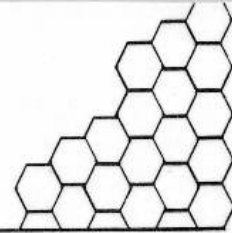




THE BEE



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Greene County Community Foundation reaches initial organizational goals

The first goals of the Greene County Community Foundation (GCCF), to raise funds needed for an Endow Iowa grant application and to submit the grant, due March 1, were met. A total of \$32,500 was raised from individual, business and organization donors in Greene county, exceeding the minimum of \$25,000 needed for the application.

"Many thanks to Greene county donors who saw the immediate, significant benefit for the GCCF to be able to request matching funds of up to \$25,000 from the Endow Iowa program. Because of the generosity of these donors and the work of a number of GCCF board members who made contacts over a three-week time period, more than the minimum was raised. This will help our grant application score higher and have a better chance to receive the full \$25,000 match," said Jacque Andrew of Jefferson, president of GCCF.

Midwest Partnership's executive director Ray Forsythe took the lead in writing the grant and submitting it in timely fashion. "The foundation is

very fortunate to have the expertise of Midwest Partnership in the area to provide needed grant-writing assistance," Andrew said.

Iowa State University Extension Service of Greene county provided impetus for the formation of the local foundation through its series of satellite programs last fall and guidance from Extension education director Craig Hertel, who also serves as the Iowa Community Vitality Center's community philanthropy program coordinator.

"Without these local resources the Greene County Community Foundation would not exist, and we are certainly appreciative of this solid base," Andrew said. "GCCF now has a dedicated board of directors that believes in the mission of the foundation to serve and enhance the quality of life in Greene county and will move forward."

GCCF's next immediate goal is to apply for a second grant that could assist Greene county in receiving an estimated \$40,000 to \$60,000 of gambling revenues in the first year,

as a result of House File 2302, adopted by the Iowa Legislature. The grant application is due May 1.

The Greene County Community Foundation is permanently endowed and will accept and actively seek donations, major gifts and bequests, all of which will be tax-deductible. Donations, as well as any funds received from grant applications, are invested through the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, with which the local foundation has affiliated.

Greene county's funds are maintained as a separate account. In addition to the permanent endowment, a percentage of income from those funds will be distributed to charitable organizations and projects in the county. More information on how that distribution will take place will be available in coming months.

Those interested in making a tax-deductible gift to the Greene County Community Foundation are invited to send their check to or contact Jenny Wessling at Peoples Trust and Savings Bank in Grand Junction, (515) 738-2312.