Intentions Toward a Sustainable Future
With the intention of bringing our campus community together and making a sustainable difference, Iowa State student organizations continue to raise the bar through volunteering, fundraising, education and beyond. This month, Live Green! highlights a few of the numerous student organizations that pursue intentions (environmental, economic and social) toward a sustainable future.

Students Helping Rescue Animals
With a mission to help local homeless animals through social sustainable components such as fundraising, volunteerism and education, Students Helping Rescue Animals (SHRA) engages students with a passion and focused intent for assisting animals in animal shelters. SHRA’s three-fold approach toward supporting animal shelters includes hosting fundraising events, scheduling days to volunteer at local shelters and educating the community about the benefits of rescuing animals from shelters. Each component helps to raise money for local shelters around Ames. Morgan Kazmierczak (MK), a senior majoring in Animal science and president of SHRA, noted some of her favorite experience and impacts during her time with SHRA. These valuable experiences include educational speakers, giveback nights, fundraising events and volunteer opportunities, and how these experiences focus on the intention to ensure a safe and sustaining home for rescue animals in need.

Q: What are some highlights of your group’s experiences – responsibilities, projects, activities, etc., that you feel really honor your mission and make a difference?

MK: There are truly so many experiences that I am proud of! Our annual Walk for Wet Noses 5k is always inspiring to see the support we have throughout the community. We have also been working hard to create new events for members such as setting up a booth in front of Parks Library to spread the word about puppy mills and our Poorly Drawn Pets Fundraiser which helps to donate money to the Animal Rescue League by providing $25 drawings of owners’ pets. Another one I am especially fond of is the Bark After Dark Gala. Two years ago, the SHRA executive team was invited to attend the Bark After Dark Gala that is put on by Bailing Out Benji. The Gala aims to raise awareness about puppy mills and animal welfare. It is a great way for us to learn about new organizations and efforts that SHRA can support! We were honored to be invited back as volunteers again this year.

Q: How does your group’s mission and primary initiatives connect to sustainability and support a sustainable future? (social, economic, and/or environmental sustainability).

MK: Aside from our three main focuses, SHRA is sustainable in other ways. Each month, SHRA donates money to the Ames Animal Shelter and the Story County Animal Shelter.
In addition, we donate to help with emergency medical care for an animal each month through our Vitae Fund. The Vitae Fund donation can go to any animal to help with non-routine medical expenses, and we often choose to support animals outside of Ames and sometimes the state of Iowa! SHRA also runs sustainable events such as volunteering at the Ames Pet Food Pantry, collecting recycled paper for shelters to use as bedding for small animals and posting adoptable animals to promote animal adoption.

Q: How does your group’s initiatives relate to this month’s theme, “Intention?”

MK: SHRA is very intentional throughout our entire event planning process. We always have a goal in mind when designing our events whether that be promoting volunteering, fundraising, education, or member outreach within our club.

Through various collaborative efforts of volunteering, fundraising and education, SHRA continually showcases their intention of ensuring a supportive and sustainable future for shelter animals. To learn more and for information on how to connect with SHRA, visit the Student Organization Database website.

United Nation’s International Children’s Emergency Fund
Dedicated to providing education and basic rights to children around the world, the United Nation’s International Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) main intention is to protect and save children’s lives and help to fulfill their potential from early childhood through adolescence. UNICEF believes that every child has the right to be socially sustained with an equitable chance in life and works across 190 territories to support quality learning for children, especially those in the greatest need.

Q: What are some highlights of your group’s experiences – responsibilities, projects, activities, etc., that you feel really honor your mission and make a difference?

LS: Our group meetings are educational. We have discussions and presentations about the history and status of UNICEF and the current work done worldwide. Several times through the semester, we participate in fundraising events on campus throughout the academic school year to help grow and strengthen the movement and fundraise to sustain children in need throughout the world.

