



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IOWA WEST FOUNDATION AWARDS \$3.8 MILLION IN FIRST QUARTER

\$1 MILLION GOES TO POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

(Council Bluffs, IA) The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, has announced \$3.8 million in grants for the first quarter of 2010. The grants will be used to assist 36 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects.

“Many Foundation grants this quarter will help meet needs of children,” said Todd Graham, President and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation, “with the largest of those being a \$1 million grant for early childhood education in Pottawattamie County schools.”

Graham explained that the preschool grant went to Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13, which provides the funding to the local districts in the county. The \$1 million grant brings the Foundation’s support of the Pottawattamie County preschool program to \$9.3 million over the past eight years.

“Early childhood learning programs are critical for the development of our youth,” stated Glenn Grove, Administrator of the Loess Hills Area Education Agency. “Iowa West’s recognition of this importance and the Foundation’s grant award will help leverage our other funding to keep the program at a quality level,” he added.

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Graham highlighted other grants for children related programs (in alphabetical order).

- American Lung Association of the Central States – \$5,000 for a summer camp for Omaha metro area children with asthma;
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands - \$30,000 for a pilot program for school-based mentoring at Lewis & Clark Elementary School in Council Bluffs;
- Children’s Center - \$14,000 for an additional childcare site to serve Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa;
- Harlan Little League - \$20,000 for renovation to a baseball complex in Harlan (IA)
- Omaha Children’s Museum - \$10,000 for Discovery Dome and Mobile Planetarium programs;
- Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance - \$15,000 for its childhood lead poisoning prevention program; and
- Southwest Iowa Family Services, Inc. - \$30,000 for construction of a playground at its early childhood center in Atlantic (IA).

Also, the Loess Hills Chapter of the American Red Cross has been a leader in the area of fundraising for Haiti earthquake disaster relief. The chapter, headquartered in Council Bluffs, received a \$25,000 grant to aid the Miami evacuation center in meeting needs of evacuees and their families.

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.

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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 third quarter of 2010 will begin June 1, 2010 and will be accepted through July 1, 2010. Completed applications will be due July 15. The deadline to request applications for the second 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.)

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Iowa West Foundation 2010 First Quarter Grants

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Alegent Health	Charity care assistance at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs	\$150,000
Alzheimer's Association Midlands Chapter	Training for in-home caregivers in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska	\$5,000
American Lung Association of the Central States	Summer camp for Omaha metro area children with asthma	\$5,000
American Red Cross Loess Hills Chapter (Council Bluffs)	Haiti disaster relief donation for Miami evacuation center	\$25,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands	Pilot program for school-based mentoring at Lewis & Clark Elementary School in Council Bluffs	\$30,000
Bluffs Arts Council	Concert and film series in downtown Bayliss Park	\$10,000
Board of Regents/University of Nebraska-Omaha	Science field trips and camps for youth from southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska	\$5,000
Children's Center	Additional childcare site to serve Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa	\$14,000
City of Carter Lake (IA)	Streetscape improvements along city's main street (Locust Street)	\$145,662
City of Council Bluffs	Educational outreach for city's Civil Rights Commission	\$8,400
City of Denison (IA)	Construction of community bike and skate park	\$15,000
City of Walnut (IA)	Construction of a "splash pad" (water play area) in a city park	\$50,000
College of Saint Mary	Summer academy program for Latina high school students in Omaha metro area	\$4,000
Community Education Foundation, Inc.	Youth led "Graduating is Our Norm" program at three Council Bluffs area high schools	\$46,158
Council Bluffs Community Health Center, Inc.	Improve capacity to meet increased demand in services	\$186,449
El Museo Latino	Summer educational programming in Omaha for local families	\$15,000
Harlan Little League	Renovation to baseball complex in Harlan (IA)	\$20,000
Harrison County Conservation Board	Lincoln Highway/Loess Hills Interpretive Center project near Missouri Valley (IA)	\$10,000
Indian Creek Historical Society and Museum	Restoration of 1860's log cabin at museum near Emerson (IA)	\$5,000
Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Civic environmental project for two rivers in southwest Iowa	\$5,000
Iowa Legal Aid	Collaborative effort with healthcare providers to assist low income persons in Southwest Iowa	\$75,000
Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative	Beautification of corridors in Council Bluffs	\$750,000
Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13	Early childhood learning programs in Pottawattamie County school districts	\$1,000,000
Loess Hills Humane Society, Inc.	Improvements to surgery and veterinary care clinic in Glenwood (IA)	\$7,000
Lutheran Services in Iowa	Expansion of the teen pregnancy prevention program in Crawford County (IA)	\$5,000
Merrymakers Association	Entertainment programs in southwest Iowa care centers	\$10,000

Iowa West Foundation 2010 First Quarter Grants

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Omaha Children's Museum	Discovery Dome and Mobile Planetarium programs	\$10,000
Omaha Community Foundation	Capacity building demonstration project with three Council Bluffs nonprofit agencies	\$36,000
Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance	Childhood lead poisoning prevention program	\$15,000
Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors	Support for the CITIES infrastructure fund of Pottawattamie County	\$500,000
Pottawattamie County Conservation Board	Facility upgrades at Arrowhead Park	\$63,000
Pottawattamie County Development Corporation	Support for downtown revitalization fund	\$500,000
Southwest Iowa Family Services, Inc.	Construction of playground at early childhood center in Atlantic (IA)	\$30,000
The Kent Bellows Foundation	Artist mentoring programs for youth in Omaha metro area	\$3,000
Visiting Nurse Association of Pottawattamie County Iowa	Collaborative nursing program with local homeless shelters	\$44,384
Word-of-Mouth	Oral health program for at risk older adults	\$9,210

\$3,812,263

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
- McClelland Fire Department
- Treynor Fire District
- Underwood Volunteer Fire Department