The Iowa West Foundation continues to be an engaged partner and funder in supporting creative solutions to priority community needs. Despite the depressed economy last year, the Foundation committed nearly $22 million to support projects in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska. With this commitment, we surpassed a major benchmark by providing more than $200 million in philanthropic support to our local community since the Foundation’s inception just over a decade ago.

The recent downturn in the economy has renewed our commitment to community and strengthened our focus on making connections and forging partnerships to sustain positive changes in meeting local needs. In 2008, we made significant progress with our partners in addressing the Foundation’s two overarching goals: to reduce the local high school dropout rate and increase levels of educational attainment for Pottawattamie County residents; and, to improve and transform neighborhoods in Council Bluffs and in local communities throughout Pottawattamie County.

To reduce the dropout rate in the Council Bluffs Community School District, the Foundation collaborated with the local school district to formulate strategies to improve the quality of instruction in the classroom and to upgrade technology and program access for at-risk students. To increase the levels of educational attainment in our community, we partnered with the Community Education Foundation to expand and strengthen the STARS program, an effective scholarship program that provides assistance to low-income adults to attend post-secondary educational institutions. A recent evaluation of the STARS program has shown that scholarship recipients had increased their wages by more than fifty percent and decreased their dependence on public assistance by almost two-thirds.

The Foundation recognizes that neighborhoods are a key component of an area’s quality of life. An important first step in neighborhood revitalization is to improve communications and encourage dialogue among residents. Neighborhood needs and opportunities are best identified by those who reside in the neighborhoods. Last year we partnered with the City of Council Bluffs to establish an office of the Neighborhood Center in the community. This center will provide leadership training for neighborhood residents and help residents to organize and operate sustainable neighborhood associations. In 2008, we also joined with Promise Partners to expand their Community Networking Small Grants Program to make local neighborhoods and communities safer and more supportive for children, youth, and families.

Finally, to insure that the Foundation remains an important resource for future generations, we recognize that it is important to build our long-term capacity to be a more effective grant maker. We are pleased to welcome David Harris, as V.P. of Grants & Initiatives, and Tim Miller, as V.P. of Finance & Administration, to our organization. Their expertise and vast experience will enhance the effectiveness of our grant making and strengthen oversight of our investments during these challenging times.

J. Todd Graham  
President and CEO, Iowa West Foundation
Early childhood education is an investment in the community’s future

Early childhood development programs are rarely portrayed as economic development initiatives, yet experts generally agree that preschool can play an essential role by improving school readiness and success and by better preparing children for the 21st century workforce.

Evaluations of such programs as the North Carolina Abecedarian Project and the Chicago Child-Parent Centers have found that children participating in quality preschool programs were less likely to drop out of school, repeat grades, need special education or get into trouble with the law than similar children who had not taken part in quality preschool programs.

Findings from several exemplary preschool programs for children of low socioeconomic status (185% of poverty or below) show returns on investments — to participants, society, and government — from $4.01 to $8.74 for every dollar invested in those preschools.

The Iowa West Foundation awarded Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13 a grant of $1.3 million to continue all-day preschool programs for four-year olds. This follows a previous five-year $7 million grant. The Foundation’s funding has enabled Pottawattamie County’s eight public school districts to substantially expand quality preschool services — nearly half of all four-year olds are enrolled in public preschool programs, while others may be involved in other local early childhood programs or private preschools. All teachers are fully licensed and certified to teach preschool age children and are supported by trained paraprofessionals. In addition, the districts have adopted a curriculum framework, which uses an active learning approach and monitors ongoing development.

As a result, impressive gains are being made by students of all socioeconomic levels on pre- and post-test assessment Get Ready to Read scores. Also, the first year of data from the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, which are first administered at the third grade level, clearly suggest that children participating in the district’s preschool programs are making good progress in school and sustaining their initial gains from preschool.
The goal of the Pottawattamie County Preschool Initiative is to provide quality preschool experiences for unserved three- and four-year old low-income and at-risk children in Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

The Iowa West Foundation grants have been focused to make a substantial impact on providing quality preschool programs for area four-year olds who are at risk of “falling between the cracks.”

