



## 2018 Recycling Excellence Award

<b>Applicant</b>	Dyersville Area Chamber of Commerce
<b>Contact person, Title</b>	Karla Thompson, Executive Director
<b>Address</b>	1100 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave CT SE
<b>City, State, Zip</b>	Dyersville, IA 52040
<b>Telephone/Email</b>	563-875-2311/kthompson@dyersville.org
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.dyersville.org">www.dyersville.org</a>

### APPLICATION NARRATIVE

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Knowing we live in a throwaway society, several members of the community identified the need to extend the life of products to not only reduce waste generation but to conserve resources and save money to purchase a replacement item. This program started as part of the Dyersville Chamber of Commerce's Money Wise week, which focuses on tasks and behavior residents can take to save money and conserve natural resources. Part of this week, each day had a theme from encouraging material collection for recycling to the Fix It Day.

Through a partnership with several community businesses, retired individuals, local handy persons and the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency, the program was rolled out for its first year last year with. The event created positive comments and was so well received, that we decided to hold it again this year. Finding volunteers to assist was a challenge the first year but after the event, the

handymen expressed their desire to continue helping the community with another Fix It Day. They were touched by the amount of appreciation the people gave when their broken item was looked at and the gratitude expressed for helping them with their problem.

The Fix It Day was marketed locally to radio stations, newspapers, Facebook and the Chamber's newsletter. While the Dyersville area was the target audience, anyone from outside this area participating in the event would not be turned away. We had 2 volunteers whom fixed electronics items and 1 retired farmer whom evaluated and repaired the other items such as lamps, vacuums, portable heaters, etc. They all brought their own supplies and extra parts they anticipated to use. The location was conveniently located next to a hardware store so items could be fixed that day.

The day of our event, over 2000 students participated in community service such as painting the bleachers at ballpark, clearing land for a paved trail, putting together goodie bags for military, etc. As part of this service work, students helped set up for the Fix It Day event. I educated them on the importance of extending the product lifecycles by keeping the items out of the landfill and explained the purpose of the clinic was to provide a free service to fix broken items to keep them out of the landfill. I feel this is important to have students be apart of something that will affect their future and understand that they can take actions to support the community and conserve resources.

By a stroke of luck, a local TV station picked up the Fix It Day story and did an interview with me the evening before our event which aired on the 10pm news. This triggered a 13-person waiting in line before the doors even opened! They came from not only the Dyersville area but from Coralville, Waterloo, Bellevue, Dubuque and Delhi. Some had traveled over an hour to participate in this event. They indicated that don't know of anyone able to repair it for them or any programs that offer this same service, let alone for free. This provided an added economic boost to the area as they made a road trip out it and enjoyed our city's offerings. All of the participants were very grateful for this event, and some tried to pay the volunteers but our volunteers wouldn't accept it.

Last year we had 9 people who brought in 15 items. This year we had 27 people with 32 items in 3 hours. 13 items got fixed, 14 items didn't, 3 items our volunteers brought home to work on as it required more time and 2 items were sent home with customer after being shown what part needed to be ordered and how to put it on. Those who waited their turn LOVED the repair education! They listened as our volunteers explained why the part broke and how it was going to be repaired.



This game system from the late 70's was fixed!



This mixer unfortunately couldn't be fixed.



The lamp was fixed after a few parts were purchased. The VCR/DVD was not able to be fixed.

Not pictured was a microwave that was never cleaned and had black burn marks on the inside from where it sparked and almost caught on fire. It was unable to be fixed and an education on how to clean a microwave was provided.