

\$2.8 Million in Grants Awarded for First Quarter

EDUCATION PROGRAMS HAVING POSITIVE IMPACT

As part of the \$2.8 million in grants announced this quarter by the Iowa West Foundation, \$1.2 million was awarded to the Green Hills Area Education Agency for preschool programs in school districts located in Pottawattamie County, Iowa. **This round's largest grant ensures four year-olds — with the most at-risk factors for possible school failure — will have the opportunity to get a quality early childhood education.**

"Last year the Foundation commissioned an expert evaluation of the Pottawattamie County Preschool Initiative," said Todd Graham, President & CEO of the Iowa West Foundation, "and it showed that the children's math and reading test scores had dramatic gains." Graham added that the Foundation made the grant because "increasing educational attainment" is an overarching goal of the Iowa West Foundation, and that the evaluation, which was done by Dr. Susan Hegland of Iowa State University, proves that the program "is having a positive impact."

"Our goal is to keep public preschools at a quality level in Pottawattamie County," explained Dr. Lane Plugge, administrator of Green Hills Area Education Agency,

"and we appreciate Iowa West's funding to continue helping at-risk children start on a successful tract."

Two other large grants from the Foundation totaled \$1 million, and each serve as a catalyst for economic development.

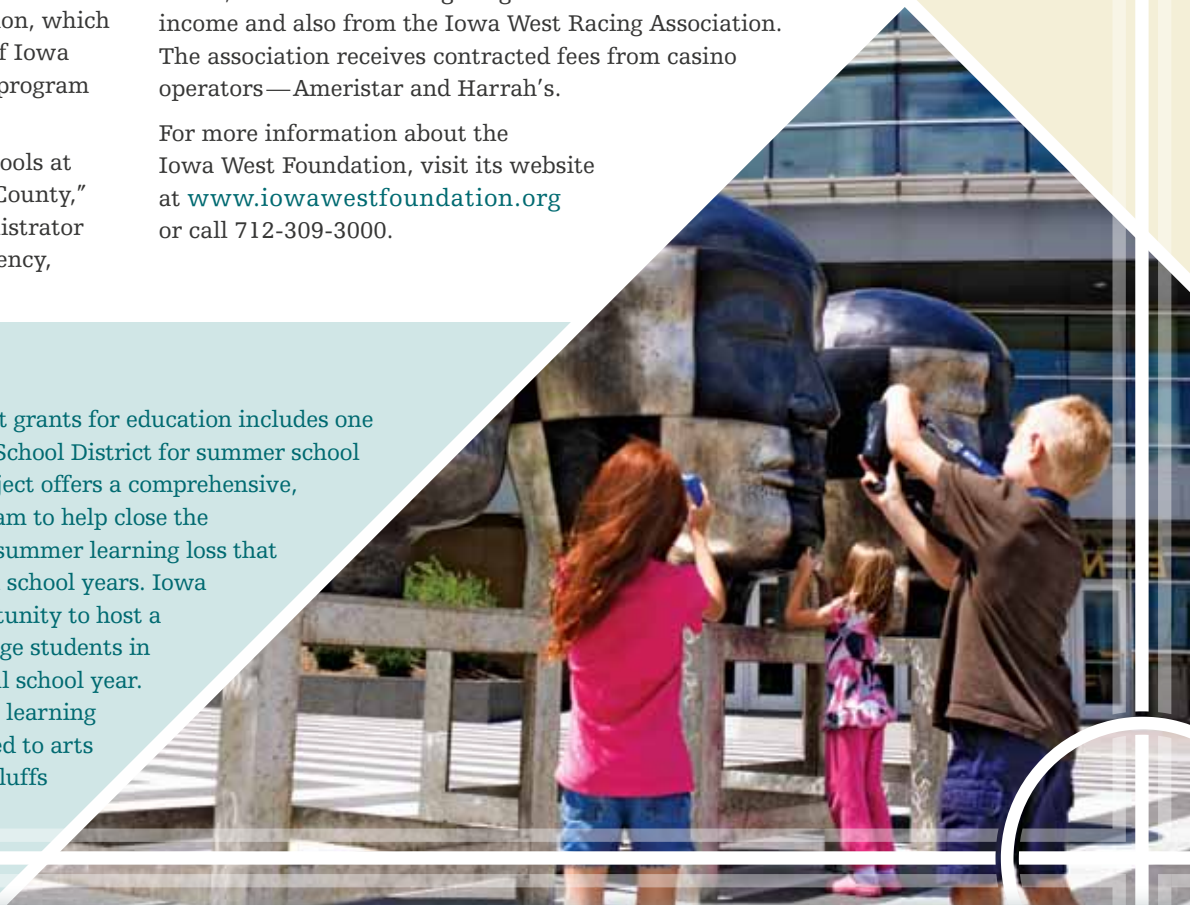
- **The Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors received a \$600,000 grant for its "Communities Improvements to Increase Economic Stability" fund, also known as CITIES.** Rural communities in the county develop an overall priority list of infrastructure projects, and the CITIES fund leverages public funding to complete these important community projects.
- **A \$400,000 grant was awarded to the Pottawattamie County Development Corporation to fund a downtown revitalization fund, which supports downtown projects in Council Bluffs.** The projects, such as the recent restoration of the Hughes-Irons Building on the historic 100 Block of West Broadway, typically add to the revitalization of the downtown area. In the case of Hughes-Irons, approximately \$2 million previously came from this fund supported by Iowa West.

