# \$4 Million in Grants Awarded for First Quarter

# \$1.1 MILLION AWARD FOR PRESCHOOLS HEADS THE LIST

The Iowa West Foundation has awarded \$4 million in grants for the first quarter of 2012.

The largest grant was awarded to the Green Hills Area Education Agency for preschool programs in school districts located in Pottawattamie County, Iowa. The \$1.1 million grant ensures that four-year-olds—with the most at-risk factors for possible school failure—will have the opportunity to get a quality early childhood education.

"An overarching goal of the Iowa West Foundation is to increase educational attainment in our area," said Pete Tulipana, Iowa West President and CEO, "and quality preschool is an early step to help children get on a successful educational tract."

"It's extremely important to keep public preschools in Pottawattamie County at a quality level," stated Dr. Lane Plugge, administrator of Green Hills Area Education Agency which coordinates the county program. "We appreciate Iowa West's continued leveraging of our other funding to assist the most at-risk preschoolers," he added.

The \$1.1 million grant brings the Iowa West Foundation's total support of the Pottawattamie County Preschool Initiative to \$11.6 million since inception of the initiative in the 2003-2004 school year.

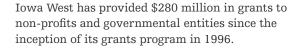
In 2010, the Foundation commissioned national expert Dr. Susan Hegland of Iowa State University to evaluate the program, and it showed the children as "having significant gains in academic achievements."

Tulipana also highlighted two other grants from the quarter:

- A \$604,800 grant was awarded to fund the STARS scholarship program (see below);
- The City of Council Bluffs received a \$300,000 grant to assist with its revision of floodway, floodplain, and land use plans, as a result of the 2011 flood.

For more information regarding grant applications and deadlines, visit **www.iowawestfoundation.org**, where funding guidelines and procedures can be accessed, or call 712-309-3000.

The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, receives its funding for grants from investment income and also from the Iowa West Racing Association. The association receives contracted fees from casino operators—Ameristar and Harrah's.





# 2012 First Quarter Grant Recipients

# Alzheimer's Association Midlands Chapter

Caregiver education and support services for persons with dementia in southwest Iowa

# Children's Square U.S.A.

Vehicle to meet transportation needs of children from Council Bluffs facility

# City of Avoca

Assistance programs for rehabilitation of housing units

# City of Council Bluffs

Marketing plan for public transit system

Planning of area floodway and floodplain

#### City of Griswold

"Welcome to Griswold" sign

#### City of Harlan

Development of a Shelby County promotion effort

# College of St. Mary

Summer academy for Latina high school students in Omaha area

# Community Education Foundation, Inc.

"STARS" scholarships for Pottawattamie County adult students in post-secondary schools

# Council Bluffs Community Health Center, Inc.

Health provider recruitment project

# **Council Bluffs Public Library**

Technology improvements for management, circulation and accuracy of collection

#### **Council Bluffs Trees Forever**

"Heart of the City" tree project

# Davies Amphitheater Inc.

Renovation of amphitheater in Glenwood for local family events

# Friends of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum

Council Bluffs museum outreach program into local schools and communities

# Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development

Agritourism planning in southwest Iowa

#### Grameen America

Microfinance program for selfsufficiency of families in Omaha metro

#### Green Hills AEA

Preschool programs in Pottawattamie County school districts

# Historic General Dodge House, Inc.

Restoration of shutters at historic site in Council Bluffs

#### **Inclusive Communities**

Leadership program for Omaha metro youth

# Iowa Legal Aid

"Health and Law Project" for lowincome clients in southwest Iowa

# Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful

"CURB: Creating Ultimate Residential Beautification"

# Landmarks, Inc.

Promotional programs of preservation in Omaha metro area

# League of Human Dignity

Improvements to homes of disabled persons in Council Bluffs

#### Loess Hills Alliance

Promotion of recreational opportunities in the Loess Hills of western Iowa

#### **MICAH House**

Service vehicle for homeless shelter in Council Bluffs

# Neighborhood Center of Greater Omaha

Website project serving neighborhood associations

# **Omaha Community Foundation**

Nonprofit capacity building initiative, for local nonprofits

# Omaha Performing Arts Society

Enhancement of website for customer service

# Omaha Symphony Association

Local performances of "The Amazing Music Machine"

# Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Inc.

Teen pregnancy and health education project in Omaha metro area

# Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors

CITIES program to assist communities in meeting infrastructure needs

#### Red Oak Grand Theatre, Inc.

Upgrade to digital projector system at theatre in Red Oak

# Rescue Mission, Inc.

Construction of family crisis center and wellness clinic in Omaha

# The Heart Ministry Center

Job training program for low income women in Omaha metro

# Visiting Nurse Association of Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Senior safety and in-home care program in Pottawattamie County



The lowa West Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation that is funded from its investment income and from the lowa West Racing Association, which receives fee income from local casino operators.









OUR VISION
is a community
where families
choose to live, and
businesses choose
to locate, because
of its quality of life
and standard
of living.