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IOWA WEST FOUNDATION AWARDS \$5.9 MILLION IN FOURTH QUARTER

(Council Bluffs, IA) The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, has announced \$5.9 million in grants for the fourth quarter of 2008. The grants will be used to assist 33 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects.

“Last year the Foundation made an important pledge of \$6 million to get a new local community foundation up and running,” explained Todd Graham, Executive Director and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation. “This round’s grant of \$1.3 million is the first installment of that six-year pledge, and much of it will be used for leveraging future donor commitments to benefit the area,” he added.

The new foundation is the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF), and it is an IRS designated non-profit community foundation, which allows donations to be fully tax deductible and eligible for additional tax credits.

“Our society is increasingly turning to philanthropy to find solutions to emerging needs,” stated Kelly Summy, PCCF’s board chair, “and with the combination of philanthropic donations and support from Iowa West, citizens will feel a positive impact for generations.”

Graham cited other highlights of the grant round.

- Another large grant in the fourth quarter was \$1,675,000 to support aesthetic improvements as part of the Iowa Department of Transportation’s South 24th Street

(more)

bridge project spanning Interstate 80. The improvements include monumental corner sculptures by New York-based artist Albert Paley. Graham said that, “it will be a dramatic sight for visitors and a grand entryway into Iowa and Council Bluffs after crossing the Missouri River.”

- In the area of community and economic development, a grant of \$456,000 was awarded to the non-profit Artspace Projects, Inc. for additional support of a renovation of a historic building into affordable live / work space for artists. The building is in the former Implement District of Council Bluffs.
- As a result of a community needs assessment, one of the Foundation’s overarching goals is the transformation of urban neighborhoods and rural communities. This round includes a three-year grant of \$135,000 to Promise Partners of Pottawattamie County for a youth and neighborhood small grants program. “The Iowa West Foundation believes these neighborhood related grants will build community involvement and neighborhood communication,” added Graham.

Funding for the Foundation’s grants comes from investment earnings and the Iowa West Racing Association (IWRA), which receives contracted fees from casino operators – Ameristar and Harrah’s.

IWRA distributes funds to the Foundation, which is an independent 501 (c) (3) organization that makes grants in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska. The Iowa West Foundation is one of the largest community-based private foundations in the Midwest. Its grants have improved the lives of thousands of citizens in more than 100 communities.

Requests for applications for the second quarter of 2009 will begin March 1, 2009 and will be accepted through April 1, 2009. Completed applications will be due April 15. The deadline to request applications for the first quarter has passed. For more information including deadlines, interested organizations may visit the Foundation’s website at www.iowawestfoundation.org or contact Deb Debbaut, Grants Manager, at 712-309-3003. Applicants may apply on-line through the web site.

(A listing of grant recipients and their projects is attached for your reference.)

Iowa West Foundation 2008 Fourth Quarter Grants Program - \$5,940,204

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Adoption Links Worldwide	Awareness campaign for families in southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska	\$10,000
African Culture Connection	Multicultural education programs and performances in southwest Iowa	\$11,000
Anchors of Hope, Inc.	Development of a "Bullying Stops Here" initiative and support network in Pottawattamie County	\$5,000
Artspace Projects, Inc.	Live/work space for artists in Council Bluffs historic district	\$456,182
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands	School based mentoring program in Pottawattamie County schools	\$31,000
Board of Regents / University of Nebraska - Omaha	Arts education outreach to educators in southwest Iowa	\$17,472
Boy Scouts of America Mid-America Council	Storm shelter and scout program facility in Little Sioux (IA)	\$100,000
Children's Memorial Hospital Foundation	Diagnostic equipment in pediatric cardiac cath lab at Omaha regional hospital	\$120,000
Children's Square U.S.A.	On site emergency assessment services at Council Bluffs shelter	\$20,000
Community Education Foundation, Inc.	Emergency supplies and clothing for students in Pottawattamie County schools	\$15,000
Concerned, Inc. (Harlan, IA)	A delivery truck to transport projects to a workshop for assembly and repair by persons with disabilities	\$10,000
Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development	"Farm to Fork" programs for growers and consumers in Pottawattamie County	\$97,500
Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs	Building materials to construct eight homes for low-income families	\$200,000
Historic General Dodge House, Inc.	Addition of audio tours at Council Bluffs historical site	\$30,000
Iowa Architectural Foundation	Community design workshops in southwest Iowa	\$15,000
Iowa Western Community College	Marketing and tourism support of national volleyball championship tournament	\$20,000
Iowa West Foundation Gateway Initiative	South 24th Street bridge aesthetic improvements to community entryway	\$1,675,000
Iowa West Foundation Public Art Initiative	Implementation of Council Bluffs public art master plan	\$500,000
Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative	Beautification and maintenance of primary corridors in Council Bluffs	\$750,000
Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful, Inc.	Education, conservation and beautification programming	\$100,000
Language & Culture School of Omaha	Workshops for teachers, parents, and volunteers involved in youth education	\$1,500
Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13	Summer leadership academies for southwest Iowa youth	\$72,000
Luther College (Decorah, IA)	Summer tour of the Celebration Iowa Singers & Jazz Band in Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa	\$13,600
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	Collaborative development of language translation services in the Omaha metropolitan area	\$5,000
Mills County (IA) Prevent Child Abuse Council	Creation of a school based healthy teen education program	\$20,000

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Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Nebraska AIDS Project	"Power of Positive Living" program including comprehensive curriculum and testing	\$17,200
Nonprofit Association of the Midlands	Expansion of website services for members in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska	\$4,250
Omaha Botanical Center, Inc.	Support of visitor transportation between Council Bluffs-Omaha venues during Railroad Days	\$20,000
Omaha Symphony Association	Education programs and a symphony community performance in the Council Bluffs area	\$50,000
Pottawattamie County Community Foundation	Start-up support for community foundation operations and donor outreach	\$1,286,000
Promise Partners	Expansion of a community networking small grants program in Pottawattamie County	\$135,000
Qresolution, Inc.	Project Homeless Connect Omaha - a one-day and one-stop program providing services to area homeless	\$7,500
Southwest Iowa Family Services	Construction of an early childhood development center in Atlantic, (IA)	\$50,000
The Durham Museum	Support for the "Moneyville" exhibition to interactively promote economic literacy	\$25,000
The Salvation Army Council Bluffs Corps	Supplemental funding to meet needs of local families	\$50,000

\$5,940,204

The following fire departments also received Iowa West Foundation funding for equipment through the Pottawattamie County Firefighters Association:

- Carson Volunteer Fire Department
- Carter Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Crescent Volunteer Fire Department
- Lewis Township Fire & Rescue
- Minden Volunteer Fire & Rescue
- Neola Volunteer Fire Department
- Treynor Fire District
- Walnut Volunteer Fire Department