Lal Siama (LS), a senior majoring in Electrical Engineering and president of UNICEF at ISU offered more insight on how the student organization continues to grow and promote the overarching mission of UNICEF internationally, focused on defending children’s rights and aiding them in achieving their full potential during early childhood and adolescence.

With the help of Iowa State students, the UNICEF at ISU chapter provides education and basic rights to children around the world through education, advocacy and fundraising. UNICEF at ISU holds several
STUDENTS LIVING CARDINAL, GOLD AND GREEN

Iowa State University BioBus
Striving through an interdisciplinary entrepreneurial student initiative, Iowa State University BioBus is focused on upcycling waste vegetable oil from ISU dining centers into biodiesel fuel to power community CyRide buses. Through their initiatives, ISU Biobus not only supports environmental sustainability through a reuse option for used cooking oil, members also assist economic sustainability for fuel costs and social sustainability as an experiential learning program integrating students, faculty, staff and the Ames community.

Using a machine, referred to by members as the “super sucker,” ISU BioBus collects used cooking oil from the Union Drive Community dining center and brings it back to their laboratory in Sukup Hall. Then, through a process called transesterification, the collected oil is converted into biodiesel, a non-toxic, biodegradable alternative to fossil fuels, that assists in powering CyRide’s fleet.

Thomas Brumm (TB), professor in Agricultural Biosystems Engineering and ISU BioBus adviser, discussed some of the organization’s current initiatives and their overarching intentions related to sustainability.

Q: What are some highlights of your group’s experiences – responsibilities, projects, activities, etc., that you feel really honor your mission and make a difference?

LS: Our purpose is to increase awareness of current issues involving child survival and work towards a world where zero children die from preventable causes. We invite everyone to join us in this mission with the intent to help children all over the world.

Allowing children the chance to fulfill their full potential by supporting quality learning and basic human rights to children in need, Iowa State University UNICEF chapter continues to honor their intention of sustaining the world’s children. To connect with UNICEF at ISU, and learn more about their initiatives, visit the Student Organization Database website.

Q: How does your group’s mission and primary initiatives connect to sustainability and support a sustainable future? (social, economic, and/or environmental sustainability).

LS: We work to promote UNICEF’s child survival work in over 150 countries through the education of members and the community, along with fundraisers to advocate for the work UNICEF is doing worldwide. We believe that children are the present and the future.

Q: How does your group’s initiatives relate to this month’s theme, “Intention?”

opportunities such as concessions volunteering during various home games.

Photo courtesy of UNICEF at ISU

Photo courtesy of UNICEF at ISU

Photo courtesy of UNICEF at ISU

Iowa State University BioBus
Striving through an interdisciplinary entrepreneurial student initiative, Iowa State University BioBus is focused on upcycling waste vegetable oil from ISU dining centers into biodiesel fuel to power community CyRide buses. Through their initiatives, ISU Biobus not only supports environmental sustainability through a reuse option for used cooking oil, members also assist economic sustainability for fuel costs and social sustainability as an experiential learning program integrating students, faculty, staff and the Ames community.

Using a machine, referred to by members as the “super sucker,” ISU BioBus collects used cooking oil from the Union Drive Community dining center and brings it back to their laboratory in Sukup Hall. Then, through a process called transesterification, the collected oil is converted into biodiesel, a non-toxic, biodegradable alternative to fossil fuels, that assists in powering CyRide’s fleet.

Thomas Brumm (TB), professor in Agricultural Biosystems Engineering and ISU BioBus adviser, discussed some of the organization’s current initiatives and their overarching intentions related to sustainability.

Q: What are some highlights of your group’s experiences – responsibilities, projects, activities, etc., that you feel really honor your mission and make a difference?

LS: Our purpose is to increase awareness of current issues involving child survival and work towards a world where zero children die from preventable causes. We invite everyone to join us in this mission with the intent to help children all over the world.

Allowing children the chance to fulfill their full potential by supporting quality learning and basic human rights to children in need, Iowa State University UNICEF chapter continues to honor their intention of sustaining the world’s children. To connect with UNICEF at ISU, and learn more about their initiatives, visit the Student Organization Database website.

