



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Documentary Viewing and Discussion on Healing Childhood Trauma as a Community

SIOUX CENTER – Instead of asking, “What is wrong with our youth?” we should be asking, “What has happened to them?”

Several northwest Iowa organizations are coming together during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April to start a dialogue on what we can do as a community to change our response to children who have experienced trauma. Seasons Center, along with Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, Community Health Partners, and Iowa State University Extension, are hosting three events at local colleges, Northwestern College in Orange City, Dordt College in Sioux Center, and Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, to help answer this question.

Northwestern College – April 4th at 8:30 AM at Vogel Hall

Dordt College – April 4th at 4:00 PM at Ribbens Academic Complex

Buena Vista University – April 8th at 4:00 PM in Science Room 126

Paper Tigers follows a year in the life of an alternative high school that has radically changed its approach to disciplining its students, becoming a promising model for how to break the cycles of poverty, violence and disease that affect families. The film follows six students over the course of one school year, as we see school staff take a new approach to discipline: one based on understanding and treatment rather than judgment and suspension. *Paper Tigers* is a testament to what the latest developmental science is showing. It takes one caring adult to help break the cycle of adversity in a young person’s life.

“So many people we come across at Seasons have had some type of traumatic experience. It could be the death of a loved one, abuse, neglect, or numerous other things,” said Kim Scorza, Executive Director at Seasons Center. “We are very pleased to

be partnering with community entities to begin a dialogue about how to collectively care for those who are hurting, particularly children."

The event will begin with a brief presentation on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and the Connections Matter program by Dawn Sickelka, DCAT/Community Partnerships for Protecting Children Coordinator with Sioux Cluster and BV County and Lori Hayungs, Human Sciences Specialist with ISU Extension in Sioux County. The two-hour screening will be followed by discussion led by Seasons Center staff and a call to action. A trailer of the film can be found at www.papertigersmovie.com.

"When we show we care during our daily interactions—no matter how big or small—with children, families and adults, we build connections that can improve individual well-being and our community overall," said Ms. Sickelka. "I encourage you to attend our event and discover what your connection can be."

This event is free and open to the public. Registration prior to the event is encouraged. Please register at online.nwciowa.edu/paper-tigers. Healing is possible. Attend this event to learn how you can help our kids heal.

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Autumn's Center, the first of its kind regional children's center, will house rooms and offices designated to care for children's behavioral health, including areas for psychiatric services, outpatient therapy, psychological testing, behavioral health intervention services, substance abuse counseling, parent education, and care coordination services. The center will offer a child friendly and healing environment throughout the building.

Founded in 1959, Seasons Center for Behavioral Health continues to be a leading, comprehensive behavioral health center in the northwest region of Iowa. Offering a broad range of behavioral health Services, Seasons recognizes that investing in behavioral health is investing in a community's economic, education, health and human services systems. Seasons strives to empower individuals so they might become active, contributing members of their communities. For more information on Seasons' services, please visit www.seasonscenter.org or call 1-800-242-5101.

Avera is a regional partnership of health professionals who share support services to provide excellent care at 300 locations in 100 communities in eastern South Dakota and surrounding states. Our ministry, our people and our superior values distinguish Avera. We carry on the health care legacy of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters, delivering care in an environment guided by our values of compassion hospitality and stewardship. Avera employs more than 13,500. Inpatient, outpatient and clinic visits totaled nearly 2.5 million in the last year, a number equal to more than twice the population of the Avera service area. For more information please visit www.avera.org.

