



Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo Attracts Visitors and Enriches Life

The Henry Doorly Zoo is nationally renowned for its leadership in animal conservation and research and has drawn more than 25 million visitors over the past 40 years, many of those from the Omaha–Council Bluffs region.

Last year, a grant from the Iowa West Foundation went towards the construction of the Butterfly and Insect Pavilion, a 14,000-square-foot total immersion exhibit that opened in May 2008.

This quarter a \$400,000 grant from the Iowa West Foundation was awarded to the Omaha Zoological Society for the Madagascar exhibit at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.

Soon, visitors at the zoo will walk among rare and vanishing lemurs, bats, bugs and amphibians within the Madagascar Exhibit, one of the only such collections in the world.



IOWA WEST FOUNDATION AWARDS \$3.3 MILLION IN THIRD QUARTER

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 varied widely. Services provided by grant recipients include winter

energy assistance services, homelessness and hunger prevention, employment training, and facility improvements at a senior congregate meal site.

The Foundation also provided funds to tourism-related projects in its focus area of economic development. The largest was a 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.

IOWA WEST FOUNDATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION: iowawestfoundation.org • 712-309-3000
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The Iowa West Foundation has evolved into one of the largest non-profit organizations in the Midwest making a positive impact on the lives of thousands of area citizens. The Foundation's mission is to improve lives and strengthen communities for today and future generations. It does this by providing leadership, creating partnerships, leveraging resources and serving as a catalyst in identifying and supporting community needs.

IOWA WEST FOUNDATION 2009 THIRD QUARTER GRANT RECIPIENTS

Bethany Lutheran Home

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands

Bluffs Arts Council

Buford Foundation

City of Corning

City of Council Bluffs

City of Crescent

Council Bluffs Public Library

Council Bluffs Goodfellows

Council Bluffs Senior Center, Inc.

Fremont County Historical Society

Friends of the Union Pacific
Railroad Museum

Glen Haven Homes, Inc.

Golden Hills Resource Conservation &
Development

Heartland Family Service

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Iowa West Foundation Gateway and
Streetscape Initiatives

Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital

Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful, Inc.

Make-A-Wish of Iowa

Mission For All Nations

Omaha Zoological Society

Opera Omaha

Outlook Nebraska, Inc.

Pottawattamie County Firefighters
Association Fund

Senior Citizens of Western Harrison
County, Inc.

Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.

Special Olympics Iowa, Inc.

Ted E. Bear Hollow, Inc.

The Nature Conservancy

The Oakland Historical Society

United Way of the Midlands

Vocational Development Center, Inc.

Young Women's Christian Association



The Iowa West Foundation is an independent 501 (c) (3) organization. The Foundation's funding comes from investment income and the Iowa West Racing Association (IWRA), which receives contracted fees from casino operators – Ameristar and Harrah's. The IWRA is the license holder for Horseshoe Casino and the license sponsor for the Ameristar and Harrah's casino riverboats. The fee dollars help to support many of the community projects funded by the Foundation.