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**Grant Awards**

**March 22, 2016**

**Arts & Culture –**

* Central Iowa Art Association**: $2,500** We have a world class ceramics collection on display at the Fisher Community Center which was the first collection in clay to receive a National Endowment for the Arts grant. In 2015, 86 new pieces were purchased. Now the collection needs to be appraised, catalogued and displayed properly. The Community Foundation grant will allow the Central Iowa Art Association to purchase the software to document the collection.
* Central Iowa Fair: **$1,212** The Open – Class Exhibit is a favorite of fairgoers. It is where any community member can enter and display photography, 2-D and 3-D original art, and fabric art. The grant will allow the fair board to purchase a display case for secure and environmentally safe display of the artwork.
* Marshalltown Community Concert Association –Live on Stage: **$1,000**The fabulous concerts hosted by Live on Stage are well known in the county. A less known program of Live on Stage is their STAR Education Outreach Program which brings the concert artists to the schools. Many students never have the opportunity to see or hear the quality of musicians who come to Marshalltown. The grant will allow students to participate in workshops with professional musicians and not only learn from them, but also nurture their love of music.
* Marshall County Arts & Culture Alliance**: $7,500** The Alliance will once again host the Linn Creek Arts Festival which draws about 3,000 people from all over central Iowa. Over 60 artists will be featured in a juried show. Other features include performing arts, children’s activities, food vendors, prizes – and new this year, a street dance on Main Street. The grant will allow the expansion of this ever-popular event to a community wide festival.

**Community Development –**

* Marshall County 4-H**:**
	+ Horse Stall Renovation: **$1,350**
	+ Sheep Stall Renovation: **$1,000**
	+ 4-H Youth Leadership: **$5,000**
	+ 4-H has been busy this year. 3 grants are being awarded for different projects that will benefit the youth who participate. First - would representatives of the Horse Stall Renovation project come forward to receive a grant for repairing stalls that have not been renovated for about 30 years? Needless to say they have become unsafe, and inadequate for the growing number of horse projects at the fair. Next, the group working on the sheep stalls can come forward. Same story, different animal. With a growing interest in 4-H animal projects the Community Foundation is pleased to help the youth involved with horses as well as sheep have a safe, positive, and enriching experience. And next Caleb Carver will accept a check for the 4-H Youth Leadership Program. The program focuses on 4 outcomes: productive citizens, outstanding communicators, effective leaders, and successful learners. Congratulations to 4-H for the work they do with the youth of the county.
* City of Clemons: **$1,000** As Clemons continues to rebuild playgrounds, little league parks, and their town in general, the Community Foundation is pleased to award a grant this year that will help rebuild the historic band shell in Gray Harding Park. Building a sense of community is an important part of this project.
* Le Grand Pioneer Heritage Library: **$600** The library is offering a new program for “tweens” – those awkward years between being a child and a teenager. Programs will include pop culture, gaming, fashion, anime (whatever that is) and expand their library collection to reach “tweens”. Good luck. Let us know how that works for you.
* Marshalltown Public Library: **$3,000** The library in Marshalltown serves a large number of new faces in our community. The Welcome Center project targets specific barriers faced by new Iowans in accessing existing community information and resources. The grant will help them expand their library collection for non-native English speakers, and add a computer based language learning program.
* STEP: Students Teaching and Empowering Philanthropy : **$5,000** The program empowers and challenges high school students to identify, address, and seek solutions to community needs. Students learn about the need for charitable giving along with the needs of area nonprofit organizations and learn about writing and awarding grants.
* MEDIC and the Iowa Valley Class of 2016: **$5,000** The leadership class has chosen as a class project to beautify the pond area of the Fisher Community Center. The project is planned to include clean-up first and then new landscaping and seating around the pond. The Community Foundation is proud to award a grant for this project which will improve an amenity at the heart of the community.
* Marshalltown Development Foundation: **$3,342** It seems new attention is being paid to the Fisher Community Center which is one of Marshalltown’s treasures. This grant will purchase and install a high quality video projector for one of the rooms. The Fisher Community Center is used by numerous groups for meetings, presentations, and even social gatherings so this will be a much needed upgrade for the center.

**Education-**

Iowa College Access Network**: $625** The grant will help bring college planning and financial aid experts to the high schools in Marshall County. The goal is to spread the understanding that higher education is accessible to everyone and is necessary for long-term success. Personalized plans will be implemented with students.

