

BREAKING BONDAGE IN IOWA





BONDAGE IN IOWA

In the Church Ambassador Network, a ministry of The FAMiLY Leader Foundation, we work to free people from bondage, defined as being captured, unable to escape, from circumstance or behavior. There are many behaviors in our culture that may begin as a choice, but become addictions that lead to bondage.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ comes with the promise of freedom. The Church of Jesus Christ has witnessed for many generations people rescued from the deadly grips of bondage, setting generations free from its grasp.

The Church Ambassador Network seeks to come alongside the State of Iowa to help people break free from bondage, as well as prevent others from ever being impacted by it.

This booklet gives an overview of critical areas of bondage impacting Iowans, counties that have most felt bondage's effect, ministries that are successfully breaking bondage and key systemic issues to breaking bondage in the State of Iowa.



STATEWIDE BONDAGE STATISTICS

9.39%
**STATEWIDE SUBSTANCE
 ABUSE RATE**

*The Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)
 2020 Report*

7,744
**IOWA PRISON POPULATION
 AS OF JUNE 2021**

*www.weareiowa.com/article/news/local/iowa-prison-
 admissions-and-releases-fiscal-year-2021-2nd-lowest-
 in-past-decade/524-0d92ed25-e6eb-4eef-8263-
 c0bca80de01d*

36,000
CHILD ABUSE ASSESSMENTS IN 2021

**BREAKDOWN OF ALL SUBSTANTIATED
 ASSESSMENTS IN 2021**

www.kcci.com/article/iowa-dhs-reports-increase-in-reports-of-child-abuse/39771668

33%
**OF THE 300,000 IOWANS
 FACING FOOD INSECURITY
 ARE CHILDREN**

*https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2022/09/03/iowa-organizations-food-pantry-bank-
 addressing-food-insecurity-hunger-des-
 moines/7958347001/*

11.4%
**STATE POPULATION
 BELOW POVERTY LEVEL**

2020 U.S. Census

36.3%
**OF CHILDREN IN IOWA ARE
 BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK**

*www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/unmarried/un-
 married.htm*

