



County community foundation plans to serve, enhance county

The Greene County Community Foundation held its organizational meeting Monday, Jan. 31. Established to serve and enhance the quality of life in Greene county, the foundation will be permanently endowed and will accept and actively seek donations, major gifts and bequests, all of which will be tax deductible. The donations will be invested, and fund income distributions will be made on a scheduled basis to charitable organizations for specific project grants to benefit Greene county, its communities and unincorporated areas.

An initial board of directors of the foundation was seated and by-laws approved at the organizational meeting. The by-laws of the philanthropic organization allows for a board of up to 40 members residing throughout Greene county to oversee operations of the foundation, including fundraising and grantmaking (distribution of earnings for projects).

At its start-up meeting the board also approved an affiliation agreement with the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, a qualified community foundation, and the Iowa Community Affiliate Network (Iowa C.A.N.), which will provide necessary investment fund and operational services to the local foundation for its non-profit tax status. (The term "qualified" refers to a formulation

that is nationally certified.)

The first effort of the foundation is to raise funds needed for the Endow Iowa matching grant application that is due March 1. Staff from Iowa C.A.N. and Midwest Partnership have offered assistance for the writing of the grant, which offers up to \$25,000 in matching funds.

"This is a very competitive application process, and foundations who are applying need to have cash in hand. The scoring for the grants will give preference to those foundations seeking a two-to-one match," said Ray Forsythe, executive director of Midwest Partnership.

"It is our goal to raise \$50,000 to show the dedication we have in this effort to receive the maximum award from the grant. Although raising this amount does not guarantee we will receive the grant and the entire amount requested, the funds will still function as a savings account for this county forever. Interest earned from the fund will be distributed to non-profit and charity programs and organizations that benefit Greene county communities," according to Elizabeth Hailey, city administrator for the city of Jefferson and chair of the marketing committee for the new Greene county foundation.

The second grant for which the foundation will apply comes from the county endowment fund estab-

lished by the Iowa Legislature in House File 2302. That legislation designates that a small percentage of state gambling revenue may be granted to non-gaming counties.

"The purpose of the legislation is to use the gambling revenues as a mechanism to promote and support community philanthropy throughout the state. By successfully completing this second grant which is due May 1, 2005, Greene county could receive an estimated \$40,000 to \$60,000 of gambling revenues in the first year through HF 2302," said Jacque Andrew, elected president of the newly-installed GCCF board.

Other officers and committee chairs of GCCF are Vern Foje, vice president; Bill Raney, secretary; Jenny Wessling, treasurer; Connie Haluska, development committee chair; John Meyer, endowment committee chair; Lawrence Geisler, community needs committee chair; Dianne Blackmer, grantmaking committee chair; Denny Lautner, nominating committee chair; and Elizabeth Hailey, marketing committee chair. These individuals will compose the executive council, which will meet more frequently to handle day-to-day decisions for the Foundation.

Additional members of the board include Jerry Boyd, Reg Clause, Peg Erickson, Norm Fandel, Patty

Fisher, Shirley Haupert, Zoe Ann Havens, John Hunt, Lori Mannel, Renee McLaughlin, Tracie Miller, Bill Monroe, Rick Morain, Roger Nailor, Kate Neese, Bill Plymat, Larry Richards, Mary Richards, Mary Holz-Clause, David Hoyt, Cheryl Robson, Susan Smith, Bill Siussy, Dale Thompson, DeeAnn Thompson and Julie Towers.

Donations to the foundation are welcome. The most common forms of gifts are of cash, stock, life insurance, and real estate. Contributions may be sent to: Greene County Community Foundation, c/o Jenny Wessling, 205 East Main St., Grand Junction, IA 50107.

The Greater Des Moines Community Foundation (GDMCF) is a qualified community foundation and public non-profit corporation with permanent assets of nearly \$80 million. The GDMCF contains funds for over 225 permanently endowed funds, including community savings accounts, scholarship funds, donor advised funds and designated funds, all for the benefit of nonprofit and charitable causes across Iowa.

For more information about the funding program or to become involved with the Greene County Community Foundation, contact Ray Forsythe of Midwest Partnership at (641) 755-3456 or Jacque Andrew at (515) 386-8358.