

S P R I N G 2 0 1 1

# L.I.F.E. MICROLENDING

## *Louisa Initiative Fund for Entrepreneurship*

**2011 SMALL BUSINESS ACADEMY.** LIFE Microlending kicked off the new year with its annual Small Business Academy. The 2011 Small Business Academy features the 12-week FastTrac First Step small business development curriculum. This year, along with local entrepreneurs, two students from Wapello High School are participating in the course in order to create a business plan for the Wapello FFA Rodeo. A big thanks to all of the local guest speakers for this year!

**FIRST THURSDAY LUNCH-N-LEARN.** The Spring series of Lunch-n-Learns includes speakers from ISU Extension, Iowa MicroLoan, Iowa Department of Economic Development, and Renew Rural Iowa. See details below and come on over to Wapello's Corner Market for great food *and* great ideas the first Thursday of every month this Spring. Lunch \$8. Please RSVP to [lifelending@gmail.com](mailto:lifelending@gmail.com) or 523.2371x202, or contact us to sponsor the next lunch!

**LOCAL ECONOMY SUMMIT.** LIFE received a grant from the Community Foundation of Louisa County to sponsor a Local Economy Summit in 2011. *Contact us to join the planning committee, or to see how you can get involved!*

**OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS.** LIFE is planning a series of "Entrepreneurial Boot Camps" for 2011, covering topics ranging from Social Media Marketing to Accounting. *Contact us to get involved and watch local newspapers for dates!*

*Want to know more? Contact us. We'd love to give a short presentation to your group!*

### **Save the Date!**

#### **First Thursdays Lunch-n-Learn**

*April 7, 12:00 p.m.*

*Come have lunch with Iowa MicroLoan Administrator and Developer Jason Yates. A graduate from Drake University Law School, Yates played a crucial role in the development of The Harvest Initiative, a Community Development Financial Institution on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation in central South Dakota (2008).*

#### **First Thursdays Lunch-n-Learn**

*May 5, 12:00 p.m.*

*Welcome Michael Gould with the Business Development Division of Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). Currently serving as project manager for business retention and recruitment, Gould has over 22 years of experience in economic development and organizational management.*

#### **First Thursdays Lunch-n-Learn**

*June 2, 12:00 p.m.*

*Sandy Ehrig, Outreach Coordinator for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Renew Rural Iowa, wasn't able to make it during the February blizzard, but she'll be here in June to share her 25 years of experience in economic development.*

**L.I.F.E.**  
MICROLENDING  
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### **OUR MISSION**

The *LIFE Microlending* mission is to **advance economic development** efforts in Louisa County through the support of **entrepreneurship** and small business development.

*LIFE* provides **training, mentoring, funding and networking opportunities** for Louisa County entrepreneurs and small business owners.

### **OUR VISION**

Partnering with local and regional organizations, LIFE hopes to cultivate and support Louisa County's **entrepreneurial spirit**, to build awareness around the benefits to supporting local businesses, and to become a leader in efforts toward **small business development** in the region.

#### **Partners**



**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

**Contact us:**  
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*Website coming soon!*