“Active learning” is the belief that preschool children learn best through active experiences with people, materials, events and ideas, rather than through direct teaching or sequenced exercises.
In 2002, three Louisville, Kentucky schools received and pilot-tested a SAM. Time-use studies during the pilot period showed that once principals were given guidance on how to shift their priorities away from more accustomed non-instructional routines, the new SAM position did, in fact, result in a dramatic increase in the amount of time principals spent on instruction. The results of the SAMs in Council Bluffs schools are so promising that the program is being expanded to additional schools.
SAMs support to principals helps strengthen instructional leadership and student achievement

The School Administration Managers (SAMs) program initiative, developed by leaders of the Council Bluffs Community School District, is a process to focus a principal’s time on instructional leadership, teaching practice, student learning and school improvement. A $420,000 grant from Iowa West Foundation allowed the district to pilot SAMs at seven schools.

Effective leadership is critical to improving student achievement. Even when principals want to be more involved in leading instructional improvement, the data shows that principals can spend up to 75 percent of their time on management duties. With the support of a School Administration Manager to share non-instructional tasks, principals are freed up to spend dramatically more time on practices that lead to improved student learning.

Research conducted during the first year of SAMs in seven schools shows principals have been able to focus their time more intensely on supporting teachers and providing instructional leadership. This will translate into improved student performance in the classroom and on standardized tests. The results are so promising that the district is dedicating additional resources to provide SAMs in more schools.

Iowa West Foundation also awarded $680,000 for improved user-friendly technology tools to assist teachers throughout the district. The funding for technology has made it possible to implement a new data management system that provides reliable, one-click access to meaningful individual and group reports on students and school performance. Powerful graphs and charts will make it easier than ever before for teachers to measure student progress and target assistance as needed. They can readily access class comparisons and monitor school-wide and individual student performance on state standards. All of this is critical to meet the needs of students and prepare them for success beyond graduation.

A third grant of $70,000 was used to purchase two shuttle buses to provide free and regular transportation throughout the day for high school students to Kanesville School, a credit recovery center, and the Tucker Center, a career preparation academy.

“The Iowa West Foundation funding for School Administration Managers and a comprehensive technology upgrade is making it possible for us to build capacity within our organization. We expect these investments to make a tremendous impact on students and their achievement. Iowa West Foundation is helping us to recreate our schools in ways that will help us guarantee success for all of our students.”

Dr. Martha Bruckner
Superintendent of the Council Bluffs Community School District
Scholarships and Training for Adult Re-entry Students (STARS) is a scholarship for non-traditional students awarded to low-income parents who are returning to school after a long absence. This program, which is administered by the Community Education Foundation in Council Bluffs, aims to remove barriers to post-secondary education that traditional scholarships do not address, such as transportation and child care, so that the parents can discover better employment opportunities and improve their families’ economic situation.

The STARS Scholarship provides up to $2,000 per year for a qualified student to go back to school for an Associate’s Degree, license or certification. It may be granted for up to three years as long as the student remains full-time and is working on a degree, license or certification.

The STARS program began in 1997, and a recent evaluation prepared for the Iowa West Foundation showed the program to be highly effective, but underutilized.

The evaluation revealed that STARS fills an important niche. 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. The majority of STARS recipients complete their programs, and — on average — earn higher wages and rely less on public assistance after their completion. It was also shown that STARS graduates stay in the area after completing their programs of study, thus the program has the potential to improve educational attainment in the region.

Based on these very positive findings, a $556,000 grant was awarded to take the STARS program to the next level. The Iowa West Foundation funding will expand the STARS scholarship program, increase staffing, and provide marketing materials. Nearly 100 participants have received degrees since the inception of STARS. Now, the new goal is to double that in just two years.
In a recent evaluation of past STARS recipients, their employment increased from 54% to 77%, hourly wages increased from $9.21 to $14.58, and public assistance decreased from 85% to 31%.

Nearly half of all past participants evaluated had moved to new housing that was either better or the same as their previous housing, and nearly all respondents still live in the southwest Iowa area.
The vision of Iowa West Public Art is that by 2015 Council Bluffs will become a prosperous urban area known for its cultural enlightenment and public art collection.

The intent of the Public Art Master Plan is to commission artists to become members of future design teams and/or create works of the imagination to complement existing urban structures and spaces. Artists will be encouraged to create environments that embody the ideal of “placemaking.”

To learn more, visit www.iowawestpublicart.com.

Molecule Man material:
- 2½ “-thick aluminum plate (aircraft aluminum)
- Weight: 33,000 pounds, or 16.5 tons
- Height: 50 feet from base to top
- Number of holes: 1,216
- Diameter of sculpture base: 44 feet
Iowa West Public Art unveils new iconic sculpture for collection

In 2004, the Iowa West Foundation funded an innovative community-based public art program that became known as Iowa West Public Art. A local stakeholder advisory committee provided input into a city-wide Public Art Master Plan that charted a progressive course, designating 50 locations for public art installations.

