



THE SELF RELIANCE GROUP

August Vol. 2 | Issue 8 NEWSLETTER

Director Feature

This month last year, sitting Directors **Hope Dunn (Vice President), Lynda Hild (Secretary), Robert Masden, Mitchell Taylor, and Patrick Williams** gathered for the first official board meeting at The Drake. The Group has come a long way in the past year thanks to the visionary leadership, and engagement of these generous community members. **Thank you** for a full year of service to The Self Reliance Group. Cheers to the coming years & all the public goods we will create in collaboration with our community. Save the date to come out and meet these community leaders at The Group's first community fundraising event, scheduled for Saturday, October 12th from 6-8PM at The Loft on Jefferson St. Stay tuned for additional event details.

1. What is The Self Reliance Group? (The Group)



Mission:

The Self Reliance Group, a 501(c)(3) public charity, is actively engaged in **building community partnerships, services, and programming** in Southeast Iowa to **assist individuals in managing and caring for their physical health, intellectual disabilities, and/or mental health diagnoses**. Our programming will supplement already existing services to **create broader opportunities**.

2. What does The Group do?

- Identification of Healthcare Access Gaps
- Growing Local Awareness
- Building Relationships
- Providing Gap-Focused Services
- Storytelling & Communication
- Crafting Targeted Strategies
- Fundraising

3. What are Priority Action Areas?

The Group set 2024 priority action areas in December of 2023 based on preliminary identification of local healthcare access gaps. Since then, The Group has been working within these action areas to develop & implement gap-focused services that assist individuals in managing & caring for their individual health outcomes. These action areas act as guardrails to focus mission-driven work & progress The Group towards its vision.

Veterans Services & Supports

Dental Outreach

Youth Supports

Personal Hygiene & Wellbeing

Your support makes an impact in the health outcomes of your neighbors.

4. Local Accomplishments:

- Implementation of **Veterans Tech Support Classes** (in collaboration with the Veterans Services & Supports (VS&S) Coalition, Veterans Tech Support, Titan Broadcasting, & VFW Post 10102)
- Implementation of **Veterans Free Fare Pilot Program** (in collaboration with VS&S Coalition, & the City of Burlington B.U.S.)
- Development of **"Activities of Daily Living: Personal Hygiene Educational Program & Product Resource"** (in collaboration with local Hab & HCBS direct service providers & administrators)
- Research, Development, & Implementation of **"Southeast Iowa Dental Access Solution Development Plan"** (in collaboration with CHC of SEIA, University of IA College of Dentistry & Dental Clinics, Lee County Health Dept., Children's Dental Center of SEIA, & River Ridge Dental Clinic)
- **Growing the local dental professional workforce** (in collaboration with various local agencies, Christine Hall, Bob & Carol Bartles, Jerry & Linda Parks, and Mykhailo & Kateryna Lahun)

Upcoming Action:

- August 5th & 19th: Veteran's Tech Support Classes at 217 Washington St. (VFW) from 5-6PM
- August 13th: Veterans Oral Health Summit (c)
- August 29th: Dental Access Solutions Development Plan Q2 Collaboration Team Meeting at Burlington Public Library (c)
- August 3rd - 17th: 2nd Annual Hygiene Product Donation Drive tabling at area grocers (See attached flyer for details)
- August 15th: SEIRMC ER Dental Telehealth Referral Project Meeting (c)
- August 26th: Veterans Services & Supports Coalition Meeting virtual via Teams (c)
- August 27th: The Self Reliance Group Board Meeting (c)

More Details Coming Soon!

Save the Date for The Group's 1st Community Fundraising Event: 10/12/24



July Stories

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Pictured above: July 15th class participants & volunteers



Veterans Tech Support Classes

Did you know rural veterans are increasingly accessing healthcare via telehealth modes of delivery? From doctor's appointments to prescription refills - all they need are the technology skills to navigate these virtual healthcare systems successfully. Do you know someone who could benefit from this targeted assistance? Classes are hosted (by a local veteran) every **1st & 3rd Monday evening from 5-6PM at 217 Washington St. (VFW)**. Topics are selected by participants & volunteers are available to assist anyone with drop-in questions - you name it, we can teach it! Come on down & join us at the next class on August 5th. While classes are intended to support local veterans, anyone in the community who can benefit from the assistance is welcome to join. There are **no fees associated with participation & all supplies are provided on-site.**

Ukrainian Dentists Hired as Dental Assistant Trainees at West Burlington's CHC Dental Clinic



Meet Kateryna (Kate) & Mykhailo (Mike) Lahun, two new Burlington community residents! During the process of completing their **dental master's education program back home in Ukraine**, they decided to look into moving to America. Local residents Bob & Carol Bartles informed The Group of their prior dental training & interest to settle in Burlington, IA. With financial sponsors secured, they needed another community member to step in to assist with the many legal forms & procedures associated with the immigration process. The Group took this opportunity to **grow the local dental professional workforce**. While their international education doesn't translate to American practice standards, their **prior experiences providing patients with dental care** spoke for them. After submitting applications to CHC of SEIA & interviewing with the West Burlington dental clinic team, these two were **recently offered dental assistant trainee positions** & are excited to get back to **work on local smiles** in the clinic!! The Group has identified a local connection who is willing to assist the Lahun's along their pursuit towards **aligning their international educational experiences with American practice standards**. If you see them around, welcome them to our community!

Their 1st day is Monday!



Pictured above: Kate & Mike Lahun

Contact Jocelyn at (319) 671-7152 to learn about sponsorship & promotional opportunities for area businesses!

\$\$ Donate:



The Self Reliance Group {501(c)(3) Public Charity} funds local programs, partnerships, & services with donated contributions from the community. Your support creates local impact in the health outcomes of your neighbors.

If your interest has been piqued & you would like to learn more about The Group, stop by our 1115 Summer St. office location or come out to one of our upcoming action events around the community, region, & state! All upcoming action events are directly associated with at least one priority action area. Some upcoming action is closed (c) to the public as the nature of the event necessitates targeted focus and increased collaboration. If you are interested in attending a closed (c) event, please reach out to the CEO for details.

CONNECT

