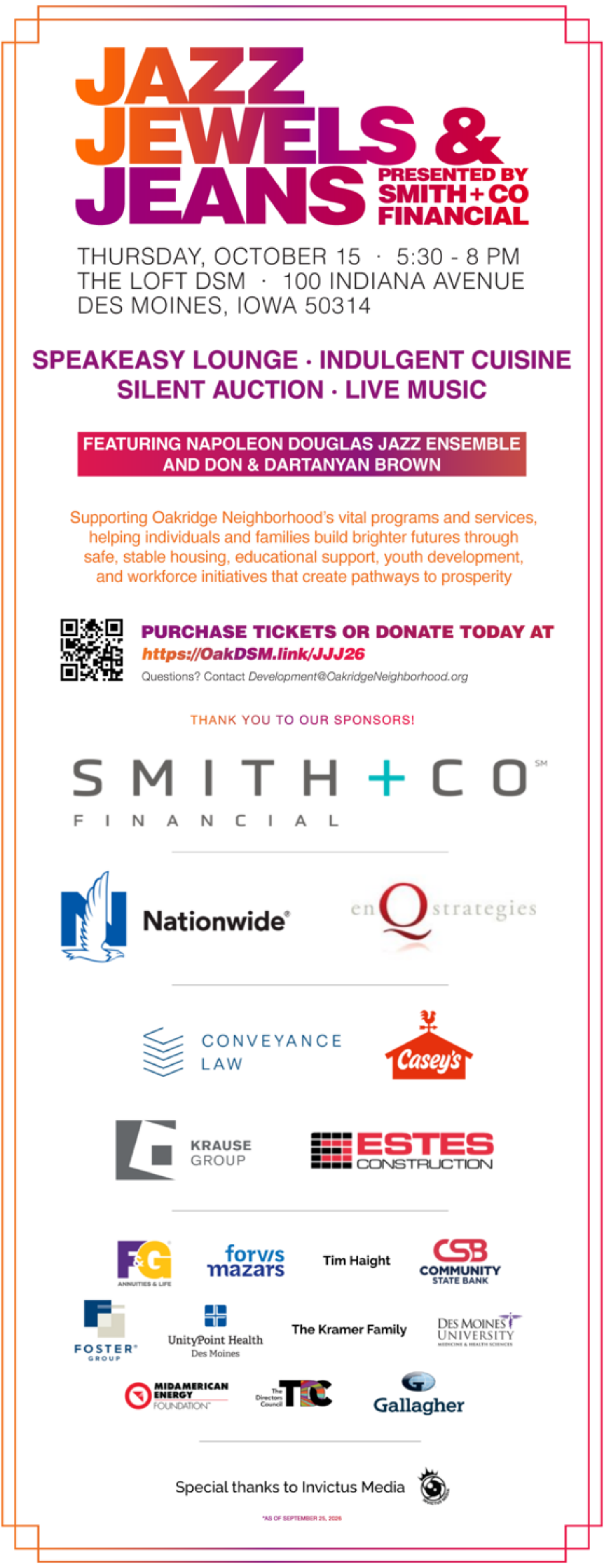
OAKRIDGE
NEIGHBORHOOD
NEWS

September 2026

Our Events

Please Join Us to Make a Difference in Our Community!



JAZZ JEWELS & JEANS

PRESENTED BY SMITH+CO FINANCIAL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 · 5:30 - 8 PM
THE LOFT DSM · 100 INDIANA AVENUE
DES MOINES, IOWA 50314

SPEAKEASY LOUNGE · INDULGENT CUISINE
SILENT AUCTION · LIVE MUSIC

FEATURING NAPOLEON DOUGLAS JAZZ ENSEMBLE AND DON & DARTANYAN BROWN

Supporting Oakridge Neighborhood's vital programs and services, helping individuals and families build brighter futures through safe, stable housing, educational support, youth development, and workforce initiatives that create pathways to prosperity