The Iowa West Public Art collection is inventive in both its city-wide scope and its works of art. The commissioning of site-specific works of art by internationally-known artists is guided by a public art selection panel, which includes highly credentialed art curators, as well as local representatives from government, the Foundation and a non-profit arts organization.

In 2008, a $1.8 million sculpture titled Molecule Man, created by Jonathan Borofsky — one of the most important American sculptors working today — joined six other installations in the Iowa West Public Art collection.

Not only is Molecule Man clearly visible from Interstates 29 and 80, it stands near the entrance of the Mid-America Center Arena and Convention Center in Council Bluffs. The Mid-America Center district has emerged as a regional entertainment destination, which draws millions of visitors every year.

Iowa West Public Art is especially noteworthy when considering the speed with which the collection has been developed. And as Council Bluffs continues to develop, the public art collection provides a visual legacy that inspires new ideas, cherishes the past, and embraces innovation.

The diversity of expression and concepts presented in the Iowa West Public Art collection proclaims Council Bluffs as a progressive city expressing its unique identity. Iowa West Public Art is placing Council Bluffs on a national, and soon international, level with major public art collections.

“Council Bluffs’ Master Plan for Public Art is all about vision. Public art transforms a community. Can you imagine Paris without art? Can you imagine Washington DC without art? Now, after five years of a public art initiative, can you imagine Council Bluffs without art? The Iowa West Public Art Collection enriches the aesthetic, cultural, intellectual, and community life of the citizens of Council Bluffs, the Midwest and the nation, and is activating a community just as art has transformed the cities of the world — from Rome to New York City and London.”

LYNETTE POHLMAN
Director & Chief Curator, Iowa State University Museums
Support of the past and present combine to promote economic growth

The Iowa West Foundation continues to support efforts to preserve the history of southwest Iowa through a $500,000 grant this year to the Pottawattamie County Development Corporation in support of the Downtown Revitalization Fund. The fund can provide gap financing in the form of grants and loans to restore historic buildings in downtown Council Bluffs.

In addition, ongoing support of rural towns continues to have a positive impact on local communities in Pottawattamie County. Initiated and supported by the Iowa West Foundation, C.I.T.I.E.S. (Community Improvements to Increase Economic Stability) is a fund utilized by rural communities to meet crucial infrastructure needs. In 2008, two Iowa West Foundation grants to the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors added $1,160,000 to the fund. It is leveraged by federal, state and local dollars resulting in dozens of community improvements each year.
### 2008 Grant Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Development &amp; Beautification</th>
<th>City of Red Oak (IA)</th>
<th>Community Housing Investment Corporation</th>
<th>Corning (IA) Opera House Cultural Center</th>
<th>Council Bluffs Trees Forever</th>
<th>Grant Community Preservationists</th>
<th>Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs</th>
<th>Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Inc.</th>
<th>Iowa Architectural Foundation</th>
<th>Iowa West Foundation Gateway Initiative</th>
<th>Iowa West Foundation Public Art Initiative</th>
<th>Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative</th>
<th>Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful, Inc.</th>
<th>Macedonia (IA) Historical Preservation Society</th>
<th>Montgomery County (IA) Historical Society</th>
<th>Municipal Homes, Inc.</th>
<th>Pottawattamie County Community Foundation</th>
<th>Shelby County (IA) Conservation Board</th>
<th>Town and Country Arts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Arcadia (IA) Betterment and Development Corporation</em></td>
<td>City park playground equipment</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>Preservation of the historic armory in downtown Atlantic</td>
<td>$28,725</td>
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<td>$24,000</td>
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<td><em>Atlantic (IA) Rock Island Society Enterprise</em></td>
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<td><em>Audubon County Conservation Board</em></td>
<td>Completion of recreational trail in Audubon County (IA)</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
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<td><em>Board of Regents/University of Nebraska - Omaha</em></td>
<td>Creation of the Neighborhood Center office in Council Bluffs for Pottawattamie County</td>
<td>$723,519</td>
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<td><em>Carstens 1880 Farmstead, Inc.</em></td>
<td>Restoration of historic structures at farmstead in eastern Pottawattamie County</td>
<td>$7,805</td>
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<td><em>Cedar Rapids (IA) Community Trust</em></td>
<td>Maintenance of entryway streetscape projects in Council Bluffs</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<td><em>City of Atlantic (IA)</em></td>
<td>Creation of new neighborhood park in the community</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<td><em>City of Avoca (IA)</em></td>
<td>Preservation and restoration study of historic downtown</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
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<td>Town Center streetscape and beautification project</td>
<td>$358,762</td>
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<td>Program funding for the development of new single family housing</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<td><em>City of Buck Grove (IA)</em></td>
<td>Support towards construction of a community sign</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<td><em>City of Carson (IA)</em></td>
<td>Expansion of a city park to include the nearby riverfront</td>
<td>$61,250</td>
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<td><em>City of Council Bluffs</em></td>
<td>Residential acquisition/rehabilitation program to improve downtown neighborhoods</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
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<td>Support for downtown West Broadway streetscape project</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<td>Upgrading of the features and environment of Big Lake Park</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<td><em>City of Crescent (IA)</em></td>
<td>Installation of new lighting and surfaces at city park</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<td><em>City of Harlan (IA)</em></td>
<td>Equipment for two new park playgrounds</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<td><em>City of Lewis (IA)</em></td>
<td>Construction of Public Library/Heritage Center</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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*Note: Dollar amounts are approximate and may vary.*
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**ARTSPACE PROJECTS, INC.**  
Live/work space for artists in Council Bluffs historic district  
$456,182