2,846
**BANKRUPTCIES
 FILED IN 2021**

American Bankruptcy Institute

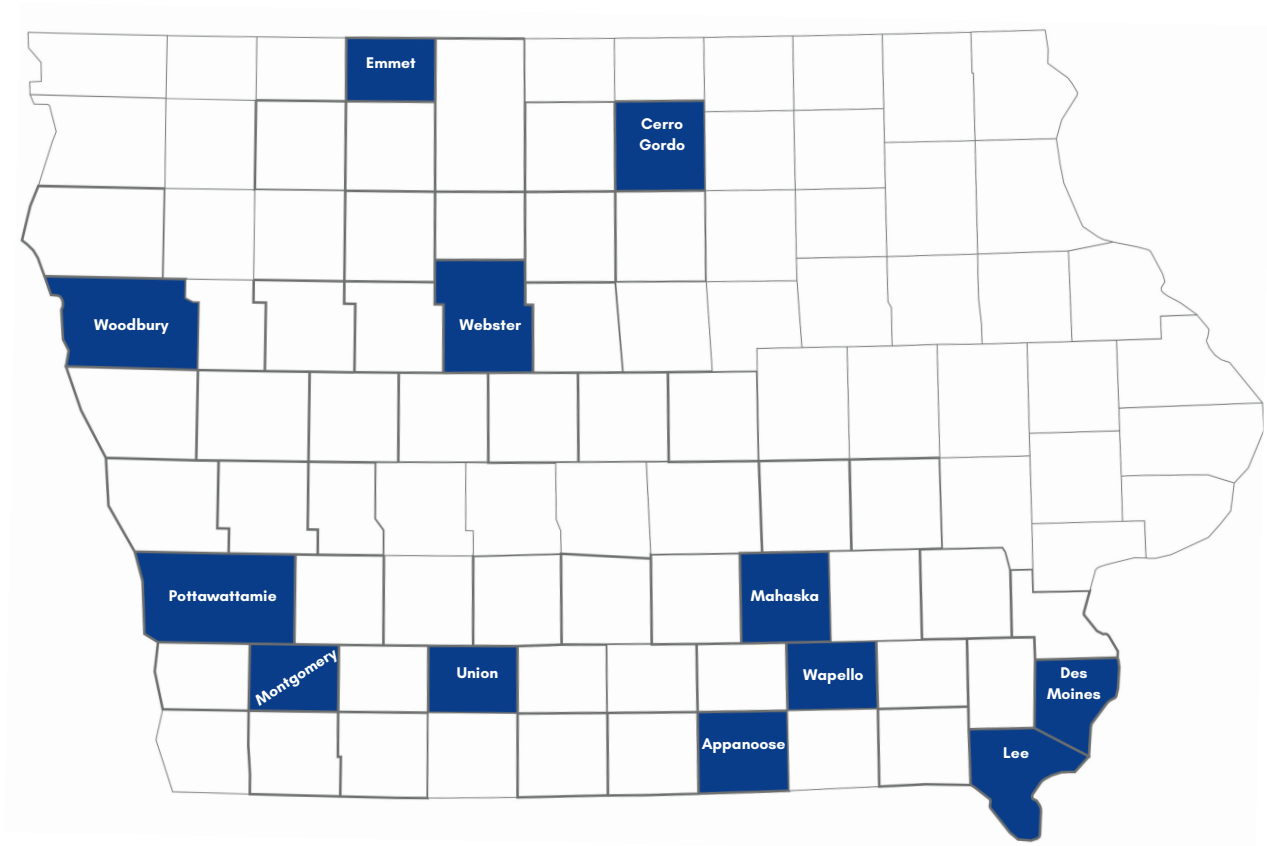
4,660
**CHILDREN IN
 FOSTER CARE**

https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/pdf/iowa.html



COUNTIES MOST IN BONDAGE

It is helpful to get a better snapshot into what is happening in Iowa in regards to bondage. To accomplish this, we can note a per capita analysis along with just raw numbers. The per capita analysis gives an excellent insight into what is happening in Iowa communities. This includes analyzing the breakdown of the family, poverty rates, child abuse, foster-care placements, food insecurity, prison admission rates, bankruptcy rates and substance abuse rates on a per capita basis for all 99 counties. These counties are the highest on a per capita basis.





#1 WEBSTER

- 3rd in substance abuse rate.
- 3rd in single parent rate.
- 5th in % of children in foster-care.
- 5th in divorce rate.
- 6th in adult food insecurity rate.

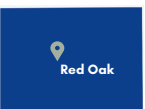
- 6th in child out of wedlock rate.
- 8th in prison admission rate per 100,000.
- 11th in child food insecurity rate.
- 15th in percentage below poverty.



#2 WAPELLO

- 2nd in substance abuse rate.
- 3rd in bankruptcy rate.
- 4th in child out of wedlock rate.
- 5th in prison admission rate per 100,000.
- 9th in percentage below poverty.

- 10th in child food insecurity rate.
- 10th in single parent rate.
- 11th in adult food insecurity rate.
- 13th in % of children in foster-care.



#3 MONTGOMERY

- 2nd in % of children in foster-care.
- 2nd in single parent rate.
- 3rd in child food insecurity rate.
- 8th in prison admission rate per 100,000.

- 9th in child abuse rate.
- 9th in child out of wedlock rate.
- 11th in adult food insecurity rate.
- 15th in substance abuse rate.



#4 APPANOOSE

- 1st in foster-care rate.
- 2nd in child food insecurity rate.
- 4th in poverty rate.
- 6th in prison admission rate per 100,000

- 7th in substance abuse rate.
- 9th in adult food insecurity rate.
- 10th in divorce rate.



#5 WOODBURY

- 2nd in prison admission rate per 100,000.
- 2nd in child out of wedlock rate.
- 5th in single parents rate.
- 5th in substance abuse rate.

- 6th in foster-care rate.
- 7th in prison admission rate per 100,000.
- 9th in bankruptcy rate.



#6 DES MOINES

- 1st in bankruptcy rate.
- 1st in single parent rate.
- 1st in child out of wedlock rate.
- 4th in divorce rate.

- 5th in adult food insecurity rate.
- 6th in child food insecurity rate.
- 7th in percentage below poverty rate.
- 12th in substance abuse rate.



#7 LEE

- 1st in child food insecurity rate.
- 3rd in child abuse rate.
- 3rd in divorce rate.
- 3rd in child out of wedlock rate.

- 4th in adult food insecurity rate.
- 11th in single parent rate.
- 13th in poverty rate.