PURCHASE TICKETS OR DONATE TODAY AT
https://OakDSM.link/JJJ26

Questions? Contact *Development@OakridgeNeighborhood.org*

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

SMITH+CO FINANCIAL

Nationwide

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CSB COMMUNITY STATE BANK

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UnityPoint Health Des Moines

The Kramer Family

DES MOINES UNIVERSITY MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY FOUNDATION

The Directors Council TDC

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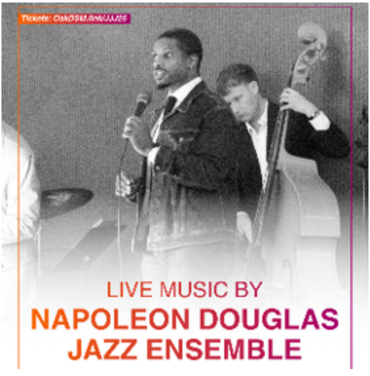
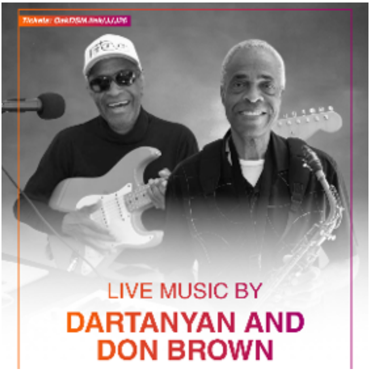
Special thanks to Invictus Media

*AS OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2026





Please consider joining us for this favorite autumn event with friends featuring a speakeasy lounge, indulgent cuisine, a fabulous silent auction of special treasures and experiences, and live music by the iconic Napoleon Douglas Jazz Ensemble, plus Don and Dartanyan Brown.

Your support of Jazz, Jewels & Jeans truly matters. Funds raised help individuals and families create promising futures through stable housing, educational support, youth development and workforce initiatives, empowering economic growth for Central Iowans by providing solutions to the challenges they face.

Jazz, Jewels & Jeans Tickets

Extend Your Reach and Impact With JJJ Sponsorship

Presenting Sponsor • $30,000
Benefits include: Two tables of 12 seats with premier seating, verbal recognition at the event and in media coverage, social media recognition, and logo recognition on event slides, event website, and event program.
Tax-deductible amount: $28,800

Lounge Sponsor • $20,000
Benefits include: One table of 12 seats, naming recognition on the lounge at the event, social media recognition, and logo recognition on event slides, event website, and event program.
Tax-deductible amount: $19,400

Impact Sponsor • $10,000
Benefits include: Two tables of eight seats, impact spotlight, logo recognition on event slides, event website, and event program.
Tax-deductible amount: $9,200

Premium Sponsor • $5,000
Benefits include: One reserved table of 10 seats, and name recognition on event slides and event program.
Tax-deductible amount: $4,500

Oak Patron • $2,000
Benefits include: One reserved table of eight seats.
Tax-deductible amount: $1,600

Receive extra recognition for your organization, or gather a group of friends and get a table! Either way, your contribution helps stabilize our community and create pathways to prosperity for those we serve! Interested in a sponsorship? Contact us at Development@OakridgeNeighborhood.org.

Special thanks to our Jazz, Jewels & Jeans sponsors who have already signed on!

Our Stories

Kiera's Oak Studio Teen Tech Center Journey

For Kiera Shadd, walking into Oak Studio Teen Tech Center at Mainframe Studios wasn't exactly planned. The Waukee High School senior found her way there through a friend, Kelsey, who knew Emmett Phillips, the Teen Tech Center's Career Pathways Facilitator.

"She introduced me to Emmett and Derek, and was just like, 'Hey, this is here if you want to hang out,'" Kiera recalls. Derek Frank is the Teen Tech Center Coordinator.

But from the moment she arrived, something clicked.

