



*Advancing Opportunities  
in Education*

One of the overarching goals of the Iowa West Foundation is to increase educational attainment opportunities for Pottawattamie County citizens. With School Administration Managers (SAMs), funded with a grant from Iowa West, student scoring on state assessment tests has improved.

## \$5 Million in Grants Awarded for Fourth Quarter

### Two Initiatives Address Community Needs in Pottawattamie County

"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."

A grant of \$1.36 million was awarded to the 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. SAMs supported by the Iowa West Foundation grant are located at: Thomas Jefferson High School, Abraham Lincoln High School, Kim Middle School, Wilson Middle School, Bloomer Elementary School, Carter Lake Elementary School and Edison Elementary School.

"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."

The Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF) received a \$1.27 million grant for operations and leveraging 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.

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 half a dozen new charitable funds.

In total, 37 non-profit organizations and governmental entities were awarded grants in the fourth quarter of 2010. The following fire departments also received Iowa West Foundation funding for equipment

through the Pottawattamie County Firefighters Association: Carson Volunteer Fire Department, Carter Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Lewis Township Fire Department, McClelland Fire Department and the Treynor Fire District.

The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, is one of the largest community-based private foundations in the Midwest. The Foundation receives its funding for grants from investment income and also from 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. For more information about the Iowa West Foundation, visit its website at [www.iowawestfoundation.org](http://www.iowawestfoundation.org) or call 712-309-3000.



IOWA WEST FOUNDATION

25 Main Place, Ste. 550 | Council Bluffs, IA 51503 | [IowaWestFoundation.org](http://IowaWestFoundation.org) | 712-309-3000

# 2010

## FOURTH QUARTER GRANT RECIPIENTS

### **African Culture Connection**

Artist-in-residence program at two Council Bluffs elementary schools

### **Ballet Nebraska**

Repertory ballet programs at community college in Council Bluffs

### **Bluffs Arts Council**

General operating support

### **Camp Hertko Hollow, Inc.**

For southwest Iowa youth to attend diabetes camp near Boone

### **Centro Latino of Iowa**

Child care during family literacy classes in Council Bluffs

### **Children's Square U.S.A.**

Family engagement program

### **City of Council Bluffs**

West Broadway redevelopment

### **City of Woodbine**

Downtown storefront renovation

### **Corning Opera House Cultural Center**

Final phase of opera house project

### **Council Bluffs Community School District**

Support for School Administration Managers project

### **Council Bluffs Goodfellows**

Program to assist local families during holiday season

### **El Museo Latino**

Performing arts program for low-income families in Omaha metro

### **Exira Public Library**

Expansion and remodeling of library

### **Garland Hotel**

Master plan for historic landmark in Bedford

### **Golden Hills RC&D**

Western Skies Scenic Byway planning for southwest Iowa

### **Green Hills AEA**

Summer leadership academies for southwest Iowa students

### **Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs**

Operating support for neighborhood transformation efforts

### **Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Inc**

Youth project to build two energy efficient homes

### **Heartland Center for Leadership Development**

Economic development assessment and planning with rural Pottawattamie County leaders

### **Hoo Doo Celebration, Inc.**

Restoration of the Phoenix Theater in Neola

### **Hospice of Southwest Iowa**

Consultant services for a capital campaign

### **Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative**

Beautification of primary corridors in Council Bluffs

### **Joslyn Art Museum**

Training sessions for southwest Iowa art teachers

### **Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful, Inc.**

Planning grant for community gardens

### **Mercy Housing Mountain Plains**

Out-of-school programs in Omaha

### **NorthStar Foundation**

Leadership and character development program at a Council Bluffs high school

### **Omaha Area Youth Orchestras**

Outreach concerts into Council Bluffs schools

### **Omaha Botanical Center, Inc.**

"Railroad Days" - a collaborative area event celebrating railroad history

### **Omaha Symphony Association**

Education programming with southwest Iowa schools and a Memorial Day weekend concert

### **Pottawattamie County Community Foundation**

Support for community foundation donor outreach and operations

### **Qresolution, Inc. d/b/a Project Homeless Connect Omaha**

Full day event to provide services for area homeless

### **Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.**

Parent education on children safety needs

### **The Durham Museum**

Scholars-in-residence education series at Omaha museum

### **The Salvation Army Council Bluffs Corps**

Emergency services for families in need

### **Visiting Nurse Association of Pottawattamie County**

"Keeping Pottawattamie County Seniors Safe in their Homes"

### **Vocational Development Center, Inc**

Repairs of client group residence in Council Bluffs

### **West Pottawattamie ISU Extension**

After-school 4-H program at two Council Bluffs middle schools

*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

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.



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