**BLUFFS ARTS COUNCIL**  
A year-round concert and film series in Council Bluffs parks and local venues  
$10,000  
Festival of Trees activities  
$13,000

**CHANTICLEER, INC.**  
Improvements to community theater in Council Bluffs  
$14,997

**CITY OF AVOCA (IA)**  
To fund an economic development grant program for downtown improvements  
$125,000

**CITY OF COUNCIL BLUFFS**  
Alcohol-free New Years Eve festival for families  
$45,000  
Development and implementation of economic development work plan  
$150,000

**GOLDEN HILLS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT**  
Update of corridor management plan for Iowa’s Loess Hills National Scenic Byway  
$24,750  
“Farm to Fork” programs for growers and consumers in Pottawattamie County  
$97,500

**IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Marketing and tourism support of national volleyball championship tournament  
$20,000

**IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION**  
Programming support for performances at the performing arts center  
$60,000

**OMAHA BOTANICAL CENTER, INC.**  
Support of visitor transportation between Council Bluffs-Omaha venues during Railroad Days  
$20,000

**POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
Support of the C.I.T.I.E.S. fund for rural community infrastructure projects  
$1,160,000  
Economic feasibility analysis of a gateway commerce project  
$100,000

**POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
Support of the Downtown Revitalization Fund in Council Bluffs  
$500,000

**EDUCATION**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION**  
African American history traveling exhibits/lectures in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska  
$5,000

**AFRICAN CULTURE CONNECTION**  
Multicultural education programs and performances in southwest Iowa  
$11,000

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE MIDLANDS**  
School based mentoring program in Pottawattamie County schools  
$31,000

**BOARD OF REGENTS/UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - OMAHA**  
Support of regional hands-on science and math summer camps for youth  
$16,820  
Arts programming for Council Bluffs residents in senior housing  
$9,000  
Presentations in local schools by multicultural authors and illustrators of children's books  
$8,300  
Arts education outreach to educators in southwest Iowa  
$17,472

**CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY INCORPORATED**  
Programs for students with special needs in the Atlantic (IA) area  
$2,000

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
Enhancement of the Scholarships and Training for Adult Re-entry Students (STARS)  
$556,400

**CONFERENCE FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**  
Human relations leadership program for Omaha metro area youth  
$2,500

**COUNCIL BLUFFS PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Renewal of resource materials at library’s Foundation Center  
$3,500  
Creation of teen area and related programs  
$110,195

**COUNCIL BLUFFS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Phase I initiative including SAMs, improved technology and transportation needs  
$1,170,000

**FRIENDS OF BOYER CHUTE & DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Environmental education with “eagle cam” for southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska students  
$5,000

**GIRL SCOUTS OF GREATER IOWA**  
Development of a youth leadership program in southwest Iowa communities  
$20,000

**GOOD NEWS BEARS**  
Support for educational activities at the “Inner-city Kids Club” program in Omaha  
$4,000

**HISTORIC GENERAL DODGE HOUSE, INC.**  
Production of “traveling trunks” to educate children about Council Bluffs historic site  
$2,000  
Addition of audio tours at Council Bluffs historical site  
$30,000