#8 UNION

- 4th in substance abuse rate.
- 6th in child abuse rate.
- 9th in divorce rate.

- 10th in prison admission rate per 100,000.
- 12th in poverty rate.
- 14th in foster-care rate.



#9 POTTAWATTAMIE

- 2nd in bankruptcy rate.
- 7th in foster-care rate.
- 7th in child out of wedlock rate.
- 8th in divorce rate.

- 9th in prison admission rate per 100,000.
- 14th in single parent rate.
- 16th in substance abuse rate.



#10 EMMET

- 3rd in foster-care rate.
- 4th in child abuse rate.
- 4th in bankruptcy rate.

- 8th in child out of wedlock rate.
- 13th in single parent rate.



#11 CERRO GORDO

- 1st in substance abuse rate.
- 9th in prison admission rate per 100,000.
- 14th in child abuse rate.

- 14th in child out of wedlock rate.
- 15th in single parent rate.



#12 MAHASKA

- 6th in substance abuse rate.
- 7th in prison admission rate per 100,000.

- 7th highest divorce rate.
- 16th highest poverty rate.



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF SHALOM

In the Church Ambassador Network, a ministry of The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation, we hold to the teachings of the Bible that God created the world and it was good. The world was created in perfect Shalom. People, God and creation lived at peace with one another. Shalom is a word and concept used in Old Testament scriptures that does not translate well into English. In English it means **good**, **rest** and **peace**.

GOOD means complete, whole. God looked at Creation and said that it was good. It was complete. It did not need anything added or subtracted from it.



“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day. So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.” Genesis 1:31 -2:2

REST is being in a place of quiet. A place free from motion or disturbance. When something is complete, you can have a true rest in both your body and your soul. Not only can you rest from physical work, there is nothing weighing down your soul.



“Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28

PEACE is when creation is in both internal and external harmony. Where there is true rest there is peace. There is no hostility in the soul or body, neither is there hostility with others or creation. There is peace.



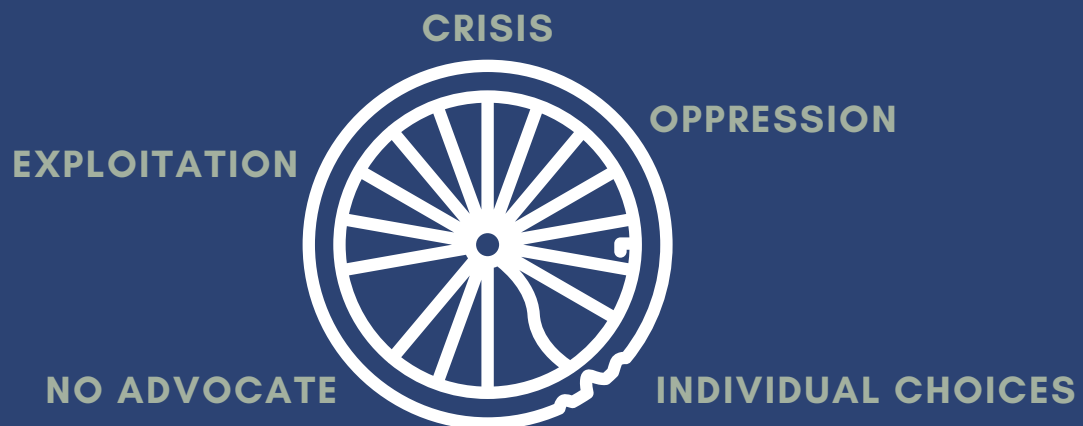
“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7



WHAT HAPPENED TO SHALOM?

Shalom was lost when sin entered the world. Sin occurred and continues to occur when a person is convinced that what God calls good or complete is not good or complete. It needs something added or subtracted from it to become complete. Satan successfully convinced Adam and Eve that creation was not complete and they chose to disobey and sin against God. Mankind has been choosing this ever since. Sin has made creation incomplete, resulting in a loss of rest and peace, bringing hostility between mankind and creation and most importantly between mankind and God.

