



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**IOWA WEST FOUNDATION AWARDS \$3 MILLION  
IN THIRD QUARTER**

(Council Bluffs, IA) The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, has announced \$3 million in grants for the third quarter of 2010. The grants will be used to assist 34 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects.

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.

"In this quarter, a majority of the Foundation's grants were related to two of our focus areas: community development and beautification; and, human and social needs," said Todd Graham, President and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation. "During the economic downturn, it is important for foundation grants to leverage public funds that will serve our community," Graham added.

"The two largest grants of the quarter were for programs to implement beautification improvements along major traffic corridors and to provide services to families with young children," said Graham.

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- A grant of \$435,000 went to FAMILY, Inc., a resource center for young families in Pottawattamie County. Recently, FAMILY received some public funding for its projects and programs, which includes parenting classes and home visitations for families with pre-natal to five-year-old children. However, the public funding required a local match, and the Iowa West Foundation grant will be part of that match for the FAMILY programs. Recent grants from the Foundation have been awarded to other Pottawattamie County organizations in the area of early childhood education, educational attainment, and college access programs. Graham explained, “the Foundation understands the importance of meeting family needs early in this continuum of education, as a result, this key grant was awarded to FAMILY for its programs and collaborations.”
- As reflected in many of the grants, Pottawattamie County organizations and communities continue to make efforts to improve their infrastructure and beautify their communities. Council Bluffs was no exception as \$750,000 was announced this quarter for streetscape improvements. The Iowa West Foundation has nearly completed its funding for the Veterans Memorial Highway (formerly South Omaha Bridge Road), and will fund final work near the east end of the Avenue G viaduct, as well as future streetscape work related to the reconstructed West Broadway viaduct just west of downtown. The Foundation’s funding leverages city, state and federal funding for these projects.

In addition to the two largest awards and other grants, the Foundation funded a youth and recreation needs assessment for Pottawattamie County. A commitment of \$185,000 will be used to engage youth and local stakeholders in identifying priority needs important to families throughout Pottawattamie County.

Also, this quarter, the Pottawattamie County Firefighters Association approved funding for new equipment purchases by local volunteer fire departments. This program is funded by the Iowa West Foundation. Grants averaging \$2,400 were awarded to these five departments: Carson Volunteer Fire Department, Carter Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Crescent Volunteer Fire Department, McClelland Fire Department, and the Treynor Fire District.

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Requests for applications for the first quarter of 2011 will begin December 1, 2010 and will be accepted through January 3, 2011. Completed applications will be due January 18. 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. The Foundation has recently updated its funding guidelines and procedures, which can be viewed at the website. Applicants can 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 Third Quarter Grants - \$3,071,630**

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands	Community-based mentoring program for children in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska	\$41,000
Brush Up Nebraska Paint-A-Thon	Painting of residences for elderly and disabled in Omaha metro area	\$5,000
Children's Square U.S.A.	Data management system for treatment service delivery in Pottawattamie County (IA)	\$43,570
City of Avoca (IA)	Construction of municipal golf clubhouse and community meeting space	\$75,000
City of Council Bluffs	Way-finding signage for visitors to community attractions	\$79,175
City of Crescent (IA)	Equipment to maintain the city's recreation fields/courts	\$5,000
City of Griswold (IA)	Upgrades for lighting and electrical system at youth sports complex	\$7,000
City of Macedonia (IA)	Removal of condemned building and creation of a park in its place	\$15,000
City of Oakland (IA)	Renovations to municipal swimming facility	\$140,000
City of Tabor (IA)	Community redevelopment project and memorial garden	\$10,000
Community Education Foundation, Inc.	Feasibility study for the organization's future projects	\$15,000
Essex (IA) Public Library	Transfer of microfilm records onto CDs	\$1,541
FAMILY, Inc.	Projects and programs of Pottawattamie County Young Families Resource Center	\$435,000
Heartland Family Service	HEAT 2011 - housing and emergency assistance for residents and families in Pottawattamie County	\$165,000
Heartland Family Service	General operating support for substance abuse services in southwest Iowa	\$171,832
Historic General Dodge House, Inc.	Window replacement and repairs for historic landmark in Council Bluffs	\$76,000
Hope Medical Outreach Coalition	Medical interpretive services for low-income patients in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska	\$5,000
Iowa Newspaper Foundation	Newspapers for classrooms in southwest Iowa schools	\$17,000
Iowa West Foundation Youth Initiative	Assessments of youth and recreation needs in Pottawattamie County	\$185,000

**Iowa West Foundation 2010 Third Quarter Grants - \$3,071,630**

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative	Beautification of primary corridors in Council Bluffs	\$750,000
Justice For Our Neighbors-Nebraska	Civil rights education for immigrants in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska	\$5,000
Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful, Inc.	The CURB program - Creating Ultimate Residential Beautification	\$75,000
Kids and Kinship	Child mentoring program in Montgomery County (IA)	\$5,000
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	Early childhood intervention services at the North Omaha Center for Healthy Families	\$20,000
Make-A-Wish Foundation of Iowa	To fulfill wishes of southwest Iowa children with life-threatening diseases	\$13,500
MICAH House	New office equipment for an emergency family center in Council Bluffs	\$5,812
Mills County Public Health	The "Family Matters" methamphetamine family recovery program in Mills County (IA)	\$15,000
Mission For All Nations	Homeless and hunger prevention programs	\$20,000
Omaha Down Syndrome Parents Network	Expansion of Down Syndrome project in Omaha metro area schools	\$1,500
Pottawattamie County Conservation Board	Addition of open space to expand Hitchcock Nature Preserve	\$242,500
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	One-on-one after school reading program for Council Bluffs community youth	\$15,000
Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.	Enhancement of therapy for children and families in Clarinda (IA) area	\$2,500
Ted E. Bear Hollow, Inc.	Expansion of family grief services into Omaha and Council Bluffs region	\$25,000
United Way of the Midlands	2010 campaign for local non-profit agencies to meet human needs	\$341,700
Vocational Development Center, Inc.	Wheelchair vans to meet transportation needs of disabled persons in Omaha metro area	\$38,000
Western Central Iowa Sheltered Workshop	Wheelchair accessible minivan to serve disabled individuals in Crawford County (IA)	\$4,000

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

**TOTAL:** \$3,071,630

Carson Volunteer Fire Department  
 Carter Lake Volunteer Fire Department  
 Crescent Volunteer Fire Department  
 McClelland Fire Department  
 Treynor Fire District