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY**  
Education outreach coordinator for museums in Council Bluffs  
$97,500

**IOWA NEWSPAPER FOUNDATION**  
To provide newspapers in school classrooms in southwest Iowa  
$17,000

**IOWA WEST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
College scholarships for southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska students  
$500,000

**LANGUAGE & CULTURE SCHOOL OF OMAHA**  
Workshops for teachers, parents, and volunteers involved in youth education  
$1,500

**LITERACY CENTER FOR THE MIDLANDS**  
“Real life” literacy classes for adults in the Omaha community  
$2,000
LOESS HILLS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY 13
Early childhood learning programs in Pottawattamie County school districts $1,300,000
Career academy curriculum enhancements for high school students in southwest Iowa $63,000
Summer leadership academies for southwest Iowa youth $72,000

LUTHER COLLEGE (DECORAH, IA)
Summer tour of the Celebration Iowa Singers & Jazz Band in Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa $13,600

NISHNABOTNA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Southwest Iowa educational outreach program on bald eagles $1,000

OMAHA BOTANICAL CENTER, INC.
Support of Railroad Days to celebrate local railroad heritage at Omaha and Council Bluffs museums $25,000

OMAHA CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
Sponsorship for Council Bluffs area students to attend national traveling exhibitions $58,180

OMAHA SYMPHONIC CHORUS, INC.
“World Music Celebration” choral concert in Council Bluffs involving area students $5,000

OMAHA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
Education programs and a symphony community performance in the Council Bluffs area $50,000

OMAHA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Zoology educational programs for southwest Iowa students $100,000

OPERA OMAHA
Premier of “The Blizzard Voices” performance at The Arts Center (on the campus of Iowa Western Community College) $25,000

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Establishment of the science/conservation education program $51,000

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. 2
Educational theatre programs in southwest Iowa schools on violence prevention $20,000
Programs in southwest Iowa Head Start preschools $2,500

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS-OMAHA POST
Engineering and architectural competition for local youth $2,000

STRATEGIC AIR & SPACE MUSEUM
Space travel educational outreach into southwest Iowa schools $15,000

THE DURHAM MUSEUM
Support for the “Moneyville” exhibition to interactively promote economic literacy $25,000

HUMAN AND SOCIAL NEEDS
ADOPTION LINKS WORLDWIDE
Awareness campaign for families in southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska $10,000

AGRIWELLNESS, INC.
Development of a traveling educational display for use in southwest Iowa $2,000

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION
Diabetes education programs in Pottawattamie County and Omaha metro area $1,000

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF THE CENTRAL STATES
Summer camp at South Bend (NE) for children with asthma $1,500

ANCHORS OF HOPE, INC.
Development of a “Bullying Stops Here” initiative and support network in Pottawattamie County $5,000

ANIMAL RELIEF FUND FOR A SHELTER
Purchase of two animal control vehicles to cover the Mills County (IA) area $14,000
Low-cost spay/neuter program in Mills County (IA) for pets of low-income families and seniors $1,000

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE MIDLANDS
Community based one-on-one mentoring with children in Pottawattamie County $20,000

BOARD OF REGENTS/UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - OMAHA
Services for area elderly with deteriorating vision $20,000

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA MID-AMERICA COUNCIL
Storm shelter and scout program facility in Little Sioux (IA) $100,000

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE MIDLANDS
Assistance to equip and staff the new Council Bluffs club at human services campus $250,000

CAMP HERTKO HOLLOW, INC.
Boone (IA) camp for Iowa youth with diabetes, including youth from Southwest Iowa $2,500

CHARLES E. LAKIN HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS
Support for completing five-agency campus construction in Council Bluffs $800,000

CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
Diagnostic equipment in pediatric cardiac cath lab at Omaha regional hospital $120,000

CHILDREN’S SQUARE U.S.A.
On-site emergency assessment services at Council Bluffs shelter $20,000

CITY OF GLENWOOD (IA)
Updating of siren storm warning system $4,000

COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Emergency supplies and clothing for students in Pottawattamie County schools $15,000

CONCERNED, INC. (HARLAN, IA)
A delivery truck to transport projects to a workshop for assembly and repair by persons with disabilities $10,000

COUNCIL BLUFFS GOODFELLOWS
Program for local families during holiday season $45,000

COUNCIL BLUFFS SENIOR CENTER, INC.
Center improvements and new equipment $23,500

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM
Protective storage for documents of foster children in southwest Iowa $1,450
DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS
Support of local and Iowa disaster relief funds $350,000