Q: How does your group’s mission and primary initiatives connect to sustainability and support a sustainable future? (social, economic, and/or environmental sustainability).

LS: We work to promote UNICEF’s child survival work in over 150 countries through the education of members and the community, along with fundraisers to advocate for the work UNICEF is doing worldwide. We believe that children are the present and the future.

Q: How does your group’s initiatives relate to this month’s theme, “Intention?”

opportunities such as concessions volunteering during various home games.

Photo courtesy of UNICEF at ISU

Photo courtesy of UNICEF at ISU

Photo courtesy of UNICEF at ISU

Iowa State University BioBus
Striving through an interdisciplinary entrepreneurial student initiative, Iowa State University BioBus is focused on upcycling waste vegetable oil from ISU dining centers into biodiesel fuel to power community CyRide buses. Through their initiatives, ISU Biobus not only supports environmental sustainability through a reuse option for used cooking oil, members also assist economic sustainability for fuel costs and social sustainability as an experiential learning program integrating students, faculty, staff and the Ames community.

Using a machine, referred to by members as the “super sucker,” ISU BioBus collects used cooking oil from the Union Drive Community dining center and brings it back to their laboratory in Sukup Hall. Then, through a process called transesterification, the collected oil is converted into biodiesel, a non-toxic, biodegradable alternative to fossil fuels, that assists in powering CyRide’s fleet.

Thomas Brumm (TB), professor in Agricultural Biosystems Engineering and ISU BioBus adviser, discussed some of the organization’s current initiatives and their overarching intentions related to sustainability.

Q: What are some highlights of your group’s experiences – responsibilities, projects, activities, etc., that you feel really honor your mission and make a difference?

LS: Our purpose is to increase awareness of current issues involving child survival and work towards a world where zero children die from preventable causes. We invite everyone to join us in this mission with the intent to help children all over the world.

Allowing children the chance to fulfill their full potential by supporting quality learning and basic human rights to children in need, Iowa State University UNICEF chapter continues to honor their intention of sustaining the world’s children. To connect with UNICEF at ISU, and learn more about their initiatives, visit the Student Organization Database website.
When the club started, there wasn’t a process in place (for this type of initiative), so the founding members had to completely start from scratch and figure it out on their own. This included things like how to transport oil across campus - which is how the “super sucker” was discovered. Most recently, we have just finally bought all new parts and completed a redesign of the entire reactor. This is so significant, from a learning, leadership and systems solution standpoint.

Q: How does your group’s mission and primary initiatives connect to sustainability and support a sustainable future? (social, economic, and/or environmental sustainability).

TB: Mainly by reducing the carbon footprint. Even though we only produce a couple hundred gallons a year, it is still enough to make a difference. Our work also offers an immersive experience and relevant example to our members, as well as other students who visit our lab or interact with us at tabling events, that individual decisions, activities and buying habits collectively can make a difference in our environment and particularly in regards to climate change.

Habitat For Humanity

Helping to construct and sustain, healthy and affordable homes, Iowa State University’s Habitat for Humanity Student Chapter intends on building a stronger community through helping remove systematic barriers that prevent low-income and underserved individuals and families from accessing affordable and sustainable housing.

Q: How does your group’s initiatives relate to this month’s theme, “Intention?”

TB: The whole project is all about intention. BioBus intends to create a world that is sustainable and our biodiesel fuel is one of those pieces toward a sustainable world.

Assisting in the fueling of CyRide, ISU BioBus exhibits ongoing intention toward ensuring sustainable fuel options and fueling reduced carbon emissions toward a sustainability transported future. For more information and connect with ISU BioBus, visit the Student Organization Database website.

Kristen Peka (KP), a senior majoring in Architecture and president of Iowa State’s Habitat for Humanity Student Chapter gives further insight on the social, economic and environmental aspects that go into ensuring positive impacts through housing with the intent of positively impacting a family or person in need.
STUDENTS LIVING CARDINAL, GOLD AND GREEN

Q: What are some highlights of your group’s experiences – responsibilities, projects, activities, etc., that you feel really honor your mission and make a difference?

KP: Over the past year, our club has worked on many impactful experiences that resonate with our mission of addressing housing. Aside from our build days, we are also working on extending our outreach efforts to highlight the importance of affordable housing. These campaigns include panel discussions and outreach events to help engage and educate our university community on the vital need of decent housing.

Although we focus on opportunities at construction sites, our responsibilities extend beyond on-site volunteerism and into fundraising initiatives. We have successfully organized fundraising events through Habitat for Humanity partners and participated in other initiatives like sign-a-stud. We ask for donations in return for being able to sign your name on a stud that will go into a house that Habitat for Humanity is actively building.

Q: How does your group’s mission and primary initiatives connect to sustainability and support a sustainable future? (social, economic, and/or environmental sustainability).

KP: Our commitment to addressing the issue of affordable housing directly contributes to social sustainability. We aim to create a stable and thriving community by providing adequate and affordable homes. This benefits the families who become homeowners and fosters a sense of belonging and security throughout the broader community.

The economic sustainability aspect is evident in our fundraising initiatives and the unique sign-a-stud campaign. These efforts not only contribute to the financial sustainability of our projects but also engage the community to participate in these fundraisers in a more meaningful way. The funds raised go to building affordable homes, creating a cycle of economic sustainability that supports our mission.

We are actively working to incorporate environmentally friendly features into our Habitat homes, including sustainable material choices, energy efficiency, and LED lights among other considerations. By integrating these different features, we contribute to environmental sustainability and promote the importance of eco-conscious choices in construction. This shows that our commitment extends beyond addressing the need for immediate, affordable housing to align with a broader vision of sustainable living. Our group recognizes that sustainable housing solutions are important to resilient communities.

By addressing social, economic, and environmental aspects, we strive to create a lasting impact beyond the construction of houses - we are working to build houses that contribute to the overall well-being and sustainability of our community while helping those in need.

Photo courtesy of ISU Habitat for Humanity
Q: How does your group’s initiatives relate to this month’s theme, “Intention?”

KP: Our group’s initiatives are intricately connected to this month’s theme of “Intention.” We approach each project and activity with a deliberate and purposeful mindset, ensuring that our actions align with our mission and contribute meaningfully and sustainably to the collective community.

We encourage our members to actively participate in build days, which helps exemplify intentionality. Every swing of the hammer, placement of materials, or installation of features is done to create a home that will positively impact a needy family. We recognize that every nail we drive is a step forward in addressing our mission of creating a house with a purpose. Our outreach campaigns and events are also executed to raise awareness and engage and educate our university community while fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those who need decent housing.

Finally, our fundraising initiatives aim to include the community with an intentional goal of making a tangible impact. By offering individuals the opportunity to contribute to our cause and leave a mark on a home, we create a sense of connection and shared purpose.

Our group’s initiatives, every month of the year, embody the theme of “Intention” by ensuring that every action, whether a build day, outreach event, fundraising campaign or sustainability effort, is executed with a clear and deliberate purpose. This intentional approach amplifies the impact of our mission and contributes to creating a community where everyone has access to decent and affordable housing.

By addressing all three aspects of sustainability (economic, social and environmental).

With more than 200 student organizations with missions dedicated to economic, environmental and social sustainability, intentions toward a sustainable future are shown campus-wide and beyond. Student organizations strive for social sustainability by ensuring that education and opportunities are available for everyone. Environmental sustainability is promoted through adopting practices that minimize waste, optimize resource use, and lower carbon footprints. Economic sustainability is exemplified through fundraising and opportunities that support responsible resource use, financial stability and equity.

For more information on the numerous intentions and commitments by Iowa State University student organizations toward a sustainable future, visit the Office of Sustainability website.