



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--April 10, 2006:

Community Foundation awards first grants

The Greene County Community Foundation (GCCF) awarded \$43,000 in grants to communities and projects to improve the quality of life in the county on Monday, April 10. Funds for the grants came from an allotment of one-half of one percent of the state's gambling revenues legislated to go to non-gaming Iowa counties.

To receive the funds, community foundations had to be formed and affiliated with qualified foundations. The Greene County Community Foundation was organized in January 2005 and in November, the allocation from the state of \$63,600 was distributed. By law, 25 percent was to go to the permanent endowment of the community foundation and the remaining 75 percent was available for local granting.

At the grant award presentation, 15 individual grants were awarded with \$27,700 given to projects in six Greene county communities. \$15,300 went to projects that would benefit multiple communities or were county-focused projects. All were required to show a match equal to the grant request in cash on hand or in in-kind services or labor.

"The grants were for projects benefiting quality of life issues through libraries and community center improvements; daycare centers, youth activities, mentoring and parenting programs; recreation and tourism and the elderly," said GCCF president Jacque Andrew. "All are important issues to the future of the county. We hope to address even more needs in future rounds of grantmaking."

"We have an excellent grantmaking committee lead by Susan Smith that has devoted countless hours to this effort for which we are all grateful," Andrew said. "This committee lead the whole board through the process of scoring the grants and selecting the recipients. The board considered thoughtfully each application in its decision-making."

The recipients are as follows: city of Churdan for the community building kitchen remodel, \$4,500; city of Grand Junction for the swimming pool construction, \$4,500; city of Paton for the Loren Shriver building roof repair, \$4,500; ACCESS (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support) for parenting classes for all three Greene county school districts, \$3,800; Greene County Early Learning Center to expands services offered, \$3,300; Friends of Rippey for Osborn Park playground equipment, \$3,000; Raccoon River Valley Trail Foundation for Cooper trailside shelter, \$3,000; Churdan Public Library for technology upgrades, \$3,000; City of Jefferson public library for technology upgrades, \$3,000; Greene County Medical Center (GCMC) public health KIDS with a Connection mentoring program, \$2,700; city of Scranton-Scranton Betterment for summer youth activities, \$2,200; Barn Quilts of Greene County via Greene county board of supervisors for additional barn quilts, \$1,900; Elderbridge Area Agency on Aging for winter emergency meals, \$1,400; GCMC public health H.O.P.E.S. (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) curriculum, \$1,200 and GCMC H.O.P.E.S. parents' room refurbishing, \$1,000.

There were 25 total applications received by the foundation for this round of grantmaking. Total requests were for over \$108,000 with \$43,000 awarded.

Prior to the announcement of the grant recipients, 2005 donors to the foundation were recognized. "Thanks to the generosity of these donors, the foundation was able to apply for and receive one of only six in the state \$25,000 Endow Iowa grants to benefit the county foundation's permanent endowment," Andrew said. Additional donations will help build the endowment which will allow for expanded grantmaking in the future, she said.

Rand Fisher of the Iowa Area Development Group was the keynote speaker for the event held in the fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church in Jefferson. Fisher was instrumental in organizing the Iowa Community Affiliate Network (Iowa C.A.N.), a collaboration to assist community foundations in initial organization and grantmaking endeavors as well as providing on-going assistance.

For more information about the foundation, call 515-386-2138.