

419 E Oskaloosa Street | Pella, Iowa 50219 | thewelliowa.org | 641-621-0164

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Come and See: The Well to Celebrate a Decade of Offering Help and Hope

Pella, Iowa- On September 1, The Well will celebrate its tenth anniversary with an open house from 5-8 p.m. at 419 E. Oskaloosa Street, Pella. With a theme "Come and See: A Decade of Offering Help and Hope," the schedule for the evening is:

- 5:00-6:30 p.m. Free meal, guided tours, activities for children and adults.
- 6:30-7:15 p.m. An outdoor gathering for worship and inspiration.
- 7:15-8:00 p.m. Guided tours and activities for children and adults resume.

Open house visitors are asked to pick up their food tickets and event guides on either side of the stage set up in front of The Well Thrift Store.

Inspirational speaker for the event is Jayson Henry, The Well's CEO. Henry is a dynamic speaker and storyteller, offering a message of hope to those with a desire to embrace their calling and the courage to advance in it for Jesus' Kingdom. "Over the past decade, The Well has been blessed, and it has been a blessing to many people," said Henry. "We are grateful for the community support, enthusiastic volunteers, and the helping hand we have been able to offer to people in difficult circumstances." Visitors are invited to use the seating provided or to take lawn chairs with them.

In January 2011, local leaders began conceptualizing the Well. Those leaders were focused on offering programming and support that leads to stability in the lives of people served. Through the process the team recognized that there is a lot of great work that provides support to people in our community but that it isn't always connected and sometimes is more about providing the resource than supporting the person. What came out of that recognition was The Well Resource Center, a place where organizations could partner, people could get involved, and a continuum of care could be provided to those served.

In 2012, The Well Resource Center began offering services out of a small office space in downtown Pella. Volunteers and care coordinators were available to meet one-on-one with people needing assistance. From the beginning, the goal was to build relationships and community with people struggling and in need.



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In 2014, The Well was gifted a thrift store, and in 2016 that space was renovated to combine The Well Resource Center and The Well Thrift Store in one location at 419 East Oskaloosa Street. The new space created a campus feel for those needing services and in 2018, Well Works was added to the campus. The Well Thrift Store has allowed both clients and volunteers to give back to their community while generating income for the ministry. In 2019, The Well added a second location in Knoxville, Iowa, and in 2021, a third location was added in Fairfield, Iowa.

Over the last 10 years the Well has significantly increased its programs and services, provided employment opportunities in the community, engaged volunteers, worked with communities, and impacted the lives of thousands of people.

"On September 1, everyone is invited to come and see the evidence of ten years of blessing and growth—and to celebrate with us a decade of offering help and hope," said Henry. Tours will include the thrift store and donation room, the resource center, and Well Works, which currently provides employment for those we serve. It will provide information about The Well's classes, support groups, and partners.

Food will be catered in by Prime Country BBQ and Catering and Over the Top Ice Cream. Activities include two bounce houses for children ages two through twelve. Jumbo Jenga, Yard Yahtzee, Ladder Golf, and Jumbo Connect Four will be available for all ages. The entire event is free and open to the public.

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Photo Attached: Come and See flier

For more information, go to: thewelliowa.org

Or contact: Eden Koolmees, Director of Advancement and Marketing at <u>edenk@thewelliowa.org</u> or call 641-621-0164 Ext 713