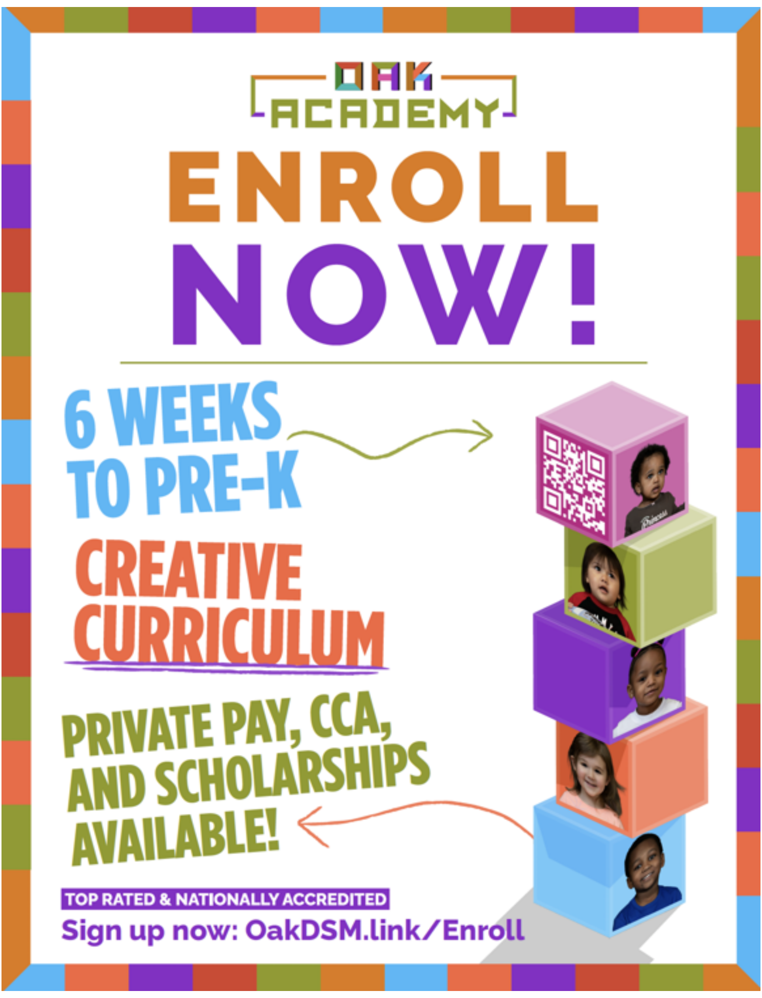
"I think it was the energy of everyone in the room and all of the access to what there is here," she says. "Knowing that I could have a quiet place to sit and work was also a really good thing." Read more here.

Our Neighborhood News

They're Off to Great Places!

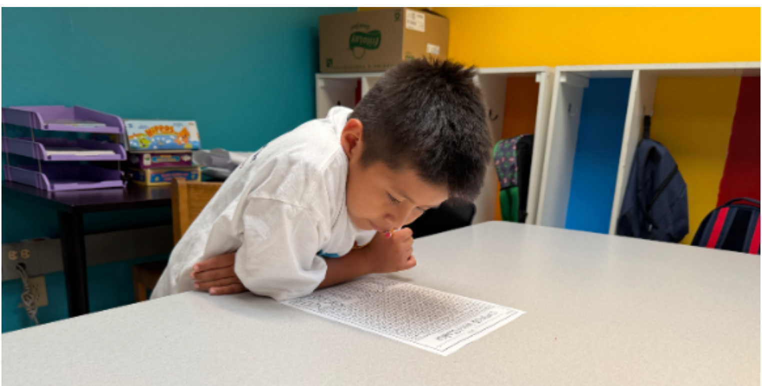
It's one of the best days at Oakridge Neighborhood every year - Oak Academy graduation! These youngsters are off to kindergarten, and they are ready, thanks to the care and Creative Curriculum provided by our fantastic teachers!

We Have Openings!


OAK ACADEMY
ENROLL NOW!
6 WEEKS TO PRE-K
CREATIVE CURRICULUM
PRIVATE PAY, CCA, AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!
TOP RATED & NATIONALLY ACCREDITED
Sign up now: OakDSM.link/Enroll

Now that those Oak Academy youngsters have graduated to kindergarten, we have openings! If interested in our nationally accredited early learning and preschool program, contact Vicky Griffin, Assistant Director of Oak Academy, at vgriffin@oakridgeneighborhood.org

Academics and Enrichment



School is back in session, and so is our free afterschool programming, full of academic mentorship and enrichment activities. Learn more about our robust program here!

