



For Immediate Release—April 9, 2007:

Community Foundation awards second round of grants

The Greene County Community Foundation (GCCF) awarded \$51,500 in grants to communities and projects to improve the quality of life in the county on Monday, April 9. Funds for the grants came from an allotment of one-half of one percent of the state's gambling revenues legislature to go to non-gaming Iowa counties.

To receive the funds, community foundation had to be formed and affiliated with qualified foundations. The Greene County Community Foundation was organized in January 2005 and in April 2006 the first grants totaling \$43,000 were awarded in Greene county.

In the fall of 2006, the allocation from the state of \$67,250 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 2007 grant award event, \$28,325 was given to projects in five Greene county communities. \$23,175 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, recreation, elderly services, historical preservation, the arts, beautification and emergency response medical equipment," said GCCF president Jacquie 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: Churdan public library for the "tweens" area and technology improvements, \$3,475; Greene County Historical Society for collection management assistance, \$3,625; Greene County Fair for lighting improvements to the horse arena, \$3,900; Jefferson Community Betterment, fairgrounds tree beautification, \$7,500; City of Jefferson streetscape project, \$4,400; Jefferson Parks and Recreation for swimming pool diving board, \$3,935; Greene County Library Association cooperative projects, \$3,150; Town and Country Band for instruments and equipment, \$3,750; Scranton Library summer reading program, \$1,015; City of Churdan centennial building renovation, \$1,250; Grand Junction Fire and Rescue for heart saver defibrillator, \$800; Friends of Rippey for Galloping Goose Recreation Trail, \$4,200; Greene County Little League for scoreboards, \$5,000 and Greenwood, Inc. for Greenwood Center improvements, \$5,500.

Prior to the announcement of the grant recipients, donors to the foundation were recognized. "Thanks to the generosity of its donors, the foundation was launched and able to build its permanent endowment," Andrew said. Additional donations will help the endowment grow to allow for expanded grantmaking in the future, she said.

Mark Hamilton, publisher, Times-Citizen Communications and past chair of the Community Vitality Center (CVC) was the keynote speaker for the event held in the fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church in Jefferson.

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