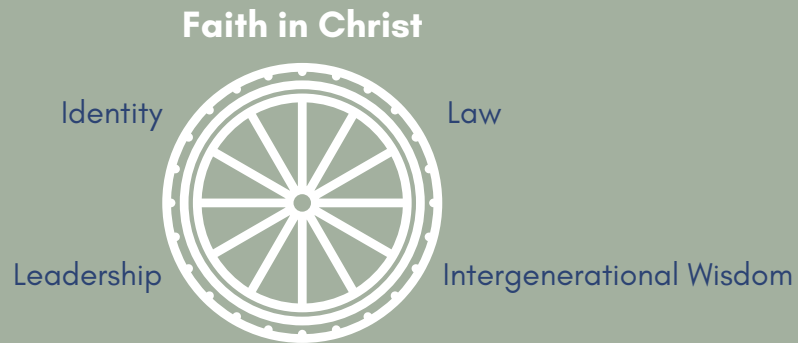
WHAT BREAKS SHALOM?



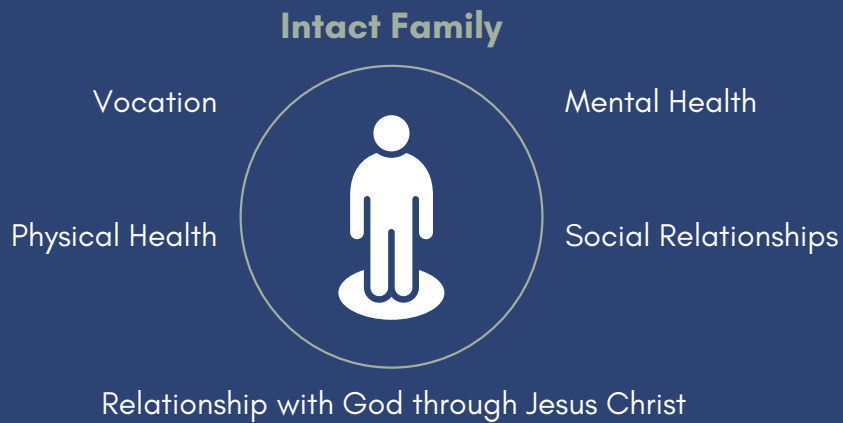
SHALOM IS THE OPPOSITE OF POVERTY

Material poverty is often about being disconnected from the social and economic systems that allow people to use their gifts to help themselves and others to flourish. If it were just about resources, we could simply give people those resources and all problems would be solved. Shalom is wholeness, a state of well-being, flourishing, hope, peace and justice. Shalom is the opposite of poverty. It is about spiritual, relational, physical and mental flourishing. It is being in a place of peace with God, yourself, others, and creation.

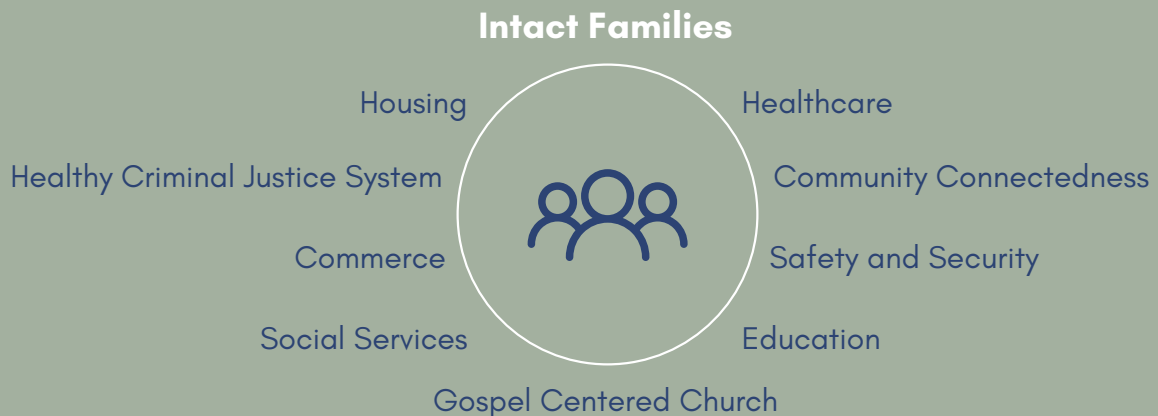
HOW CAN SHALOM BE RESTORED?



WHAT DOES AN INDIVIDUAL NEED TO FLOURISH?



