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IOWA WEST FOUNDATION AWARDS \$4 MILLION IN FOURTH QUARTER

MANY GRANTS FUND FAMILY AND EDUCATION PROJECTS

(Council Bluffs, IA) The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, has announced \$4 million in grants for the fourth quarter of 2009. The grants will be used to assist 34 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects.

“A majority of the Foundation’s grants in this quarter went to support area families or education programs,” said Todd Graham, President and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation, “and with some grant awards we met needs in both those areas.”

Graham highlighted five examples of grants that had a combination of education and family components.

- A dozen homes will be built for families through Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs with the help of a \$200,000 grant. Several of the homes will be constructed with volunteer assistance of construction technology students from Iowa Western Community College, Creighton University volunteers, and local high school students.
- Southwest Iowa students will have the opportunity to attend the Omaha Symphony’s “Adventures in Music” through an \$80,000 grant for curriculum development and outreach. The grant includes funds for a free outdoor Memorial Day performance in Council Bluffs for area families and the general public.

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- The “Girl Scout Leadership Experience” program will include southwest Iowa participants as a result of a \$10,000 grant. The training program allows Girl Scouts to develop leadership skills to assist their families and communities.
- A grant of \$8,500 was awarded to the Mid-America Council of Boy Scouts of America for an after-school education program in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Council Bluffs. Sessions and lessons will cover local and worldwide topics, as well as provide information on aspects of scouting.
- “Operation School Bell” provides adequate winter clothing for school children in the Omaha Public Schools (OPS). A grant of \$5,000 went to the Assistance League of Omaha for the program.

The largest grant awarded in the Foundation’s final quarter of 2009 was \$1.3 million to the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF). This funding is the second installment of Iowa West’s six-year funding pledge to assist PCCF with leveraging future donor commitments to meet emerging needs in local communities.

“With the combination of philanthropic donations and support from the Iowa West Foundation, citizens will feel a positive impact for generations,” stated Kelly Summy, PCCF’s board chair.

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.

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Requests for applications for the second quarter of 2010 will begin March 1, 2010 and will be accepted through April 1, 2010. 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.

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Iowa West Foundation 2009 Fourth Quarter Grants

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
African Culture Connection	Cultural education program and artistic performances in Council Bluffs	\$26,000
Assistance League of Omaha, Nebraska, Inc.	"Operation School Bell" - to provide needed winter clothing for local school children	\$5,000
Bemis Center of Contemporary Art	Development of curriculum with schools in Pottawattamie County and tours of the center in Omaha	\$29,447
Board of Regents/University of Nebraska - Omaha	Outreach of "Prairie Visions" arts education training into southwest Iowa	\$16,954
Board of Regents/University of Nebraska - Omaha	Creation of lifelong learning opportunities for adults in Pottawattamie County	\$10,000
Boy Scouts of America, Mid American Council	Collaborative after-school program at Council Bluffs Boys & Girls Club	\$8,500
Chanticleer, Inc.	"Back to the Good Old Days" shows at community theater in Council Bluffs	\$6,250
Child Resource Center	Energy conservation efficiencies and repairs to Sunshine 'N Rainbows Childcare Center in Red Oak (IA)	\$15,000
City of Council Bluffs	Operating support for city arena	\$300,000
City of Shelby (IA)	Renovation of city park with new playground equipment	\$23,000
City of Walnut (IA)	Construction of a new community ball field	\$8,844
East Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District	Natural resources and conservation education trip for sixth graders	\$1,437
Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa	"Leadership Experience" - a community based training program in southwest Iowa	\$10,000
Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.	Urban agriculture training for Pottawattamie County leaders	\$15,000
Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs	Construction and renovation of a dozen homes	\$200,000
HOPE-Net Ministries, Inc.	A society re-entry assistance program for women in Pottawattamie County	\$10,000
Iowa West Foundation Gateway Initiative	South 24th Street bridge aesthetic improvements to community gateway	\$643,500
Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative	Beautification of corridors in Council Bluffs	\$750,000
Lenox Community Trust	Construction of a new county community center in Lenox (IA)	\$10,000
Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13	Summer leadership academies for southwest Iowa youth	\$75,000
Loess Hills Humane Society, Inc.	Cat and kitten shelter for adoption services in southwest Iowa	\$10,000
MICAH House Corporation	Emergency shelter services for families in Council Bluffs area	\$25,000
Muscular Dystrophy Association	Summer Camp for youth from eastern Nebraska and southwest Iowa	\$7,500
Nishna Productions, Inc.	Construction of a new vocational center in Red Oak (IA) for people with disabilities	\$75,000
Omaha Botanical Center, Inc.	"Railroad Days" - a collaborative metro area event celebrating railroad history	\$18,000

Iowa West Foundation 2009 Fourth Quarter Grants

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Omaha Symphony Association	Educational programming to southwest Iowa schools and outdoor performance in Council Bluffs	\$80,000
Omaha Theater Company	New wireless sound system for the Rose Theater	\$15,000
Outlook Nebraska, Inc.	Enhanced lighting in its workplace for the visually impaired	\$5,000
Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors	"CountyConnection.org" - online information for health and human services	\$15,260
Pottawattamie County Community Foundation	Start-up support for community foundation donor outreach and operations	\$1,266,000
Siena/Francis House	One-on-one day services for homeless in the Omaha metro area	\$50,000
Southwest Iowa Mediation Center	Dispute resolution program in child custody cases	\$132,000
The Salvation Army - Council Bluffs Corps	Crisis services and intervention management for local families	\$40,000
The University of Iowa/Hancher Auditorium	Collaborative symphony and performing arts events in Omaha and Council Bluffs	\$25,000
West Central Community Action	Administrative building renovation for a southwest Iowa human and social needs agency	\$25,000

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

\$3,952,692

Carson Volunteer Fire Department
 Crescent Fire & Rescue
 Hancock Fire Department
 Lewis Township Volunteer Fire Department
 McClelland Fire Department
 Minden Volunteer Fire & Rescue
 Treynor Fire District
 Walnut Volunteer Fire Department