

MARCH 2025



# THE DREAM



## Team FrostByte Takes the Stage at the 2025 Iowa Technology Summit

For the past year, these talented Des Moines high school students have called our **Prairie Meadows E-Sports Lab** home while tackling **NASA's App Development Challenge**.

Now, they're heading to the **Iowa Technology Summit** to share how they've innovated, problem-solved, and collaborated with NASA engineers.

Beyond technology, they've founded a 3D Modeling Club at Urban Dreams to inspire young students.

We're proud to support them as they give back!

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sip for the Future

Thursday, April 10th, 2025

6:00 pm

Urban Dreams Community Center  
1615 2nd Ave. Des Moines, IA 50314

**SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS**



### Mural Unveiling

Thursday, April 17th, 2025

6:00 pm

Urban Dreams Community Center  
1615 2nd Ave. Des Moines, IA 50314

**SCAN TO RSVP**



## HELP NOMINATE US FOR BEST NON-PROFIT



This year, Urban Dreams is celebrating **40 years** of serving the community, and what better way to honor that milestone than by being recognized in the **Des Moines' People's Choice Awards**?

If our work has made a difference to you or someone you know, please take a moment to nominate us for **Best Nonprofit Organization**!

### HERE'S HOW TO NOMINATE US:

- 1 Scan the **QR code** or **use the link** above the newsletter to visit the nominations page
- 2 Enter **Wellmark Urban Dreams Community Center**
- 3 Scroll down to the **Services** category, then select **Nonprofit Organization**
- 4 Enter your information and hit **Submit**



You can submit nominations once per day until April 16 at 5 PM! We'd appreciate your support as often as you can. Every nomination helps us **celebrate 40 years** of impact and community connection!

Thank you for Helping Us Help Others!



MARCH 2025

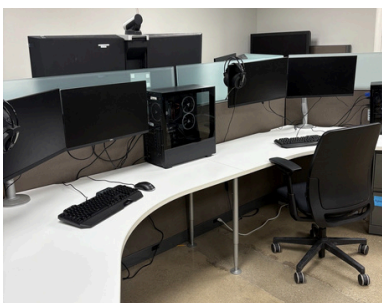


## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

A huge thank you to the amazing volunteers from **Hildreth Construction Services**, **Delta Dental of Iowa**, **OneDigital**, and **Focused Wiring**, who helped us last month!

Thanks to their hard work, our Prairie Meadows E-Sports Lab is now freshly deep-cleaned, organized, and equipped with newly mounted TVs and custom-built shelves. Their support helps keep our space running smoothly and looking great for everyone who uses it.

We're incredibly grateful for their time, skills, and generosity!



## JOIN US FOR A FREE NUTRITION CLASS

Join us for a free 8-week nutrition class hosted by **Iowa State University Extension and Outreach**! Learn ways to **save money**, **build cooking skills**, and **try new recipes**. Classes meet every Friday from 11 am - 1 pm, starting April 18<sup>th</sup>.



Every Friday  
starting April 18



Urban Dreams  
1615 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. DSM, IA 50314



Call 515.305.9962 to  
sign up



# MARCH FOOD PANTRY STATISTICS



20,592

TOTAL POUNDS OF FOOD



2,044

TOTAL PANTRY VISITS



3

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

## Food Pantry Hours

**Monday** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**Tuesday** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**Wednesday** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**Thursday** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**Friday** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

## Our Partners

Atlantic Bottling Co.	Kum & Go
Casey's	Kwik Star
Centro	Malo
Costco	Pizza Hut
Dollar General	Price Chopper
Food Bank of Iowa	Sam's Club
Garbazo	Target
Gilroy's	Whole Foods
Hiland Bakery	World Market

# WELCOME TO THE DREAM TEAM, ANGEL!

We're thrilled to welcome Angel to the Dream Team! Angel is serving at Urban Dreams as an **AmeriCorps Member** of the **Iowa Community Corps AmeriCorps program**.

He is passionate about making a difference in the community and will be focusing on **food insecurity**, helping us expand our food pantry's capacity and outreach.

His dedication and hard work will play a key role in ensuring more families have access to the resources they need.



**AmeriCorps**



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: FULL RIDE TO VANDERBILT!

One of our outstanding students has earned a **full-ride scholarship to Vanderbilt University!** As a co-founder of the **3D Modeling Club** at Urban Dreams and a dedicated member of **Team FrostByte**, his passion, creativity, and hard work have truly set him apart. This fall, he'll begin his journey at Vanderbilt for the 2025–2026 school year, and we couldn't be prouder.

We can't wait to see where his talent and drive will take him next—there's no doubt he's going to do amazing things.

**Congratulations, Sujal!**



## URBAN DREAMS COMMUNITY CENTER

### Rent the Urban Dreams Community Center!

Our community center has been buzzing with activity over the past few months, serving as a hub for connection and celebration. It's home to the Riverbend Neighborhood Association's monthly meetings, weekly AA gatherings, and a variety of other events. The space is perfect for hosting baby showers, holiday parties, corporate events, and more.

#### Amenities include:

- Capacity for 275 people standing
- Up to 15 round tables seating 8 people at each table
- Three mounted TVs and one mobile TV
- High-speed WiFi
- Convenient kitchenette
- Toucan video conference system



SCAN TO RESERVE

To reserve the space, please scan the QR code or follow the link provided above this newsletter. To use the community center, a minimum donation of \$10 an hour is suggested. Your generous support helps maintain and improve the facility.



## Employee of the Month!

This month's Employee of the Month is Jose!

Jose joined our team last month and has quickly made a positive impact. He keeps our center exceptionally clean and is always willing to lend a hand with extra tasks around the office. His hard work and dedication help create a welcoming space for everyone.

Thank you, Jose!

### MISSION STATEMENT

Urban Dreams advocates for **all members of the community**, breaking down barriers to success and collaborating with key stakeholders to overcome obstacles and uplift **underserved** and **underrepresented** people.

### VISION STATEMENT

Our Urban Dream is to create **equal opportunity and access** for people to pursue their Dreams.

## FOLLOW US TO STAY UP TO DATE ON CURRENT EVENTS



Urban Dreams – Iowa  
Facebook



urban.dreams.dsm  
Instagram



urbandreamsdsm  
Snapchat



@UrbanDreams  
Twitter



Urban-Dreams  
LinkedIn



www.urbandreams.org  
Website



SCAN OUR LINK TREE TO  
ADD US ON SOCIALS