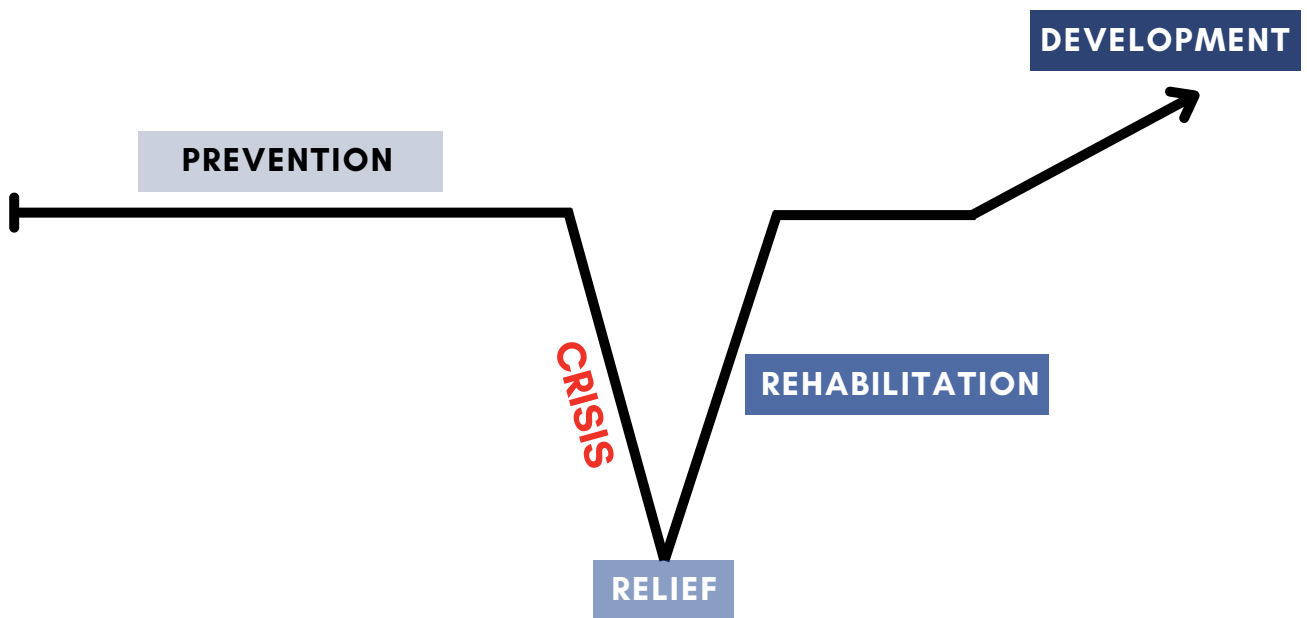
WHAT DOES A COMMUNITY NEED TO FLOURISH?





COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

All bondage eventually ends in a spiritual death. Bondage takes way more from you than you ever imagined. Bondage ravages your relationships beginning with yourself and overflowing into others. In order to break bondage it is essential that our strategies, Church and government, take a comprehensive approach as illustrated below.



PREVENTION
Stopping potential crisis or trauma

RELIEF
Urgent and temporary provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering

REHABILITATION
Restore people and their communities to positive elements of their pre-crisis conditions

DEVELOPMENT
Ongoing change that moves people closer to being in right relationship with God and others.



MINISTRIES WORKING TO BRING SHALOM IN IOWA



Together for Good

Together for Good comes alongside vulnerable children and isolated parents as a fulfillment of God's calling to defend, visit and care for widows and orphans. Social isolation is one of the greatest risk factors for child abuse and neglect and they provide a solution by hosting children during times of parental crisis and surround families with ongoing relational support through their network of care.



CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Cornerstone Church of Ames desires to see local churches across the state and the country step forward to completely meet the need of children in the foster care system by placing children in believing, nurturing homes where they will experience the gospel and the love of God. Cornerstone equips other churches to recruit and train potential foster care families.



Wildwood Hills Ranch of Iowa exists to transform lives and strengthen communities by providing healing, hope and God's unconditional love to children and youth at risk. They work to make sure all Midwestern children have the opportunity to grow into healthy adults – educated, free from poverty, safe from abuse and violence, and engaged as members of communities and nurturing families.



The Well is a place where people who are struggling can find help and hope when facing difficult life circumstances. They use a holistic approach to explore long-term solutions and help people reach stability in their life.

