

\$5.2 Million in Grants Awarded for Fourth Quarter of 2014

The Iowa West Foundation, headquartered in Council Bluffs announced that its board awarded more than \$5.2 million in grants to close out 2014. Grants will assist 22 nonprofit organizations and governmental entities with funding for projects and programs that directly impact southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska. Highlights include:

The Christian Home Association–Children’s Square U.S.A. received \$2.7 million to renovate their academic center and build three residential cottages promoting more effective treatment for children with behavioral challenges.

“We are truly appreciative of the grant from the Iowa West Foundation, said Carol Wood, president and CEO of Children’s Square. “The gift will support behavioral health treatment for the most vulnerable members of our community–children.”

Pete Tulipana, Iowa West Foundation’s president and CEO, noted “mental health is a focus area specifically called out in our strategic plan. Children’s Square is significant to our community and to our mental health infrastructure regionally. The Foundation board felt that it was an essential investment in healthy families.”

In addition to Children’s Square, children and families were at the heart of several other funded fourth quarter grants. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the

Midlands received \$40,000 to fund its southwest Iowa coordinator responsible for recruiting adult mentors or “Bigs” for children ages 7-18 facing adversity who reside in Pottawattamie or Mills Counties.

Also funded was the Housing and Emergency Assistance Taskforce (HEAT) 2015, a collaboration between Heartland Family Service, Interfaith Response, West Central Community Action and Connections Area Agency on Aging. HEAT received \$170,000 to provide emergency energy and housing assistance to low-income families, the homeless or near homeless in Council Bluffs.

Finally, several organizations and government agencies received grants in support of place-making. Place-making is the name given to projects funded by the Foundation that create and support vibrant communities where people want to live and businesses want to locate. The City of Glenwood received \$50,000 for an addition of a “lazy river” to its Charles E. Lakin Aquatic Center. Additionally, the City of Council Bluffs received \$115,000 to renovate two parks–adding a splash pad attraction to Fairmount Park and rehabilitating the Broadway Park’s Trolley Building.

The next opportunity to apply for funding will begin February 1. Interested organizations should visit the Foundation’s website at www.iowawestfoundation.org to learn more about the application process.

CHILDREN’S SQUARE CREATING BETTER SPACES, BRIGHTER FUTURES

Vision. Courage. Will. These are the attributes the Christian Home Association–Children’s Square U.S.A. seeks to instill in children and families who call its campus home.

From children staying in the emergency shelter to youths seeking help for mental health issues, Children’s Square is there. The staff serves families from Pottawattamie County and 29 other western Iowa counties.

Up until now, they’ve made do with the current facilities, a 100-year old school building and cottages built in the mid-1960s. A \$2.7 million Iowa West grant will help turn building renderings into reality.

“The Iowa West funding gives us the opportunity to leverage other grants in the community,” said Mike Barker, Vice President of Children’s Square. “That way we can focus on the children and families we serve. That’s what drives us.”



IOWA WEST FOUNDATION

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2014 Fourth Quarter Grant Recipients

African Culture Connection

After-school and summer residency program focused on African history, culture and the arts

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands

Community-based mentoring for children in Mills and Pottawattamie County

Bluffs Arts Council

General operating support 2015

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands

General operating support for Council Bluffs club

Children's Square U.S.A.

Capital campaign for new residential cottages and academic center upgrade

City of Carter Lake

Construction of walking/running track

City of Council Bluffs

Transformation of historic trolley building into a park shelter

Operating support to city arena

Development of splash pad and plaza at Fairmount Park

Support of events for 2015 Loessfest at River's Edge Park

City of Glenwood

Lazy river feature for the Charles E. Lakin Aquatic Center

College of Saint Mary

Summer academy for Latina high school students in Pottawattamie County

Heartland Family Service

Children's Center to address the behavioral health needs of children in our community

HEAT 2015 - housing and emergency assistance for residents and families in Pottawattamie County

Iowa JAG, Inc.

Dropout prevention programs in Council Bluffs schools

Iowa Newspaper Foundation

Newspapers in southwest Iowa school libraries

Iowa West Foundation Initiative

Iowa West Opportunity Scholarship Program for first generation college students administered by the Iowa College Foundation

Malvern Area Betterment Association

Main Street revitalization project in Malvern

Mills County Public Health

"Family Matters" - drug abuse recovery projects

Omaha Botanical Gardens

Railroad Days 2015 - a collaborative regional celebration

Omaha Children's Museum

Outreach and field trip programs and subsidized memberships for students in Pottawattamie County schools

Omaha Symphony Association

"Adventures in Music" program for southwest Iowa students and teachers, grades K-12

Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors

CITIES program to support rural economic development

Sons and Daughters of Imogene, Inc.

Improvement to the baseball complex in Imogene

Ted E. Bear Hollow, Inc.

Outreach/grieving services in local area schools

The Omaha Community Foundation

Nonprofit capacity building initiative for local nonprofits

United Way of the Midlands

Human services programs in the region

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 sponsorship license fees from casino operators — Ameristar and Harrah's.

The Foundation has provided more than \$300 million in grants to nonprofits and governmental entities since the inception of its grants program in 1996.



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.