



Cass County Interagency Group

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Cass County Interagency Group is made up of Cass County agencies, businesses, and individuals who have made it their goal to improve the lives of Cass County residents by increasing access to valuable resources and creating new opportunities for the public through collaboration.

Upcoming Events

Cass County Health Department's Galentine's Night

February 8, 2024 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at St. Luke's Parish Hall, Virginia, IL

Ladies, grab a friend and join us for an evening of games, prizes, food, presentations, and more! This event is FREE!

Please RSVP to Louise at (217) 452-3057 x1321.

Cass County CPR Course

CPR courses in English and Spanish are offered throughout the year! The next course is **March 16th** in English.

Please see the attached flyer for additional dates and languages.

Please call Louise Yale at (217) 452-3057 x1321 for more information.

Cass County Community Closet

Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Cass County Community Closet in Virginia is open every 3rd Saturday monthly, or by appointment. Call (217) 452-3057 for more info about making an appointment.

Cass County Welcome Center English Group

Join us every Wednesday from **11:00 am - 12:00 pm** at the **Beardstown Public Library** to help build English language skills! See attached flyers and feel free to share!

AgeLinc Annual Fundraiser

February 17, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL

There is plenty of time to plan to join in the fun! Call (217) 787-9234 for info.

Have an upcoming event? Email hkelly@casscohealth.org with details.

Announcements

- Cass County Health Department has at home COVID-19 tests for anyone that needs them.
- Families may be eligible for Child Care Assistance - visit www.wcccc.com or call 217-222-2550 for NEW and UPDATED CCCC information!
- Cass County Health Department has FREE Narcan available– no questions asked.
- Rental assistance, transitional housing programs, home improvement finds, utility assistance, auto repair funds, and GED, CNA, CDL, and ESL funding and opportunities are now available for those who qualify. Call Jeremy at MCS for updates and additional info. (217) 243-9404
- LIHEAP info:
 - Program is still open. You do not need to be behind on your electric, gas, or propane to qualify. Call Tammy at MCS for more info (217) 243-9404.
- Safe Haven Hospice is actively seeking referrals and volunteers. They can offer grief counseling in a group setting, or one on one. Please call (855) 879-4096 for information.
- AgeLinc holds a Lunch + Learn the 3rd Wednesday monthly, and Dementia Caregiver Support on the 1st Tuesday monthly. Call Scott for info (217) 787-9234.
- Illinois workNet is in Beardstown at Lincoln Land Community College from 9:00 - 12:00 M-F. Call Christina at (217) 323-1859 to get connected to education, trainings, work force programs, and career resources today!
- Cass County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) volunteer training is now self-guided! Volunteers are greatly needed. Please call (217) 223-2272 for inquiries.
- West Central Child Care Connection is looking for anyone who is interested in becoming a child care provider. Know anyone who loves helping children learn and grow? Call Tina at (217) 222-2550.
- The Crisis Center Foundation in Jacksonville is happy to host a Lunch + Learn upon request. Call Anna or Miriam at (217) 243-4357 for info.
- Jacksonville Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation is looking for volunteers! They are always out and active in the community- to get involved call Jennifer at (217) 243-6451.
- Bella Ease is now open in Jacksonville, and is now serving Cass County!
- Community Hope & Recovery Center is offering counseling services to the community. Call Rick at (217) 323-2980 for more info.
- If you are interested in joining the Cass County Women's Health Group please sign up [HERE](#).



**Be sure to check-in
through social media to
keep up with what's up
and coming in our
communities. It's a great
way to share event
information and promote
each other's work!**

Local Job Listings

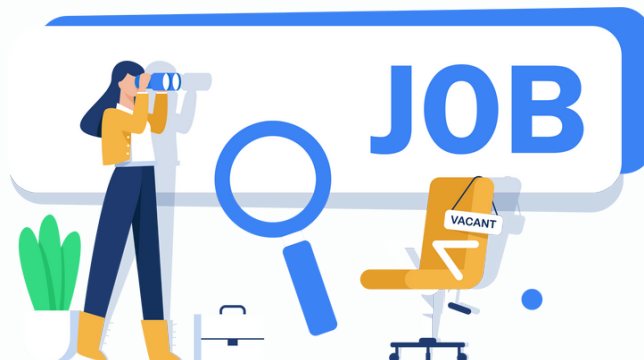
we are not always aware of when these positions are filled, or come available. It is always best to check with the organization or their webpage when looking to apply for a job.

Midwest Youth Services

MYS is hiring for a number of positions. Please reach out at (217) 245-6000 for additional information.

Cass County Health Department is hiring! To view open positions please visit our website or visit us online at www.cassscohealth.org or call for info today! (217) 452-3057.

Bella Ease in Jacksonville is now open and is also hiring! Call (217) 209-0632 for info.



Interagency Member Highlight

Pastor Mel Nielsen



Pastor Mel can be reached at (815) 922-9161
or pastormel1@hotmail.com

I am the Pastor at Beardstown First United Methodist Church in Beardstown, IL. I have been in Beardstown since July 2023, when I was appointed there the Bishop.

I was most recently appointed to Jacksonville, IL at Centenary United Methodist Church. My journey has also included pastoral appointments in Bonfield, Minonk, Wenona, Lostant and Richland along the way. My ministry began in Roanoke, IL where an Emmaus Weekend filled me with the spirit and I felt called to ministry. Before that, I was a newspaper publisher, the owner of a small offset printing and bindery business and also owned multiple video tape rental stores.

My wife, Debbie, and I, have two grown children. Our daughter Sarah and her husband Garrett live in Indiana and have three boys. Our son, Michael and his wife Molly live in Missouri, and have two daughters.

Having grown up in poverty, I have a heart for ministry in serving those with financial challenges. In Jacksonville, I was instrumental in developing the Unmet Needs Program, which was modeled after a similar church led group in Quincy, IL. My desire is to bring more churches of Cass County into the Intra Agency program for better communication and understanding to help push back against the social problems that many people find themselves facing on a daily basis. I would also like to develop educational opportunities that lift people out of the cycle of dependency. Another dream is to establish a local heating and cooling center or temporary overnight shelter for those in worst case scenarios.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, March 20th , 2024 from 11:00 - 12:00

Location TBD!



This is the official newsletter of the Cass County Interagency Coalition. Use this newsletter to stay updated on community events and opportunities to get involved. Do you have an event or idea you would like to include in the next issue? Email Hillary Kelly (hkelly@casscohealth.org) with a brief summary. All members of the coalition will receive this newsletter as it is released.

If after reading this you realize there is something you want to recommend for the community to work on lets start a discussion about it. There is always a possibility of partners to make that event happen!

Thank you all for your continued dedication!