THE WELL RESOURCE CENTER

Navigating existing resources is complex, leaving people overwhelmed and stuck without a clear plan on how to move forward. Each Well Resource Center is a first (and continual) stop in the community. They listen to people’s stories, build genuine relationships, and together by targeting the root of issues, develop strategies and a path toward long-term stability. This is done through offering guidance and support, resource assistance, prayer and encouragement, classes, community resource referrals, and being an advocate on their client’s behalf.

WELL WORKS

Well Works is a work environment for those who struggle with employment. For 12-24 months, program participants will develop soft and technical work skills, actively remove life barriers, develop life skills, and experience the love of Jesus that leads to transformation and hope. Team members find dignity while earning a paycheck at the Well by performing light manufacturing work or working in the Well’s operations. The overall goal for each team member is to gain stability while learning essential work skills and life skills that will help them get and keep a job upon graduation from the program.



Cornerstone Church of Ames and Candeo Church of Cedar Falls seeks to foster a culture of care in the Ames and Cedar Falls community and beyond by providing Christ-centered, clinically informed counselling, consultation and training. As Christian therapists, their worldview is determined by their best understanding of God’s wisdom as expressed in the Bible while valuing the increasing understanding of medical, psychological and behavioral research as a more informed view of ourselves as human beings. As a result, their therapeutic practices embrace spirituality together with psychological theories and interventions as a holistic approach to treating clients.



FREEDOM FOR YOUTH™

Freedom for Youth Ministries empowers youth across Iowa, through the love of Jesus Christ, to break out of their current bondage, discover their God-given talents, and lead transformed lives. Freedom for Youth Ministries delivers after-school and summer programs to more than 500 youth in over 20 Iowa counties, with a foundation in faith, education, employment and leadership development. Some graduates attend a four-year college, community college or trade school, or begin careers in health care, manufacturing, construction, and ministry.

Freedom also delivers employment training at two social enterprises - Freedom Blend Coffee and Freedom Construction Services - empowering young adults ages 18 to 25 work training and life skills that produce development, restoration, and hope. The program teaches job skills and gives young adults invaluable knowledge and work experience for future employment inside the walls of a fully operational coffee shop and construction services company in the heart of Des Moines' north side.



JCA envisions to build a Christ-centered academic foundation within the hearts and minds of urban children, equipping them and their families to serve God and others to their fullest potential through outstanding affordable biblical education. They believe that economically disadvantaged children can perform at the highest level and with God's help students will become family and community leaders, working for justice, economic opportunity, and racial harmony, unifying the body of Christ in the city and throughout the world. JCA measures success by the diversity of minority underprivileged enrollment, improved academic achievement, changed trajectory of students and their families lives, and the lowering of student truancy rates.



ADDRESSING COMPREHENSIVE ISSUES FACING IOWA

The Church Ambassador Network has had over 7,500 connections with Iowa's state government leaders from both political parties and in all three branches. As a result, we have seen a pattern of common issues facing our state.

Prevention

THERE IS A NEED TO INVEST AND PLACE ATTENTION ON PROGRAMS THAT WORK TO PREVENT CRISIS FROM OCCURRING IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.

Identity

THERE NEEDS TO BE A GREATER AWARENESS OF THE IDENTITY PLACED ON PEOPLE. FAR TOO MANY SOCIAL AND JUSTICE PROGRAMS ARE ATTACHED TO GIVING PEOPLE AN IDENTITY.

Skilled Labor

IOWA NOT ONLY HAS A WORKER SHORTAGE, BUT A SKILLED WORKER SHORTAGE. WE ARE LOSING FAR TOO MANY SKILLED WORKERS WE HAVE WORKED HARD TO TRAIN AND EDUCATE.

Specialty Courts

IOWA'S SPECIALTY COURT SYSTEM HAS A RECOGNIZED RECORD OF SUCCESS. EXPANDING THIS SYSTEM TO MORE PARTS OF IOWA WILL GREATLY IMPROVE OUR STATE.

Social Workers

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE STATE EMPLOYS AND KEEPS THE BEST SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE STATE BY PROVIDING A QUALITY WORK CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT.

Prioritizing Family

THE HEALTH OF THE FAMILY IS AT THE BEDROCK OF OUR COMMUNITIES. WE NEED GOVERNMENT TO INCENTIVIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY.

