

## Satellite program will tell how communities can boost local giving

A statewide satellite program on foundations and community philanthropy will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, June 28, at the Greene county ISU Extension office located at 104 W. Washington in Jefferson. The satellite program will last one hour, with an opportunity for local discussion following the satellite program.

A recent study by the Iowa Community Vitality Center reports that \$36.3 million in probated wealth annually transfers in Greene county, said Craig Hertel, Greene county Extension education director. This wealth usually transfers to heirs and philanthropy initiatives outside local communities, unless there are active efforts to inform potential donors of opportunities to create hometown legacies. Due to age distribution, rural counties will likely experience a more rapid wealth transfer in the next two decades.

The recent interest in the topic has been fueled by new incentives for philanthropy approved by the Iowa General Assembly and Governor in 2003, and more recently a new state revenue mechanism that will distribute a specified percent of annual gambling revenues equally to non-gambling counties for allocation to non-profits and charities through qualified community foundations.

The satellite program will feature a panel discussion moderated by Rick

Morain, Community Vitality Center board member 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 Nancy Van Milligen of the Greater Dubuque Community Foundation, representing the Iowa Council of Foundations; Mark Edelman, Community Vitality Center director and ISU Extension economist; Sandy Ehrig of the Iowa Department of Economic Development; and Rand Fisher of the Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation.

Iowa State University Extension is partnering with the Community Vitality Center, Iowa Council of Foundations, Iowa Department of Economic Development, and University of Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center to host this first in a series of statewide satellite meetings on community philanthropy. Each statewide program will be followed by a facilitated countywide discussion. At the first meeting, local discussion will focus on identifying existing philanthropy initiatives and next steps.

There is no fee to attend the program, and pre-registration is appreciated. For more information, call Greene county Extension at (515) 386-2138 or [chertel@iastate.edu](mailto:chertel@iastate.edu)

## Countywide discussion set on community philanthropy

A countywide discussion on "Enhancing Foundations and Community Philanthropy" is scheduled to start Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Greene county Extension meeting room, located at 104 W. Washington St. in Jefferson.

"There has been increasing discussion at the state and local level about foundations and community philanthropy and their importance in the future for creating and sustaining community vitality," said Craig Hertel, Greene county Extension education director. In late June, community leaders from around the county came together to begin this local dialogue.

A recent study by the Community Vitality Center reports that \$36.6 million in probated wealth annually transfers in Greene county. In many cases this 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. The study says that due to age distribution, non-metro counties will likely experience a more rapid wealth transfer in the next two decades. So this topic is particularly important for nonmetro Iowa.

The recent interest in this topic has been fueled by statewide conferences, new incentives for philanthropy approved by the Iowa General Assembly and governor in 2003, and more recently a new state revenue mechanism that will distribute a specified percent of annual gambling revenues equally to non-gambling counties for allocation to nonprofits and charities through qualified community foundations.

"One particular focus of this local meeting will be to determine the direction leaders wish to take to position our county to be eligible for the state-wide incentives," Hertel added. Any person or group with a stake in the philanthropy opportunity is encouraged to attend.

In addition to ISU Extension, the collaborating groups include the Community Vitality Center, Iowa Council on Foundations, Iowa Department of Economic Development, and others. The satellite program will feature a panel discussion moderated by Rick Morain, Community Vitality Center president and Jefferson Bee and Herald publisher. The panel will make a few opening comments and respond to questions called in from across the state.

The panel includes Nancy Van Milligen, Greater Dubuque Community Foundation representing the Iowa Council on Foundations; Mark Edelman, Community Vitality Center director and ISU Extension economist; Johnny Danos, CEO/president of the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation and past president of the Iowa Council on Foundations; and Darryl Ahnemann, principal of Ahnemann Associates.

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