FAMILY HOUSING ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.
Homeowners and renters educational program in Pottawattamie County $31,500

HEARTLAND CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.
Expansion project in Council Bluffs to meet growing childcare needs $35,000

HEARTLAND FAMILY SERVICE
Healthy life choices education for children in Omaha/Council Bluffs programs $60,000
Substance abuse services for women $250,000
Drug treatment case management $60,500

HONOR FLIGHT, INC.
Support for transportation of western Iowa WWII veterans to Washington D.C. $25,000

HOPE-NET MINISTRIES, INC.
Collaborative services to assist Council Bluffs families meet basic needs $15,000

IOWA LEGAL AID
Medical and legal program in southwest Iowa for low-income persons $75,000

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES OF NEBRASKA, INC.
Collaborative development of language translation services in the Omaha metropolitan area $5,000
Parenting education classes / the "Building Families Boutique" in Council Bluffs $87,121

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION OF IOWA
To fulfill wishes of southwest Iowa children with life threatening diseases $12,300

MERRYMAKERS ASSOCIATION
Entertainment outreach to senior housing locations in southwest Iowa $31,000

MIDLANDS HUMANE SOCIETY
For construction of an animal care and control facility in Pottawattamie County $300,000

MILLS COUNTY (IA) PREVENT CHILD ABUSE COUNCIL
Creation of a school based healthy teen education program $20,000

MILLS COUNTY (IA) PUBLIC HEALTH
Family support program for drug addiction recovery $25,000

MISSION FOR ALL NATIONS
Hunger prevention program in Omaha area $20,000

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY
Creation of an Omaha metropolitan area resource center for MS research $8,000
Medical equipment for MS clients in Omaha area $4,000

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION
MDA summer camp activities for Nebraska and southwest Iowa youth $14,000

NEBRASKA AIDS PROJECT
“Power of Positive Living” program including comprehensive curriculum and testing $17,200

NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDLANDS
Expansion of website services for members in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska $4,250

OMAHA DOWN SYNDROME PARENT NETWORK
To provide down syndrome specialists in metro area school districts $3,000

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Automated external defibrillators at Loess Hills Lodge $2,500

PROMISE PARTNERS
Expansion of a community networking small grants program in Pottawattamie County $135,000

QRESOLUTION, INC.
Project Homeless Connect Omaha — a one-day and one-stop program providing services to area homeless $7,500

SANTA MONICA, INC.
Availability of addiction treatment services for Iowa women at Omaha facility $22,000

SIENA/FRANCIS HOUSE
Transitional services for the homeless in the Omaha metropolitan area $13,400

SOUTHWEST IOWA FAMILIES, INC.
Expansion of family mental health services in Clarinda (IA) $51,000

SOUTHWEST IOWA FAMILY SERVICES
Construction of an early childhood development center in Atlantic (IA) $50,000

TED E. BEAR HOLLOW, INC.
Expansion of Camp Hope near Omaha for grieving teens $4,000

THE SALVATION ARMY COUNCIL BLUFFS CORPS
Support services to meet emergency needs for families $40,000
Supplemental funding to meet needs of local families $50,000

UNITED WAY OF THE MIDLANDS
Campaign support to meet human service needs in Omaha metropolitan area $330,000

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
Public health nursing in local shelters $25,000

VOCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.
Management database technology to meet needs of Omaha area clients $10,000

WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION
Emergency food assistance for families in western Iowa $25,000

WINGS OF HOPE CANCER SUPPORT CENTER
Informational programs for Council Bluffs area patients $31,000

YMCA OF GREATER OMAHA
Bocce ball court for YMCA in Glenwood (IA) $2,500

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
Technology upgrades for service delivery to Omaha metro area clients $12,000
Serving the community, collaboratively and for generations to come

A new human services campus is transforming how human and social needs are met in southwest Iowa. The idea began in 2006 when the American Red Cross, Boys & Girls Club, Heartland Family Service, MICAH House and The Salvation Army were each considering individual capital campaigns for renovations or new construction. The Iowa West Foundation suggested they come together and discuss the possibilities of some type of collaboration, and the Foundation funded a feasibility study which ultimately showed $11 million in savings for the agencies on a joint project.

The Iowa West Foundation was a catalyst for the project with $6.2 million in grants followed by a donation of $12 million by the Charles E. Lakin Family Foundation. The innovative campus opened its doors in 2008, after an additional Iowa West Foundation grant of $1.7 million in the fall of 2007 boosted the fundraising campaign to meet its $34 million goal.

