

## What is the performance of philanthropy in county?

Citizens throughout Greene county have been participating in discussions and educational meetings relating to wealth transfer, philanthropy and the use of community foundations.

Craig Hertel, Greene county ISU Extension education director, explained that philanthropy is not a new concept but an important one that can support the sustainability and growth of communities. Philanthropy is a desire to help mankind especially as shown by gifts to charitable or humanitarian institutions, he said. It is an attitude of being charitable, benevolent and free

from selfishness.

A recent Iowa Community Vitality Center study reports that \$36.6 million in probated wealth annually transfers in Greene county. In many cases that wealth automatically transfers to heirs and philanthropy initiatives outside local communities unless there are active local mechanisms to keep potential donors in touch and to encourage creation of hometown legacies. If five to ten percent of that money stayed in Greene county, that would create \$1,830,000 to \$3,660,000 each year to be available for local development and local projects that are important to Greene county citizens, Hertel said.

"If Greene county becomes prepared and organized, we will not only be in a position to accept wealth transferred within the county but will also be in a position to accept \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year of gambling revenue as a result of HF 2302 and/or other state incentives," Hertel said. A county-wide foundation that is certified or affiliated with a verified foundation is needed to receive these funds and to design a process for local communities to apply for funds for local projects.

"If you have a passion and dreams for our communities and our county, your participation would be appreciated at the fourth and final statewide satellite program in the Enhancing Foundations and Community Philanthropy series," Hertel said. It will be held at the Greene county Extension office in Jefferson on Monday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m. Call (515) 386-2138 to sign up for this free satellite program, to be followed by local discussion about working together to prepare for a positive future.

Previous satellite programs are available for check-out from the Greene county Extension office. For more information about philanthropy and community foundations, go to the Community Vitality center website at [www.cvcia.org](http://www.cvcia.org).

## Community foundations on agenda for Monday meeting

The third in a series of programs entitled "Enhancing Philanthropy and Community Foundations" will be held Monday, Oct. 25, at the Greene county Extension meeting room at 104 West Washington in Jefferson.

The local meeting will begin at 7 p.m. It will focus on an update of statewide incentives that are being offered in Iowa, as well as specific steps and legal considerations of forming your own community foundation or affiliating with an existing community foundation. The statewide satellite meeting will be followed at 8 p.m. by a local discussion focusing on forming a local board to guide this community foundations process.

"The issue of forming your own or affiliating with an existing community foundation is clearly on the plates of many county community leaders across Iowa, in part because of the new incentives from the state of Iowa," said Craig Hertel, the Iowa Community Vitality Center's (CVC) program coordinator for this effort. "Coupled with the CVC's transfer of wealth study, leaders are realizing the magnitude of this opportunity, and why it is critical to set up your county/community structure with care, caution and lots of local dialogue, and yet realizing that time is of the essence."

In response to requests for an educational program, Iowa State University Extension is collaborating with a number of statewide and regional organizations to host a series of statewide satellite town meetings on community philanthropy. In addition to ISU Extension, the collaborating groups include the Community Vitality Center, Iowa Council of Foundations, Iowa Department of Economic Development, and others.

The satellite program in October will feature a panel discussion moderated by Rick Morain, Community Vitality Center board president and Jefferson Bee-Herald publisher. The panel will make a few opening comments and respond to questions called in from across the state. The panel includes Mike Miller, Iowa Department of Economic Development; Johni Hayes, an attorney who is the senior planned giving consultant with The Stelter Company; Pat Moline with the ISU Foundation; and Mark Edelman, Community Vitality Center director and ISU Extension economist.

To register, call Craig Hertel at (515) 386-2138 or e-mail [cherhel@iastate.edu](mailto:cherhel@iastate.edu) and indicate your name, affiliation, and contact information.