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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES KICKS OFF FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEET & GREETS**



During the months of June and July of 2025, the Strategic Advancement Team at Imagine the Possibilities began their state-wide tour of Community Meet & Greet - an event designed to foster dialogue, collaboration, and strengthen ties between Imagine the Possibilities, Legislators, Civic Leaders, Community Members, and Individuals with Disabilities and their Family Members.



Led by Chief Strategic Advancement Officer Cheryl Plank, the team began on the West Side of Iowa on June 24<sup>th</sup>, first hitting the town of Creston's local library. Kim Kuhn, Regional Executive Director, and Nicole Money, Service Director, were joined by two staff members and two individuals receiving services. Conversations revolved around our person-centered approach to services. Public Relations and Communications Coordinator, Emily Kveck, was able to capture the

incredible conversations of personal growth, goal setting, and success happening within our communities. Those in attendance walked away with a sense of comradery and fulfillment.

The following day, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the team headed further west to Jefferson, Iowa, where they met with Region 1 team members, including Regional Executive Director, Teresa Magnussen, and Kacey Hoffman, Service Director. Joining them were two individuals receiving services in the Jefferson area. Once again, rich conversations of advocacy, triumphs, and impact were shared. Continuing in Region 1, Storm Lake was visited by the Strategic Advancement Team on June 26<sup>th</sup>.



Joined by Representative Megan Jones and Jim Oberhelman, a staff member from Representative Feenstra's office, Imagine staff had a productive afternoon of discussions and advocacy. Representative Jones engaged in a thoughtful discussion about authorization issues and had committed to working with Teresa Magnussen on potential solutions.

Our final event on June 27<sup>th</sup> took us back to Region 2 - Oskaloosa, Iowa. With the largest turnout of the West Side of the state, the Oskaloosa Meet & Greet welcomed 17 individuals, including staff from three legislative offices - Doug Stont (Congresswoman Miller-Meeks), Michelle Beck (Senator Ernst), Senator Ken Rozeboom, and Representative Helena Hayes. Vice President of Operations, Robin Nims, and Associate Director of Services, Nikki Richardson, led the session, which followed a structured agenda that encouraged everyone to share their perspectives. The energy in Oskaloosa

was vibrant, as team members, legislative staff, and individuals receiving care all joined each other for an amazing day of conversations and fun. As we concluded our West Side Meet & Greet, we were able to reflect on the incredible community impact of Imagine. The inspiring stories, appearances from legislative staff, and the joy of our direct care teams reminded us of the importance of relentless advocacy.

As July approached, the Strategic Advancement Team prepared for the East Side Meet & Greet. Beginning on July 15<sup>th</sup> in Marshalltown, Iowa, Cheryl Plank, along with Strategic Advancement Director, Michaela Morris, welcomed Emily Schwickerath from Congressman Feenstra's office. Robin Nims and Service Director Danielle Kopf attended the afternoon along with three care staff members and one individual receiving services. The afternoon consisted of sharing the Imagine story - engaging in heartfelt conversations about individual experiences, the impact of our services, and the dedication of our team.



provided and their transformative impact.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the team hit the road again, traveling to Edgewood, Iowa. Here, an individual's guardian attended our Meet & Greet to share his gratitude for the services his son receives. Regional Executive Director, Mike Mellon, and Service Director, Rachel Jaster, attended along with two staff members and four individuals receiving services. The group engaged in thoughtful discussion, deepening our understanding of the services

Our East Side tour ended at our Headquarters in Maquoketa, Iowa. Here, we had our largest turnout of all the Meet & Greet, with a total attendee list of 20 people. We were pleased to welcome Senator Mike Zimmer, along with John Kaufmann and Rachael Anderson from Representative Miller-Meeks' office. Also in attendance were two community members and one guardian. Those representing Imagine included Regional Executive Director, Susie Ruchotzke; Service Directors, Carolyn Schaefer, Kristin O'Toole, and PJ Gregorich-Roling; and six staff members, including Chief Financial Officer Megan Simmons, and several individuals whom receive services. Our Maquoketa visit left our hearts full, with an individual receiving care getting a surprise visit from his father. The room lit up just as he did, and we are more than grateful to have witnessed such an act of love and support.



Reflecting on each week of Community Meet & Greets - no matter the turnout - left us with a sense of unity. Each session provided invaluable opportunities to connect, listen, and advocate for what we are most passionate about. These events served as a powerful reminder of the importance of relentless advocacy and community impact, emphasizing that sharing our story and mission can make for a more inclusive future.



To stay up to date with Impact Stories and other media from our Meet & Greet tour, please visit the link and follow our socials <https://linktr.ee/imaginethepossibilities>.

Visit [www.imagineia.org](http://www.imagineia.org) to learn more.

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