



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 18, 2011**

CONTACT: Jerry Mathiasen
Senior Vice President
(712) 309-3002
jmathiasen@iowawestfoundation.org

**IOWA WEST FOUNDATION AWARDS \$5 MILLION
IN FOURTH QUARTER**

TWO GRANTS OVER \$1 MILLION HIGHLIGHT ROUND

(Council Bluffs, IA) The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, has announced \$5 million in grants for the fourth quarter of 2010. The grants will be used to assist 37 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects.

Two large grants highlight the round.

- A grant of \$1,361,000 was awarded to Council Bluffs Community School District to continue an initiative for another three years with the Iowa West Foundation. The initiative created School Administration Managers (SAMs) in seven schools to free up significant time for principals to work on instructional improvements which have resulted in a positive impact on student achievement.
- The Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF) received a \$1,266,000 grant for operations and leveraging of future donor commitments, which will help meet emerging needs in local communities. It's the third installment of funding from the Iowa West Foundation's six year pledge.

"In part, the mission of the Iowa West Foundation is to be a catalyst in meeting community needs," said Todd Graham, Iowa West President and CEO, "and these two initiatives exemplify that role."

(more)

“Evaluations of the SAMs project show that the principals’ time on improving instruction at those schools increased significantly,” explained Dr. Martha Bruckner, Superintendent of Council Bluffs Community Schools, “and at the same time, student scoring on state assessment tests improved.”

SAMs supported by the Iowa West Foundation grant are located at: Thomas Jefferson High School, Abraham Lincoln High School, Kirn Middle School, Wilson Middle School, Bloomer Elementary School, Carter Lake Elementary School and Edison Elementary School.

Regarding the continued support of the local community foundation, PCCF Executive Director Dawn Hovey stated that “the combination of Iowa West funding and philanthropic donations is making a positive impact on communities and neighborhoods.” Hovey reported that PCCF has been certified for meeting national standards, making donors eligible for tax credits by establishing funds with PCCF. As a result, in recent weeks donors have started a half dozen new charitable funds.

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.

Requests for applications for the second quarter of 2011 will begin March 1, 2011 and will be accepted through April 1, 2011. 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. 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.)

Iowa West Foundation 2010 Fourth Quarter Grants - \$5,129,573

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
African Culture Connection	Artist-in-residence program at two Council Bluffs elementary schools	\$10,200
Ballet Nebraska	Repertory ballet programs at community college in Council Bluffs	\$20,000
Bluffs Arts Council	General operating support	\$20,000
Camp Hertko Hollow, Inc.	For southwest Iowa youth to attend diabetes camp near Boone (IA)	\$5,000
Centro Latino of Iowa	Child care during family literacy classes in Council Bluffs	\$15,000
Children's Square U.S.A.	Family engagement program	\$37,548
City of Council Bluffs	West Broadway redevelopment	\$500,000
City of Woodbine (IA)	Downtown storefront renovation	\$50,000
Corning Opera House Cultural Center	Final phase of opera house project	\$50,000
Council Bluffs Community School District	Support for School Administration Managers project	\$1,361,038
Council Bluffs Goodfellows	Program to assist local families during holiday season	\$45,000
El Museo Latino	Performing arts program for low-income families in Omaha metro	\$20,000
Exira (IA) Public Library	Expansion and remodeling of library	\$50,000
Garland Hotel	Master plan for historic landmark in Bedford (IA)	\$4,000
Golden Hills RC&D	Western Skies Scenic Byway planning for southwest Iowa	\$10,000
Green Hills AEA	Summer leadership academies for southwest Iowa students	\$75,000
Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs	Operating support for neighborhood transformation efforts	\$300,000
Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Inc.	Youth project to build two energy efficient homes	\$25,000
Heartland Center for Leadership Development	Economic development assessment and planning with rural Pottawattamie County leaders	\$100,000
Hoo Doo Celebration, Inc.	Restoration of the Phoenix Theater in Neola (IA)	\$75,000

Iowa West Foundation 2010 Fourth Quarter Grants - \$5,129,573

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Hospice of Southwest Iowa	Consultant services for a capital campaign	\$25,000
Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative	Beautification of primary corridors in Council Bluffs	\$750,000
Joslyn Art Museum	Training sessions for southwest Iowa art teachers	\$25,000
Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful, Inc.	Planning grant for community gardens	\$25,000
Mercy Housing Mountain Plains	Out-of-school programs in Omaha	\$10,000
NorthStar Foundation	Leadership and character development program at a Council Bluffs high school	\$26,187
Omaha Area Youth Orchestras	Outreach concerts into Council Bluffs schools	\$5,600
Omaha Botanical Center, Inc.	"Railroad Days" - a collaborative area event celebrating railroad history	\$20,000
Omaha Symphony Association	Education programming with southwest Iowa schools and a Memorial Day weekend concert	\$80,000
Pottawattamie County Community Foundation	Support for community foundation donor outreach and operations	\$1,266,000
Qresolution, Inc. d/b/a Project Homeless Connect Omaha	Full day event to provide services for area homeless	\$5,000
Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.	Parent education on children safety needs	\$15,000
The Durham Museum	Scholars-in-residence education series at Omaha museum	\$10,000
The Salvation Army Council Bluffs Corps	Emergency services for families in need	\$50,000
Visiting Nurse Association of Pottawattamie County	"Keeping Pottawattamie County Seniors Safe in their Homes"	\$20,000
Vocational Development Center, Inc.	Repairs of client group residence in Council Bluffs	\$10,000
West Pottawattamie ISU Extension	After-school 4-H program at two Council Bluffs middle schools	\$14,000

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

TOTAL: \$5,129,573

Carson Volunteer Fire Department
 Carter Lake Volunteer Fire Department
 Lewis Township Fire Department
 McClelland Fire Department
 Treynor Fire District