Community Partnerships = True Impact

We are so appreciative of community partners that show up for Oakridge Neighborhood! Together we are helping create a safer, healthier and more resilient community.

If you or your organization is interested in contributing time or treasure to our community, check out these opportunities for getting involved! And we are always open to your ideas, too.

On United Way Day of Action September 15, we welcomed volunteers from United Way of Central Iowa and Bankers Trust Company to our Oak Studio Teen Tech Center at Mainframe Studios. They built unique, skill-building resources for the hundreds of young people who utilize this fantastic community resource.

Sammons Financial Group Companies brought us TONS of children's books. Our Oak Academy Early Learning and Preschool youngsters and youth in our afterschool programs are going to love them!

Corinthian Baptist Church put together bags of essentials for residents taking part in our Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Our colleague Louise (above left) is on her way to deliver to some residents.

Fresh produce? Yes, please! Iowa Total Care provided, and our residents loved it all.

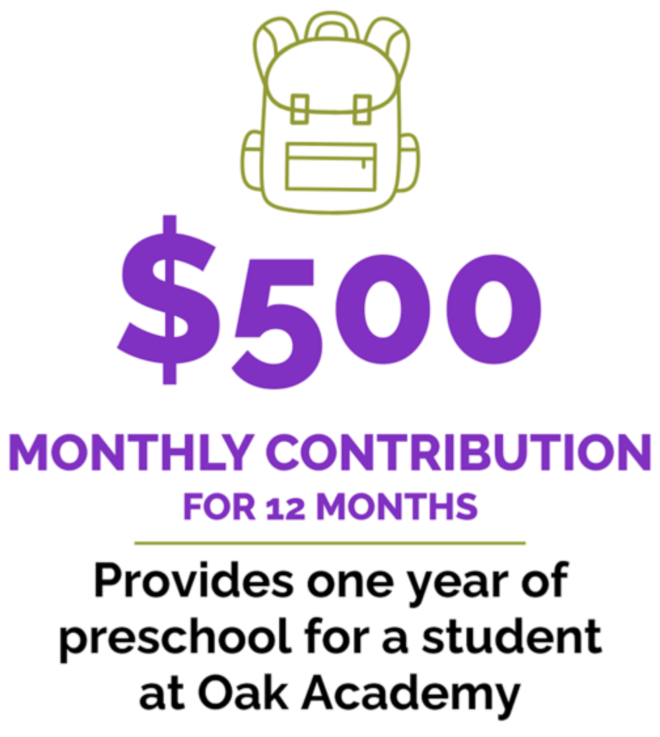
Molina Healthcare of Iowa is a huge supporter of our community, and at this year's National Night Out, they too brought TONS of fresh produce to give away. This is just one example of the many ways Molina continues to contribute to the success and wellbeing of those we serve.

Our Team

Congratulations Employee of the Month!

Congratulations to Sheri FitzPatrick, Executive Assistant/Human Resources, our Employee of the Month! HOPE Case Manager Veleta Lucas-Empty wrote: "She is hands down the all time multi tasker. She does it all and knows it all. She never turns away employees with a question." We appreciate you, Sheri!

Thank You for Your Support!


$500
MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION
FOR 12 MONTHS
Provides one year of preschool for a student at Oak Academy

One way to provide meaningful support: setting up a monthly contribution. Over time every ongoing contribution, no matter how small, builds to have real impact!

Contribute

Our Mission

OUR MISSION

We enrich diverse communities through exceptional housing and inclusive support services for adults, children, and families, providing pathways to prosperity.

Please follow Oakridge Neighborhood on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube!

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Questions or ideas? Contact Christine Irvine, Vice President - Communications

cirvine@oakridgeneighborhood.org

Privacy Policy

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