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**IOWA WEST FOUNDATION AWARDS \$4.2 MILLION IN SECOND QUARTER  
EDUCATION GRANTS HIGHLIGHTED**

(Council Bluffs, IA) The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, has announced \$4.2 million in grants for the second quarter of 2009. The grants will be used to assist 33 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects. Two of those recipients, the Council Bluffs Community School District and Iowa School for the Deaf, received large grants to help meet educational needs.

“One of the Foundation’s top goals is to increase educational attainment,” said Todd Graham, President and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation, “and several grants this round exemplify the Foundation’s continued support of grants to meet that goal.”

Graham highlighted the education related grants:

- a \$420,000 grant was awarded to the Council Bluffs Community School District as a second installment to fund the new School Administration Managers (SAMs) Project, which strengthens instructional leadership by assisting principals and freeing up their time for improving curriculum and instruction (in 2008-2009, seven schools employed SAMs);
- Iowa School for the Deaf, which is located in Council Bluffs, received a \$300,000 grant for the completion of its new science center, including new technology and equipment, to assist students in meeting their science education needs;

(more)

- the Joslyn Art Museum of Omaha has an outreach program for local art teachers to attend monthly training sessions called “Third Thursdays,” and – with a \$20,000 grant for the program – it will be made available to southwest Iowa teachers;
- a \$15,000 grant was awarded to the Omaha Children’s Museum to support expenses of national educational exhibits and for Council Bluffs elementary students to participate in field trips to visit the exhibits;
- Word of Mouth, a non-profit in Council Bluffs, was awarded \$7,000 for its education connection project, which will provide school-based oral health care education to youth in Omaha and southwest Iowa schools;
- a \$5,000 grant went to R.E.S.P.E.C.T.2 to take educational theatre programs about appropriate behavioral choices for safe health relationships out to high schools in southwest Iowa;
- the Eckels Memorial Library of Oakland, Iowa, has begun a project to update its library collection, and was awarded \$4,000 to purchase new educational materials and library DVDs for its patrons; and
- southwest Iowa children with diabetes will be some of the campers who attend a week-long educational experience to learn health management during a summer camp supported by a \$2,500 grant to Camp Hertko Hollow (near Boone, Iowa).

“This generous grant from Iowa West is more than simply an educational commitment to our students,” stressed Dr. Jeanne Prickett, Superintendent of Iowa School for the Deaf, “it’s an exciting commitment to the future youth of ISD, too.” Prickett explained that the school’s current science facility was built in the 1930’s and the grant will help classrooms get “significant upgrading for the instructional area, science equipment and technology.”

(more)

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 fourth quarter of 2009 will begin September 1, 2009 and will be accepted through October 1, 2009. Completed applications will be due October 15. The deadline to request applications for the third quarter has passed. For more information including deadlines, interested organizations may visit the Foundation's website at [www.iowawestfoundation.org](http://www.iowawestfoundation.org) or contact Deb Debbaut, Grants Manager, at 712-309-3003. Applicants may apply on-line through the web site.

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Iowa West Foundation 2009 Second Quarter Grants - \$4,236,036

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Board of Regents / University of Nebraska - Omaha	Social work internship program in southwest Iowa	\$63,857.00
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands, Inc.	Start-up operational support of Council Bluffs club	\$200,000.00
Camp Herko Hollow, Inc.	Support for southwest Iowa youth with diabetes to attend summer camp near Boone (IA)	\$2,500.00
City of Avoca (IA)	Implementation of comprehensive downtown improvement plan	\$100,000.00
City of Council Bluffs	Streetscape repairs in historic downtown for streetlights and other improvements	\$125,000.00
City of Crescent (IA)	New fencing for community ball field	\$3,000
City of McClelland (IA)	Addition of grills, bike rack, and swing set to city park	\$1,950
City of Oakland (IA)	Youth sports storage shed and new parking lot at Chautauqua Park	\$5,000
City of Shelby (IA)	Emergency pagers for Shelby Fire & Rescue Department	\$2,000
Council Bluffs Community School District	School Administrative Managers (SAMs) to support instructional leadership	\$420,000
Eckels Memorial Library	Increase of circulation materials at Oakland (IA) library	\$4,000
Feline Friendz in Nebraska	Expansion of feral project into southwest Iowa	\$500
Heartland Family Services	Substance abuse prevention program for children in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska	\$60,000
Heartland Family Services	Outreach services and transitional housing for homeless in Pottawattamie County	\$300,000
Iowa School of the Deaf Foundation	New science center on school's campus in Council Bluffs	\$300,000
Iowa West Foundation Gateway Initiative	South 24th Street bridge aesthetic improvements to community entryway	\$643,000
Iowa West Foundation Public Art Initiative	Implementation of Council Bluffs public art master plan	\$500,000
Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative	Beautification of primary corridors in Council Bluffs	\$750,000
Iowa Western Community College Foundation	Programming at the Arts Center in Council Bluffs	\$60,000
Joslyn Art Museum	On-site training at Omaha museum for local Iowa art teachers	\$20,000
League of Human Dignity, Inc.	Program in Council Bluffs to improve accessibility in homes of the disabled	\$27,500
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	Increase of services and resources for young families in Pottawattamie County	\$40,000
Midwest Women and Children's Services	Assistance in the creation of new childcare opportunities in Council Bluffs	\$134,829
Mills County (IA) Public Health	Expansion of substance abuse recovery program for families	\$7,400
Muscular Dystrophy Association	To meet storage and transportation needs of MDA for its Omaha metro area "Loan Closet"	\$1,000
Omaha Children's Museum	Field trips for Council Bluffs elementary students to attend two major exhibits	\$15,000
On With Life Foundation	Mini-bus for Glenwood (IA) extended care facility to transport residents to activities	\$10,000
One World Health Centers, Inc.	Expansion of pharmacy program for underserved families in the Omaha metro area	\$20,000
Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors	Support the C.I.T.I.E.S. fund for rural community infrastructure projects	\$170,000
Pottawattamie County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Network	Project to improve and increase the level of care for impacted families	\$180,000
R.E.S.P.E.C.T.	Educational theatre programs in southwest Iowa schools on safe relationships	\$5,000
Southwest 8 Senior Services, Inc.	"Solution Options for Seniors" to meet needs of the elderly in southwest Iowa	\$10,000
The Christian Worship Center	Start-up operational support of homeless shelter and meal site in Council Bluffs	\$45,000

Iowa West Foundation 2009 Second Quarter Grants - \$4,236,036

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Turnbull Child Development Center	Summer camps for center families in Page County (IA)	\$2,000
Western Iowa Healthcare Foundation	Assistance for low income youth to participate in community recreation programs	\$500
Word-of-Mouth: Oral Health Education Connection	Preventive oral health education programs in Douglas County (NE) and Pottawattamie County (IA)	\$7,000

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

\$4,236,036

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