The campus, called the Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus and located in north central Council Bluffs, has allowed each agency to improve or expand the high-quality services they provide to many of the area’s most vulnerable citizens.
Iowa West Foundation made an important pledge of $6 million to jump start a new local community foundation. Why? National research indicates that there will be tremendous wealth transferred in upcoming years, and the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF) will be an opportunity for county residents to keep wealth here and give back to their communities.

Different from a private foundation such as the Iowa West Foundation, a community foundation allows donations to be fully deductible and eligible for additional tax credits. A study, which was commissioned by the Iowa West Foundation and included information from the County Vitality Center at Iowa State University, projected a wealth transfer of $1 billion in Pottawattamie County over the next 10 years.

As a result, local charitable funds can be created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations at the PCCF to assist communities in meeting their needs and improving the lives of county residents. The mission of PCCF is solely to serve the citizens of Pottawattamie County through philanthropy.

In 2008, PCCF received its first installment from the Iowa West Foundation with a grant of $1,286,000. Much of this grant is used to leverage donor commitments to benefit the area, and as a result, grants have already begun to be distributed through the community foundation. Some projects and programs receiving grants included: an Avoca Library summer reading program; an American Red Cross CPR in schools project; a large-print book collection at the Eckels Library in Oakland; the Girl Scouts of Iowa new leadership experience program; and equipment for a homeless shelter.

The Pottawattamie County Community Foundation is co-located with the Neighborhood Center in Council Bluffs. PCCF has a volunteer board of local citizens, and its board selected Dawn Hovey as the foundation’s CEO. She has 15 years of experience, including time at The Greater Des Moines Community Foundation.

The Pottawattamie County Community Foundation website is www.ourpccf.org.
Pottawattamie County Community Foundation is an IRS designated non-profit community foundation, which allows donations to be fully deductible and eligible for additional tax credits.

PCCF is in a unique position that almost any type of asset (land, appreciated stock, IRAs, etc.) can be gifted to the Foundation, and as a result produce funds to benefit the area.

Community foundations build endowment funds that benefit the communities they serve forever and help create legacies.
The mission of the Neighborhood Center is to build capacity and strengthen neighborhoods in Pottawattamie (IA), Douglas (NE), and Sarpy (NE) counties.

Neighborhood associations are generally a group of residents and other stakeholders that volunteer to improve and enhance the well-defined, geographic area where they live or work.
The Neighborhood Center is a one-stop resource for neighborhood needs

In a 2007 Pottawattamie County Community Needs Assessment, an issue that surfaced among respondents was a need to improve neighborhoods and improve communications in those local areas. During the following year, the Iowa West Foundation decided to make the transformation of neighborhoods one of the overarching goals of the organization.

With the City of Council Bluffs as a supporting partner, the Neighborhood Center opened a Council Bluffs office in 2008 to engage neighbors, improve communications, and increase community pride as the first steps in neighborhood revitalization. The Council Bluffs’ Neighborhood Center office, located on the east side of downtown, and its staff are funded through a $725,000 commitment from Iowa West over a five-year period.

The first collaborative result came quickly as resident Nathan Watson helped form the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association — the first new neighborhood association in Council Bluffs since 1999. The association has held events and distributes a newsletter to Fairmount Park area residents.

Also in 2008 and as part of reaching the neighborhood transformation goal, the Iowa West Foundation made a $135,000 award to the Pottawattamie County Promise Partners Alliance for Youth to support a small grants program over three years. The grants are part of a community networking initiative, which funds youth-led and neighborhood-based projects.

For example, in 2008 eight grants ranged from $500 to $2,000, and they supported a street hockey event, a back-to-school bash, a summer luau, and a fishing adventure.

“...The people who are best suited to make decisions about their neighborhoods are the people who actually live, work, and play there. Building the capacity and leadership qualities of these residents will enable them to be active leaders in their neighborhoods. Neighborhood level decision-making empowers these residents to be change agents in their communities. This leads to neighborhood leaders who are actively engaged in their neighborhoods, and in the civic life of the city.”
Iowa West Foundation Grant Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANTS</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Development and Beautification</td>
<td>$10,816,811.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>$2,796,429.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$4,450,467.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human and Social Needs</td>
<td>$3,729,721.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,793,428.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Since its inception the Iowa West Foundation’s grant program has awarded more than $210 million that has improved the quality of life of thousands of citizens in 100 area communities in western Iowa and eastern Nebraska.

