

Four Oaks
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Quarterly Report

Summer 2025



This spring and summer, several children from a Four Oaks residential treatment program have the opportunity to travel to a local farm and work in the soil through a new partnership with GROW at Kazimour Farm and Orchard. Located in southwest Cedar Rapids, Kazimour Farm was established in 1919 by John and Mary Kazimour and became a beloved fall destination for local families.

Together, Four Oaks and GROW at Kazimour Farm and Orchard are cultivating more than just plants; they are building life skills, teamwork, and confidence. The children are participating in the "Grow Salsa" project, repotting plants like hot peppers, onions, tomatoes, and cilantro. Once a week, farm staff work with the children to reflect on core skills essential for success, such as accountability, effective communication, following instructions, and building healthy relationships.

"They're doing all the pricing, design, and marketing skills, including creating a logo and budgeting. We've been talking a lot about how to price the salsa and market it," Program Manager Larry Haynes said.

One of the children said the experience of creating something from the ground up has been powerful. "Just making the salsa excited me, seeing how the hard work will pay off," he said. "It's been a learning experience."

Another child expressed how much he appreciated the hands-on experience. "I like how we are able to help out and get to know how to plant all the different types of plants," he said. "Overall, we're just waiting for them to get bigger now."

Beyond gardening and business skills, program leaders hope projects like these can show children the world is full of opportunity. Engaging in community-focused initiatives can help equip youth with tools to build healthy, independent lives.

GROW Board Member Maureen Rompot said it has been a treat to have the children at the farm. "They are curious about everything from how plants grow to keeping chickens happy and healthy," she said. "They are very engaged in the end to end process and building an understanding of what it means to create something."

We are thrilled for this incredible partnership and love seeing the smiles on the children's faces.

50 YEARS OF *Fostering*



From newborns to teens, Marge has opened her heart and home to every child she could. “There is not a child I can’t care for,” she said.

Marge continues to make her home available for temporary and respite placements and attends her local support group.

Her advice to future foster parents: “Offer care, be honest, and advocate—for them and for yourself. And if you’re thinking about it... DO IT.”

As a result of Marge’s commitment, countless lives have been impacted by her compassionate care. We are very grateful to Marge Flannery for 50 years of unwavering dedication. Happy 50th Foster Care Anniversary, Marge!

The stunning, rolling hills of the Cedar Rapids Country Club hosted this year’s Four Oaks Golf Classic! Dozens of teams joined us for a day filled with friendly competition, big laughs, and generous hearts, all in support of Iowa’s children and families. As always, the course was pristine and the staff were superb.

From the very first swing to the final putt, golfers brought their A-game, not just to the course, but to the spirit of giving. Along the way, teams enjoyed a variety of games and challenges, including the new crowd-favorite golf ball launcher that added a high-flying twist to the classic scramble.

We are especially grateful to our generous sponsors, with special thanks to our Title Sponsor, TrueNorth Companies, for helping make this day possible. Because of your support, critical funds were raised to fuel our mission and strengthen the futures of kids across Iowa.

GIVING BACK IN DUBUQUE



Former client gives his time and resources to Dubuque location for Day of Caring!

In May, Four Oaks welcomed back a familiar face: Dakota Freiburger, a former student in our Dubuque Supervised Community Treatment (SCT) program, who is now a thriving local business owner.

Dakota, now 26, has lived in Dubuque since he was three. He owns and operates Freiburger’s Lawn & Snow Care, a successful lawn service business that began with a single snowblower in 2018. He credits Four Oaks for helping him build the skills he needed for success.

“At the time, I hated it of course,” Dakota shared. “But if Four Oaks wasn’t a thing, I wouldn’t have gotten my diploma. I wouldn’t have the life skills I still use today.”

Dakota reflects on his time in SCT as foundational, not because it solved everything overnight, but because it planted seeds that eventually took root. The consistency of the program and the self-regulation skills he learned helped guide him through life’s next chapters.

Now a husband and father of two, Dakota volunteered his time and equipment to help remove the rocks in the Dubuque Four Oaks Alta Vista campus parking lot medians and replace it with mulch for a more welcoming environment. For Dakota, it was a way to show young people what is possible.

“I just want to help out and hopefully plant some new seeds for their future, too.”

We are grateful for your work, Dakota!

THANK YOU GOLFERS!

The 32nd Annual Four Oaks Golf Classic was an astounding success!

