



## LOCATIONS

### Portage County

#### Administrative Office

2900 Hoover Road  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-343-7500

#### Program Office

1608 West River Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-343-7100

### Marquette County

#### Early Learning Center

222 South Franklin Street  
Oxford, WI 53952  
608-586-4404

### Outagamie County

#### Program Office

400 N Richmond St, Suite F  
Appleton, WI 54911  
715-318-8896

### Waupaca County

#### Program Office

101 Tower Road  
Waupaca, WI 54981  
715-258-9575

### Waushara County

#### CAPsell Center

205 East Main Street  
Wautoma, WI 54982  
920-787-3949

844-314-8004

[capservices.org](http://capservices.org)

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## Portage County Ambassador of the Year

On January 23, CAP's Engagement & Communications Specialist, Deb Zaske, was named as the 2024 Portage County Ambassador of the Year by the Portage County Business Council (PCBC). She was joined at the Annual Dinner by CAP colleagues Mandy Bove, Nicole Harrison, and Scott Norder, pictured above.

Prior to joining CAP Services in May 2023, Deb worked at PCBC for over four years. She became a PCBC Ambassador in January 2024, and has dedicated countless hours supporting events and attending ribbon cuttings, grand openings, and groundbreaking ceremonies while also representing CAP Services.

Senator Patrick Testin and State Representative Vinnie Miresse presented Deb with a Citation of Commendation from the State of Wisconsin that states, "Deb's steadfast commitment to service and leadership has made her an outstanding, loyal, and dynamic member of the Portage County community." We feel so fortunate to have her as part of our CAP Services team.

The Ambassadors Club consists of 35 members who are the most active volunteers for PCBC, which is the Chamber of Commerce for Stevens Point, Plover, and surrounding areas. Karen Myers, PCBC staff liaison to the Ambassadors Club, praised Deb, remarking, "She is a leader who is patient, empathetic, and modest, continually serving as an inspiration to those around her. With her warm heart, optimistic outlook, and unwavering support for others, she embodies the very spirit of leadership."

In her role at CAP Services, Deb provides creative insight and support for CAP's advocacy efforts, communication activities, and fundraising events. She is also responsible for the design, content development, publication, and distribution of corporate materials, annual reports, and CAP's social media platforms.

CAP is pleased to see Deb recognized among other outstanding community leaders, including O'so Brewing Company (Small Business of the Year), Mid-State Technical College (Decree of Excellence), and William Schierl, co-president of Team Schierl Companies (President's Award). We extend our congratulations to all the winners!



# Free Tax Assistance

In partnership with the IRS, CAP offers the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to help people file their taxes free of charge. Services are available to individuals and families with annual income below 200% of the federal poverty level. Income limits are adjusted for household size. For example, a single person with an income of \$30,120 or less would qualify.

CAP's volunteers complete training and certification in tax law. These IRS-certified individuals provide free basic tax preparation and help taxpayers claim eligible tax credits such as the Child Tax Credit, Wisconsin Homestead Credit, and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Electronic filing and direct deposit options allow taxpayers to conveniently submit their return and receive their refunds much more quickly than paper filing.

CAP offers tax preparation by appointment in Stevens Point, Waupaca, and Wautoma. For detailed program information, including income eligibility requirements, visit [capservices.org/vita](https://capservices.org/vita) or call 715-343-7100.



## Partner Spotlight: Mom Prom Partners Events Everlasting and Yo Dj Entertainment

As answered by Kim Chono, [Events Everlasting](#) and Nicole Young, [Yo Dj Entertainment](#)

### What is the mission and vision of Events Everlasting and Yo Dj Entertainment?

**KIM:** Events Everlasting believes in creating memorable and meaningful experiences that create a sense of community and belonging. We do this by taking the planning and execution stress away from the hosts to allow them to enjoy the event along with their guests.

