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## **IOWA WEST FOUNDATION AWARDS \$3.3 MILLION IN THIRD QUARTER**

### **HUMAN NEEDS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTED**

(Council Bluffs, IA) The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, has announced \$3.3 million in grants for the second quarter of 2009. The grants will be used to assist 34 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects.

Over half of the grants were made to programs helping to meet human and social needs, one of the Foundation's focus areas. A half dozen grants also funded economic development projects related to regional tourism.

"The economic downturn has taken a toll on many non-profit organizations and the individuals that they serve," said Todd Graham, President and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation. "The increase in applications in one of our focus areas, human and social needs, resulted in our board making more grants in that area," he added.

Graham also cited that the size of the grants to meet human needs varied widely. He highlighted some large, medium and small ones:

- United Way of the Midlands received a \$335,000 grant for its annual campaign, which will support a regional community care fund used to assist health and human service programs;

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- Through Heartland Family Service, a \$160,000 grant went to six agencies who participate in HEAT (Housing and Energy Assistance Task Force) to provide energy emergency services this winter to families in Pottawattamie County (IA);
- To match donations by local citizens, \$45,000 went to the Council Bluffs Goodfellows program to aid families in need during the holiday season;
- Mission for All Nations was awarded a \$20,000 grant for its Homelessness and Hunger Prevention Project in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area;
- A \$5,000 grant was made to Outlook Nebraska, which provides employment training for blind and visually impaired workers in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area; and,
- A grant of \$2,175 will be used to improve the ventilation system at a Missouri Valley (IA) community center, where the Senior Citizens of Western Harrison County, Inc. provides congregate meals.

The Iowa West Foundation also provided funds to tourism related projects in its focus area of economic development. The largest was a \$400,000 grant to the Omaha Zoological Society for the Madagascar exhibit at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.

"The Omaha zoo is a tremendous regional asset and it is world renown," commented Chuck Smith, Chairman of the Iowa West Foundation Board of Directors. "Not only is the zoo a top tourist attraction, but it adds to the quality of life of our local families," Smith said.

Other tourism related grants were:

- \$60,000 for the Championship Rodeo Museum in Sidney (IA);
- \$45,000 for First Night, community-wide New Year's eve celebration in Council Bluffs;

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- \$30,000 for improvements to the Wabash Trace, a 63-mile southwest Iowa recreational trail;
- \$4,500 for the holiday themed “Festival of Trees” celebration in Council Bluffs; and,
- \$4,000 for the Nishna Heritage Museum in Oakland (IA).

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 first quarter of 2010 will begin December 1, 2009 and will be accepted through January 4, 2010. Completed applications will be due January 15. The deadline to request applications for the fourth 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 Third Quarter Grants - \$3,288,951**

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Bethany Lutheran Home	Plaza area at a care facility in Council Bluffs	\$3,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands	Community based mentoring for children in Pottawattamie county	\$41,000
Bluffs Arts Council	Holiday themed "Festival of Trees" celebration	\$4,500
Buford Foundation	For underserved youth from Omaha area to attend "Camp Confidence"	\$5,000
City of Corning (IA)	Improvements to community center and congregate meal site	\$3,000
City of Council Bluffs	Support for economic development activities	\$150,000
City of Council Bluffs	For "First Night" - a New Year's festival for families	\$45,000
City of Crescent (IA)	Maintenance equipment for new city ball park	\$1,200
Council Bluffs Public Library	A visiting authors series	\$20,000
Council Bluffs Goodfellows	Program to assist local families during the holiday season	\$45,000
Council Bluffs Senior Center, Inc.	Utilization study and assessment of needs	\$5,000
Fremont County Historical Society	Sidney (IA) Championship Rodeo Museum	\$60,000
Friends of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum	Local history website and teachers' institute	\$37,000
Glen Haven Homes, Inc.	To meet transportation needs at Glenwood (IA) care facility	\$5,000
Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development	A study for recreation planning in the Loess Hills of western Iowa	\$5,000
Heartland Family Service	Energy and housing for low-income families in Pottawattamie County	\$165,000
Heartland Family Service	Transportation assistance to therapeutic school for southwest Iowa students	\$16,500
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Improvements to section of southwest Iowa recreational trail (Wabash-Trace)	\$30,000
Iowa West Foundation Gateway Initiative	South 24th Street bridge aesthetic improvements to community gateway	\$643,500
Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative	Beautification of primary corridors in Council Bluffs	\$750,000
Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital	Charitable patient care program	\$150,000
Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful, Inc.	"Recycle on the Go" project for local parks and events	\$5,000
Make-A-Wish of Iowa	To fulfill wishes of southwest Iowa children with life-threatening illnesses	\$10,000
Mission For All Nations	Support of the Hunger Prevention Project in the Omaha metro area	\$20,000
Omaha Zoological Society	Creation of Madagascar exhibit at Henry Doorly Zoo	\$400,000
Opera Omaha	Performance and educational outreach in southwest Iowa	\$25,000
Outlook Nebraska, Inc.	Job training for blind and visually impaired persons in Omaha metro area	\$5,000

**Iowa West Foundation 2009 Third Quarter Grants - \$3,288,951**

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
*Pottawattamie County Firefighters Association	Funding for equipment of volunteer fire departments in Pottawattamie county	\$100,000
Senior Citizens of Western Harrison County, Inc.	Improvements to the community center in Missouri Valley (IA)	\$2,175
Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.	Parenting skills education through home visits	\$17,927
Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.	For "Stork's Nest" - an educational program for young families	\$32,649
Special Olympics Iowa, Inc.	Support for "Challenge Days" in southwest Iowa communities	\$10,000
Ted E. Bear Hollow, Inc.	Expansion of child grief support resources in southwest Iowa communities	\$10,000
The Nature Conservancy	Controlled fire management in Loess Hills of western Iowa	\$75,000
The Oakland (IA) Historical Society	Continued revitalization of the Nishna Heritage Museum	\$4,000
United Way of the Midlands	Community care fund to meet health and human service needs	\$335,000
Vocational Development Center, Inc.	Delivery truck for VODEC's workshops in Omaha and Council Bluffs	\$32,500
Young Women's Christian Association	Free legal services in the YWCA Omaha Domestic Violence Program	\$20,000

**\$3,288,951**

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

- Carson Volunteer Fire Department
- Crescent Fire & Rescue
- Hancock Fire Department
- McClelland Fire Department
- Minden Volunteer Fire & Rescue
- Walnut Volunteer Fire Department