2008 Financials
Condensed Balance Sheet for the Year Ending December 31, 2008*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$382,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total investments</td>
<td>$276,509,648</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>$205,244</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$277,097,292</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and initiated projects payable</td>
<td>$55,926,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term debt</td>
<td>$14,625,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>$195,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$70,746,133</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net assets unrestricted     | $206,351,159 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | **$277,097,292** |

*The financials in this report are preliminary and unaudited, as the audit is currently in process.
The Iowa West Racing Association was officially formed in 1984, and the Iowa West Foundation was established in 1994. The organizations came about because Iowa passed laws requiring gaming licenses to be either held or sponsored by non-profit organizations. These organizations have become an important source of funding for charitable and community projects.

The Iowa West Racing Association is the license holder for Horseshoe Casino, formerly Bluffs Run, and the license sponsor for two casino riverboats, Ameristar and Harrah’s. The two riverboats pay license fees to the association, which distributes the funds to the Iowa West Foundation. In addition, two transactions in 1999 and 2004 involving Bluffs Run, significantly increased the corpus and investment income for charitable giving by the Iowa West Foundation.

The Iowa West Foundation has grant advisory committees consisting of local citizens. Listed below are the 2008 committees.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION
Rhonda Hope
Kim McKeown
Walt Pyper
Linda Rhatigan
Greg Reeder
Mark Shoemaker
Dolores Silkworth

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Dave Christiansen
Doug Coziahr
Don Gross
Lori Holste
Melvyn Houser
Matt O’Reilly
Verne Welch

EDUCATION
JoAnne Carrithers
Judy Davis
Don Friday
Helen Hummel
Jim Mortensen
Doug Primmer
Jeanne Trachta

HUMAN AND SOCIAL NEEDS
Marcia Antworth
Rick Crowl
Donn Dierks
Matt Madsen
Barb Morrison
Brian Rhoten
Nancy Schulze
Jordan Turner

2008 IOWA WEST RACING ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Emma M. Chance,
President
Jack E. Ryan,
Vice President
Steve P. O’Neill,
Secretary/Treasurer
Deborah I. Bass
Dr. Theresa Barron-McKeagney
John P. Nelson
Robert N. Schlott
Ronald N. Tekippe
Barbara J. Walsh
The Iowa West Foundation, headquartered in Council Bluffs, Iowa, is an independent 501 (c) (3) organization that receives funding from investment income and from the Iowa West Racing Association, which collects fees from casino operators.

From modest beginnings, The Iowa West Foundation has evolved into one of the largest non-profit organizations in the Midwest, and it’s still fairly young. The Foundation administers a grant program, which awards funds for various community projects of governmental entities or non-profit organizations.

Through 2008, the Iowa West Foundation’s grand total of funding to non-profit organizations and governmental entities has now reached approximately $210 million, resulting in a positive impact on the lives of thousands of area citizens.
Grant Information

The mission of the Iowa West Foundation is to improve lives and strengthen communities for today and future generations. We do this by providing leadership, creating partnerships, leveraging resources and serving as a catalyst in identifying and supporting community needs.

We have a special interest in: Community Development and Beautification, Economic Development, Education, and Human and Social Needs.

As a result of a community needs assessment of Pottawattamie County, the Foundation also has announced two overarching goals:

To assist local schools in reducing the high school drop out rate, including to help increase educational attainment opportunities for Pottawattamie County citizens; and, to improve lives and transform neighborhoods in Council Bluffs and in local communities throughout Pottawattamie County.

GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION
Organizations with an IRS 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status and classification as a public charity — under IRS sections 509 (a) (1) and 509 (a) (2) — as well as governmental units and agencies, are eligible to apply for grant consideration. The Foundation’s geographic focus is southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska, the primary focus being Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County with a secondary focus being contiguous counties.

APPLICATION DEADLINES
Grant applications are reviewed by grant committees and considered by the Foundation’s Board of Directors four times a year. Potential applicants are encouraged to visit the Foundation’s website at www.iowawestfoundation.org for application deadlines and procedures.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Please contact the Foundation office for assistance in the grant application process.

Iowa West Foundation  Phone  712.309.3000
25 Main Place, Suite 550  Fax  712.322.2267
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503  Email  grantinfo@iowawest.com
SPECIAL THANKS TO OMAHA BOTANICAL CENTER, INC., A 2008 GRANT RECIPIENT, FOR ACCESS TO LAURITZEN GARDENS FOR PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY.