

\$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.

Iowa West has provided \$280 million in grants to non-profits and governmental entities since the inception of its grants program in 1996.

STARS SCHOLARSHIPS HELP FAMILIES BUILD BETTER FUTURES

The STARS scholarship program aims to remove barriers to post-secondary education for low-income parents who are returning to school. STARS graduates are able to improve their families’ economic status and serve as positive role models for their children. An evaluation of the program completed in 2007 showed the program has been highly effective and fills an important niche in Pottawattamie County. Many STARS scholars would likely not have been able to return to school or may have had to drop out if not for the program, which has been enhanced in recent years by additional Iowa West funding. With this quarter’s \$604,800 award, STARS has received slightly more than \$2 million in grants from Iowa West since its inception in 1997. STARS is administered by the Community Education Foundation in Council Bluffs.



IOWA WEST FOUNDATION

25 Main Place, Ste. 550 | Council Bluffs, IA 51503 | IowaWestFoundation.org | 712-309-3000

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 self-sufficiency 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 low-income 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 Iowa West Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) private foundation that is funded from its investment income and from the Iowa 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.