through the Iowa Department of Health & Human Services. The fiscal year runs October through September. The grant contract period runs for six years with new competitive proposals at the contract's conclusion.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Katy Gottschalk, Health & Human Resources Director
- Cindy Canady-Meiners, WIC Coordinator



Teen Health Center

The Teen Health Center is located in the Ottumwa High School. The center seeks to improve the overall physical and emotional health of adolescents. The center provides primary and preventive healthcare services. The center is staffed by local pediatricians and other professional staff. Patient Visits: 3, 250



The Teen Health Center is funded through a variety of donors, including competitive annual grant funds from United Way, as well as a service contract with Ottumwa Community School District.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Diana Price, Clinic Coordinator
- Kolby Streeby, Youth Counselor

Maternal/Child & Adolescent Health Program

Maternal/Child & Adolescent Health serves pregnant/postpartum women and infants/children up to age 21. The programs provide education and counseling services, along with pregnancy testing, lead testing, dental screenings, and development screenings.

Maternal Health unduplicated clients: 832

Child & Adolescent Health unduplicated clients: 2,558

Oral Health unduplicated clients: 3,155

The Maternal Child/Adolescent Health programs are funded by grant dollars through the Iowa Department of Health & Human Services. The fiscal year runs October through September. The grant contract period runs for five years for Maternal Health and four years for Child/Adolescent Health with new competitive proposals at the contract's conclusion

The Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) program worked with 41 Child Care Facilities.

The CCNC and PBIS Master Mentor Coach positions are fully funded by an Early Childhood Iowa annual grant. The fiscal year is July through June.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Katy Gottschalk, Health & Human Resources Director/Maternal Health Director
- Alesia Houser, Child/Adolescent Health Project Director
- Katherine Smith, I-Smile Coordinator
- Jamie Crouse, Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Joan Garrett, PBIS Master Mentor Coach



AHFA Child Care Center

The AHFA Child Care Center is a licensed child care center located at the Ottumwa High School. The center cares for newborn to preschool age children, giving priority placement to student parents. Child Care staff works with student parents on many levels to help them stay in school and gain valuable parenting skills to give their children the best start in life. Currently the Center holds a QRS level 5. Unduplicated clients: 70

American Home Finding's Child Care Center is funded primarily through competitive annual grant funds from United Way. Without the United Way's support the Child Care Center would not continue to operate. Private pay clients and Iowa Department of Health & Human Services' Child Care Assistance payments are not enough to provide financial sustainability of employee compensation and programing expenses.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Meliza Cloke, Director



Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program



The Teen Pregnancy Prevention program is designed to coordinate and collaborate with many local stake holders to examine strategies, as well as, deliver effective programs to address and impact teen pregnancy rates in the area.

In previous years the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program was funded by a private donor. However, it has been numerous years since that financial support exhausted. Nevertheless, the Agency felt strongly to continue these efforts. The Teen Pregnancy Task Force is a prevention effort that includes minimal monetary usage. The Teen Outreach Program (TOP) began implementation in 2013. TOP aims to prevent teen pregnancy and increase high school graduation rates. The program is fully funded by the Iowa Department of Health & Human Services. The Teen Pregnancy Task Force is the only prevention effort that includes minimal monetary usage.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Katy Gottschalk, Health & Human Resources Director
- Kolby Streeby, Youth Counselor & TOP Facilitator

Aftercare Services

The Aftercare Services program is a voluntary program designed to help meet the needs of young adults 18-23 who have aged-out of foster care, state detention, or family care in Iowa. The Aftercare program helps young adults by working on self-sufficiency goals including: education, health, employment, general life skills, housing, and supportive relationships.

Aftercare & Pre-Aftercare unduplicated clients: 34

The Aftercare program is financially contracted through Youth and Shelter Services. The fiscal year runs July through June.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Ona Miller-Robertson, Self-Sufficiency Advocate



Hawki Outreach Program

This program is designed to enhance Hawki outreach and awareness services to children and families in Keokuk, Mahaska, and Wapello counties. As part of the program, the Agency offers Presumptive Eligibility for Medicaid to any child/adolescent up to age 18 and to pregnant women enrolled in AHFA's Maternal Health program

Annual total of Presumptive Eligibility applications completed: 442

The Hawki Outreach program is under the Child/Adolescent Health umbrella. Funding resources are part of the Child/Adolescent Health grant and follow the same fiscal year.



- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Katy Gottschalk, Health & Human Resources Director
- Alesia Houser, Hawki Coordinator

Child Welfare Emergency Services

American Home Finding Association is the lead Agency to oversee Crisis Intervention, Stabilization and Reunification Services (CISR). This includes Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES), which includes Emergency Shelter, Diversion and the Comprehensive Residential Care Facility, Corinthians House. Additionally, AHFA provides Juvenile Tracking, Monitoring and Outreach Services. If a child cannot be safely maintained in their home, or their safety is in question, a Shelter or Group Home placement can be made.



Unduplicated services: 174

Services are contracted through the Department of Health & Human Services. All programs are on a July through June fiscal year.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Judy Davidson, Program Director

Achieving Maximum Potential Program

Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP) is a youth driven, statewide group that seeks to unleash the full potential for personal growth among foster and adoptive children in Iowa. AMP offers leadership opportunities, educational/vocational assistance. AMP also provides the life skills youth need to become self-sufficient with independent skills.

The AMP program is financially contracted through Youth Policy Institute of Iowa. The fiscal year runs July through June.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Ona Miller-Robertson, AMP Facilitator



Adoption

American Home Finding Association has been a private adoption agency since its conception in 1899. Currently AHFA provides home studies to potential adoptive parents and post-adoption services. The goal of the Adoption program is to find the best possible home for each child. Applications are currently being accepted. The Agency has some general requirements for families interested in adoption. The waiting time for adoption varies depending on case by case basis.



AHFA updated two home studies this fiscal year.

Adoption revenues are generated through private pay clients. Based on the number of very few placements, this program has not generated any significant amount of income in recent years. The Adoption program operates on a calendar year.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Katy Gottschalk, Adoption Specialist



Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is designed for limited income senior volunteers (55+) to help exceptional or special needs children in a supervised classroom. A Foster Grandparent may be seen as a mentor, a friend, or even a substitute grandparent. The main goal of the FGP is to help children with pre-reading and reading skills. Sometimes a Foster Grandparent helps with homework, plays games or shares stories with the students. Children of all ages benefit from the knowledge and love senior volunteers share.

Unduplicated number of grandparents: 23

The Foster Grandparent Program is a federally funded grant financed by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The fiscal year for the FGP is July through June.

- Tracey Boxx, Executive Director
- Clay Courtney, Foster Grandparent Director



Agency Overview

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Agency continued with Counsel on Accreditation procedures and policies. In addition to following the Agency's adapted philosophy of Risking Connections. With the nationwide workforce shortage, the Agency has struggled with staffing issues but continues to expand hiring efforts by using online platforms and in-person outreach events. However, with the Agency's mission in mind, staff have forged on to provide exceptional services that nurture and improve the quality of life for children and families.

-In January, the WIC grant and 1st Five competitive grants were released. This began what would become an almost yearlong grant writing process as Maternal Health, Child/Adolescent Health & I-Smile were released in March and April, respectively. AHFA was awarded all four grants!

-In February, the Agency held its annual Chocolate Lover's benefit with a Wizard of Oz theme. It was a fabulous event at Hotel Ottumwa and visually stunning with a 'tornado' wrapping the staircase entrance and yellow brick roads winding across the mezzanine! As always, the event was a huge success raising \$43,605.

-In April, the Agency was awarded with the Legacy's Bright Ideas grant to remodel the existing garage to make a recreation center for the kids at the Shelter and Group Home

-In June, the Agency was awarded United Way grants for both the Child Care Center and the Teen Health Center. It was the biggest award that AHFA has received from United Way and crucial funding for these programs.

-In July, the Agency hosted the 4th annual Staff Appreciation Event at the Beach Ottumwa. Over 40 families attended the event. Dozens of fun prizes were given out and a great time was had by all!

-In October, the Agency began providing MCAH/WIC services in the new service area. A historic launch for AHFA providing all three services in all nine counties. As well as establishing a permanent location in Knoxville.

-Also in October, the Agency lost one of the most special employees, Tammy Lynn Boxx. Tammy Lynn was a dear friend to all she met and will be remembered with only the fondest memories of her sweet smile and kind heart.

-In December, the Agency held its 6th Winter Wonderland Event. The silent auction presented Christmas wreaths and trees with themes like Harry Potter. Several craft vendors returned to the event as well as new ones. Once again the event was a huge success!

