



MEDIA RELEASE

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To: All Media

From: LaSalle County Health Department
OSF HealthCare

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For Immediate Release

Healthier LaSalle County Initiative

The LaSalle County Health Department and OSF HealthCare are pleased to announce a new initiative called Healthier LaSalle County. Healthier LaSalle County (HLC) is a county-wide effort with representation from a variety of health and social service organizations who have come together to implement and promote activities to help improve the health and wellness of LaSalle County. Over the last year, the members of HLC have been collaborating on a regular basis and have focused on three priority areas:

- Healthy Behaviors (Activity and Nutrition/Health Eating)
- Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Substance Use)
- Healthy Aging

The HLC initiative has been fortunate to have representation from the following organizations and agencies who are willing to work together to create awareness of activities in our area that are available to help us find balance in our everyday lives – physically, mentally, and socially. During this time, committee and action team members have developed a mission and vision statement, worked to create a webpage, and held a logo contest.

Alternatives for the Older Adult/Bridges Community Center	North Central Area Transit (NCAT)
Alzheimer's Association	North Central Behavioral Health Systems
Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. (BEST)	Oglesby Public Library
Community Health Partnership of Illinois (Mendota)	OSF HealthCare
Habitat for Humanity	Ottawa YMCA
Housing Authority of LaSalle County (HALC)	Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Valley Community College	Safe Journeys
Illinois Valley PAD Shelter	Streator Salvation Army
Illinois Valley YMCA	Streator Family YMCA
LaSalle County Health Department	The Perfectly Flawed Foundation
LaSalle County 708 Mental Health Board	Tri-County Opportunities Council
LaSalle County Regional Office of Education	University of Illinois Extension – Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam Counties
LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission	United Way of Eastern LaSalle County
Mendota YMCA	Voluntary Action Center of Northern Illinois

In January, HLC reviewed close to a dozen logo entries submitted by 9-12th grade students. Committee members were looking for a logo that would identify the initiative, the priority areas, and help the collaboration move forward in promoting the healthy event and activities that can be found throughout LaSalle County. Healthier LaSalle County would like to thank and commend Nate Kaminski, a Senior at Ottawa High School, for designing our logo (see attached pictures).

The Healthier LaSalle County webpage was developed with the goal of creating a centralized location for all information related to the county-wide collaborative effort. Currently, on the webpage, there are easy to find links/resources to the U of I Extension's Walking Guide, Mental Health and Substance Misuse Disorder Resources -developed by the 708 Mental Health Board, and the Find Food IL Community Food map. Additionally, a calendar is available for agencies and organizations to submit events that focus on the health and well-being of people living in LaSalle County. For more information, <https://www.lasallecountyil.gov/740/Healthier-LaSalle-County>.

In conclusion, Healthier LaSalle County expects to continue to grow and develop in 2024. The initiative welcomes the opportunity to work with communities in LaSalle County to help showcase the healthy activities and opportunities that are right outside our door and build a Healthier LaSalle County!

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Attachment 1: Healthier LaSalle County logo

Attachment 2: Logo Contest Winner



