

# HEY, NEIGHBOR!

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## Small Business Support

This past summer the Fox Cities Chamber became the first chamber organization to hand out a free membership for small business. This program "Connect Free" helps promote economic growth within our local business. This membership includes opportunities to connect with other small business in the Fox Cities, marketing, educational programs, and other strategic resources to help grow and connect organizations. Connect Free is available to small business with five or fewer full-time employees, non-profits with ten or fewer employees, and freestanding restaurants. Check out their website to learn more: [foxcitieschamber.com](http://foxcitieschamber.com)



Did you know that we have our very own Wisconsin Small Business Development Center here in Oshkosh? UW-Oshkosh helps new entrepreneurs find and accomplish their dreams. WSBDC is a nationally accredited organization focused on education, consulting, and building connections. This is a no-cost solution for all your small business needs.

## NEIGHBOR NEWS

The Winter Warm Up Trinity Soup Lunches are back! Get a free soup every Tuesday at Trinity Lutheran in the Stevens Park Neighborhood.

## PARTNER UPDATES

Habitat for Humanity held their Home is Where the Heart Is event on Jan 26, and raised \$100,000! Thank you to all who donated.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Tickets for the 2023 Downtown Oshkosh Chocolate Stroll are on sale! Spend Saturday, February 11th with your sweetie and enjoy chocolate treats throughout Downtown Oshkosh!

## Building Belonging in Neighborhoods

Part of creating a safe and welcoming neighborhood is having your residents feel like they belong. Jaclyn Skalnik was recently interviewed by Insight Magazine and shared her story and expertise on how to create belonging in your environment.

Jaclyn Skalnik is a St. Norbert's grad who now is a corporate director of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) for the Boldt Construction company. The firm has over 3,000 employees at 18 offices nationwide. Skalnik has over two decades of experience in DEI.

The article shared Jaclyn's strategies on building belonging starting with "either do it, or prepare to do it". This can mean a lot of different things, but what Jaclyn really focuses on is the preparation of the project. Creating a community with safety, respect, and inclusion requires a lot of preparation before tackling the problem.

One of the first steps is relationship building. You must focus on building relationships and communicating the "why" behind the concept of belonging. This will build trust, which is a key to creating an environment where neighbors feel connected.

Lastly, is the big picture, gathering these individuals that you have made connections with and focusing on your main goal together as a group. Allow your relationships to have responsibility in solving the problem. Once neighbors feel a sense of trust, gather them together and begin the process of setting group goals. If each member feels connected to the group, they are more likely to be engaged in the process.

By creating a sense of belonging in your neighborhood you will have more active and engaged volunteers and neighbors. This is of course what being a neighborhood association is all about!



*Great neighborhoods start with you!*