* Iowa Valley Education and Training Center: **$1,000** The grant will be used for scholarships for adult students who are unable to pay for tuition and books for English as a Second Language courses and for High School Equivalency courses. One of the “thank-you” letters we have received sums up the importance of the grant this way, *“The Community Foundation scholarship is a good help for people who really want to study. Sometimes it is good to receive a little help to not cease the classes and have the opportunity to learn this complicated language. I just want to say thanks for helping immigrant people like me.”*
* Marshalltown Community School District: **$3,000** The grant will help Lenihan Intermediate School purchase books for their Classroom Library Project. Reading achievement is significantly increased if students have access to quality literature right in the classroom and time in school hours to read independently.
* Reach Out and Read Marshall County: **$4,000** The grant will help Reach Out and Read provide age appropriate books to children at their well child visits. Area physicians and their staff are trained to talk with parents and to model reading strategies from 2 months of age to 5 years old.
* MICA **–** Pre-K/Kindergarten Camp: **$7,500** Children who enter school with having had a pre-school experience generally are at or above grade level benchmarks. This program in the summer targets kids who may not have had an opportunity to attend pre-school. The grant will help provide educational instruction and school transition activities to prepare children for school success

**Health –**

* Albion Library: **$4,000** The grant will help provide up to 10 weeks of workshops, classes, and events that will address healthy lifestyles, encourage life-long learning skills and provide constructive healthy fun for a community with few summer offerings. This is a great example of the library being the hub of activity in our small towns.
* Mid-Iowa Triumph Recovery Center: **$700** Mental health is a very important component of a strong community. This program serves people with mental or emotional health issues in a peer support model. Art activities provide an outlet and help develop coping skills. The grant will allow the center to provide art activities in a low stress environment among peers dealing with similar circumstances.

**Historic Preservation –**

Mid-Iowa Antique Power Association**: $706** This organization was founded in 1984 dedicated to preserving farming as it was done in Iowa in the early 1900’s. Each summer they host a 3-day show to exhibit equipment used in farming and to demonstrate farming practices. The grant will allow them to add an area to safely and securely store and display antique farm equipment, chore items, and household items. If you have never visited the Antique Power Show, I encourage you to do so this summer.

**Human Services –**Child Abuse and Prevention Services: **$5,000** The Crisis Intervention Program - Family Support Funding addresses critical needs and services for families facing overwhelming socio-economic barriers. The grant will help with things like transportation to appointments, home safety items, vehicle safety seats, partial rent payments, infant supplies, etc.

* CommonBond Communities: **$2,000** This organization manages the housing at the Tallcorn Towers. The grant will help improve resident stability and independence. The Advantage Services program provides a “Welcome Basket” with necessary household supplies for each new resident. In addition the arts and crafts program brings residents together and provides positive recreational activities.
* Heart of Iowa Big Brothers Big Sisters: **$5,000** There is a significant waiting list of children who need a safe, supportive, and caring adult mentor. Big Brothers Big Sisters is a proven program that helps children facing adversity develop successful life skills. The grant will help them in their recruiting efforts to match children and mentors.
* House of Compassion: **$2,340** A relatively new service at the House of Compassion is a bilingual staff member. The number of Hispanic people served has increased and the need for more hours of bilingual services is necessary. The Community Foundation, although not able to completely fund the position, is able to help get the program off the ground.
* Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA**: $4,000** The Y has an ongoing program of empowerment, education, support, and motivation for expecting and young parents. The group focuses on establishing positive lifestyles and futures for both parents and their children. The Community Foundation is able to help support the operations of the program.
* Melbourne First Responders and the Marshall County Community Emergency Response Team: **$4,000** MCCERT for short needs personal protective equipment for their many volunteers. The CERT members assist other first responders throughout Marshall County and can respond if professional responders are not immediately available. We all want them to be safe when responding to an emergency.
* Salvation Army: **$3,000** The PAL – Positive Attitude for Life program is designed to give each participating child fun and interesting activities in the summer. Children are referred to the program by DHS, physicians, or school counselors. Priority is given to children from fragile home situations due to drug abuse of parents, domestic violence, or where a grandparent is the primary caregiver. The grant will help provide teachers for the program.
* Foster Grandparents of Marshall County: **$2,000** This program matches older adults with day care centers, pre-schools, and elementary schools to work with students who need extra help. The grant will help them recruit and support training costs for the “Grandparents” who participate.
* Youth and Shelter Services: **$1,500** The grant provides transportation vouchers for youth in transitional living. As homeless young people move toward self-sufficiency, they often need help getting themselves and their children to school, jobs, medical appointments, or counseling. Over 100 homeless young people are served each year by Youth and Shelter Services.

**Recreation –**

* Marshall County Conservation**: $3,500** Recreational opportunities are not only good for those of who live here, but they help attract visitors to the county which is good for economic development. The Community Foundation is proud to help bring a recreational area back to life. The Green Castle Campground will be a long-term project completed in phases, and phase 1 includes construction of roadways and primitive campground facilities. It will be fun to watch this project develop.
* Mustang Camp and Travel Foundation: **$5,000** We heard earlier about the successful track project for West Marshall School District. This year we are also able to help East Marshall in building a new field house. Athletics are good for student’s health and studies show that student athletes do better academically as well. Currently visiting teams use their busses for locker rooms so you can see there is definitely a need for this field house project.