



The Workforce Development Inc. (WDI) – Kasson/Dodge County office believes that in order to provide the best programming and services to customers, we need to be connected to resources and providers within and outside of Dodge County, to ensure everyone has access to the resources that will meet their needs.

Partnerships and collaborations have been very valuable to this small office of 2.2 staff. One of those great partnerships is with the Kasson Public Library, which offers GALE courses where customers can complete one of over 360 online college-level, professional development, or personal enrichment courses. Courses take six weeks to complete and most provide a certificate of completion that can be used to enhance a person’s skill level for employment and build their resume. This has provided our customers with free training that can be accessed in our office.

Another successful partnership has been working with area schools to provide outreach to students where information on career exploration, work readiness skills, and career pathways is provided one on one, in the classroom or through career fairs. This year, WDI Kasson was able to continue their collaboration with the Byron ZED ALC and Transitions 2 Success Program in implementing and hosting the 2nd Annual Career and Resource Fair in April. This event continues to grow and will be opened up to more area schools next spring. The office has also been part of the Triton Career Fair and the Rochester ALC Youth Connect on an annual basis; where students can access valuable resources, career exploration information, employment and educational opportunities, and health services.

Two and a half years ago, WDI Dodge County had the unique opportunity of becoming part of a human services merger with Steele and Waseca counties, known as MN Prairie County Alliance. All three counties still provide employment services for Diversionary Work Program (DWP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Programs, but now have the opportunity to work in partnership with one another to align services, share best practices to provide better service to our customers, and work as a team to meet performance outcomes.

The Kasson office has been fortunate to receive several grants of donations each year that provide customers with diapers, winter wear, hygiene products and baby items.

The Kasson office continues to be a part of the Kasson Chamber of Commerce, the Dodge County Homeless Response Team, the Continuum of Care, the Rochester Area Youth Committee, and the Regional Homeless Advisory Committee in continuing to promote programming, provide services and learn of new resources to connect our customers to.

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