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.

For more information about the Iowa West Foundation, visit its website at www.iowawestfoundation.org or call 712-309-3000.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

One of the Foundation's many past grants for education includes one to the Council Bluffs Community School District for summer school programs over five years. The project offers a comprehensive, month-long summer school program to help close the achievement gap and reverse the summer learning loss that often occurs for students between school years. Iowa West's support provides an opportunity to host a summer experience that will engage students in ways far different than the normal school year. For example, elementary students learning photography skills were introduced to arts and culture on a tour of Council Bluffs public art installations.



IOWA WEST FOUNDATION

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2011 First Quarter Grant Recipients

City of Carson

Community center sound system

City of Lewis

Restoration of city's historic bandstand

College of Saint Mary

Summer academy for Latina high school students in Omaha metro area

Council Bluffs Airport Authority

Utilization assessment of airport area

Crossroads of Western Iowa

Lift vans for persons with disabilities to attend activities

Food Bank for the Heartland

Development of new food bank facility in Omaha

Green Hills AEA

Preschool programs in Pottawattamie County school districts

Lenox Public Library

New computers for use by area families

Loess Hills Humane Society, Inc.

Stray, abandoned and owner surrendered animals program in Mills County

Lutheran Services in Iowa, Inc.

Teen pregnancy prevention programs and other services

Merrymakers Association

Entertainment programs in southwest Iowa care centers

MICAH House Corporation

Case management and homeless services at shelter in Council Bluffs

Midlands Humane Society

Construction of an animal care and control facility in Council Bluffs

Muscular Dystrophy Association

Summer camp for Iowa and Nebraska youth

Nebraska Writers Collective

"Poets on Loan" pilot programs in four Council Bluffs and Omaha schools

Omaha Botanical Center, Inc.

Marketing support of Lauritzen Gardens' 10th anniversary

Omaha Community Foundation

Nonprofit capacity building program for local nonprofits

Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors

CITIES program to assist communities in meeting infrastructure needs

Pottawattamie County Development Corporation

Support of the downtown revitalization fund

Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center

Funding for the "Hierarchy of Healing" counseling program in Council Bluffs

Recreations Needs Assessment Project

Iowa West Foundation has initiated a Recreation Needs Assessment Project, which will include a survey for Pottawattamie County citizens to complete. The Recreation Needs Assessment will be a comprehensive study of parks, trails, and recreational amenities within the county. It will also provide a source of information for the future of parks and recreation in our county.

To learn more about the project and how you can participate, visit www.IowaWestRecStudy.org

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.



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.

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.