**NICOLE:** Yo DJ Entertainment's mission and vision is to create fun and stress-free experiences that connect on a personal level by exhibiting professional and progressive entertainment skills and services. We are setting the standard in mobile entertainment.



### What are some of the services offered by Events Everlasting and Yo Dj Entertainment?

**KIM:** Events Everlasting offers wedding and event planning services, including full service planning, day of management, and consultation. We also offer fresh floral options for our event clients through our boutique and floral studio in downtown New London.

**NICOLE:** Yo DJ Entertainment offers an array of entertainment services such as: MC (master of celebration speaking), DJ services, lighting design, Photo Booth and other crowd entertainment enhancements.

### What is your favorite part about what you do?

**KIM:** I love working with our clients to make their dreams come true. There is a thrill in the challenge of taking a Pinterest board and making it a reality for their wedding or event.

**NICOLE:** As an entertainer I love creating joyous moments for the audiences I get to work with. I'm so grateful for the smiles, laughs and connections we are part of building.

### How does Events Everlasting and Yo Dj Entertainment partner with CAP Services?

**KIM:** Events Everlasting has utilized CAP Services during our establishing phase of the business. I worked with the Business Development Team to ask questions about startup and to help find initial funding, which has been crucial in our success. Through networking we have connected with more of the CAP Services team and I'm excited to be working with Audelina from the Family Crisis Center to bring Mom Prom back to New London this spring!

**NICOLE:** Yo DJ Entertainment partners with CAP Services on projects to bring the community together at events that benefit those in need of community services. Audelina Sanchez has been a great partner in bringing safe spaces and events that promote education and support for those who are seeking security and assistance.

### If you had to eat one meal everyday for the rest of your life, what would it be?

**KIM:** I am a grazer when it comes to eating and would not turn down a good charcuterie board. It usually has a little of everything and it's simply perfect!

**NICOLE:** I could eat sushi all day everyday!

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# Hmong UPLIFT New Year Celebration

CAP's Hmong UPLIFT program held their Hmong New Year celebration in Stevens Point on December 18. Attendees enjoyed family crafts, a game of pov pob (ball toss), Hmong dance and song, and a delicious potluck including traditional Hmong dishes. A few attendees spoke about how the UPLIFT program has had a positive impact on their families.

The Hmong New Year celebration is an annual cultural tradition, held in November and December, to give thanks for the year's harvest and honor ancestors. Those who celebrate typically dress in traditional Hmong clothing and enjoy food, dance, music, and sports. The Hmong New Year was created to give thanks to ancestors and spirits, and to welcome a new beginning. Traditionally, the celebration lasts for ten days. However, the celebration has been shortened in the United States because of the difference between the traditional Hmong farming schedule and the standard American forty-hour work week.



CAP staff: Kabao Moua - Hmong UPLIFT Family Development Manager, Erin Olson - VP of Capacity Building, Phong Vang - Assistant Director of Multicultural Engagement, Nicole Harrison - President & CEO, Mai Kou Yang - Hmong UPLIFT Program Manager

The Hmong New Year celebration, based on religious and cultural beliefs, is also an in-house ritual that takes place in Hmong homes. The celebration acknowledges

the completion of the rice-harvesting season—thus, the beginning of a new year—so that a new life can begin as the cycle of life continues. During this celebration, “wandering” souls of each family member are called back to unite with their family, and the young will honor the old and in-laws through a ritual of asking for blessings from the elders of the house and clan, as well as the in-laws of other clans. The house spirits and the spirit of wealth (xim kaab) are also honored. In addition, if there is a shaman in the house, the healing spirits of the shaman are honored and released to wander—similar to vacationing after a long year of working—until they are called back right after the new year.



## Engage with CAP

Scott Norder, CAP's Director of Community Engagement, understands the importance of community engagement and relationship building. To learn more about the agency, including a brief history, program spotlights, and opportunities to support CAP Services, contact Scott at [snorder@capmail.org](mailto:snorder@capmail.org).



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[capservices.org/jobs](https://capservices.org/jobs)