



For Immediate Release:

Donor recognition/grant awards event

The Greene County Community Foundation (GCCF) will hold its second donor recognition and grant recipient award event on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall in Jefferson.

Mark Hamilton, publisher of Iowa Falls Times-Citizen and past chair of the Community Vitality Center (CVC), will be the keynote speaker. Hamilton is also a member of the CVC's community philanthropy committee and has played a key role in the community foundation movement in Iowa. The wealth transfer study conducted by the CVC was a catalyst for the development of the Endow Iowa program including the formation of community foundations all across the state.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for donors to see first hand the good that can be achieved through philanthropy," said GCCF president Jacque Andrew. "The board wanted to especially show its appreciation to donors and combining it with the grant awards seemed ideal."

The first donors to the Greene County Community Foundation, organized in January 2005, helped build the \$32,500 endowment which was used as a match to apply for the Endow Iowa grants. Greene county's foundation was one of only six in the state to receive the \$25,000 award also designated for the permanent endowment.

Endow Iowa is a component of the Iowa Values Fund, created in 2003. The goal of the program is to enhance the quality of life for Iowans by providing capital to aid nonprofit projects and programs. The Endow Iowa grant program is administered by the

Iowa Council of Foundations in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

But it was the gambling bill, HF 2302 passed in 2004, that provided the mechanism for Greene county and more than 80 other Iowa counties to receive one-half of one per cent of the state's gambling revenues which poured \$67,000 into the local foundation. By law, 25 per cent of the gambling revenue funds must be placed in the permanent endowment of the county foundation. The remaining 75 per cent is to be offered for local grants to revitalize communities.

\$47,500 in grant awards will be announced at the Greene county event next month. Eighteen grants were scored by the GCCF board. "Recommendations were forwarded to the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation for review and approval. According to the Greene County Community Foundation grantmaking committee chairperson, Susan Smith, "We are very excited about receiving the number of quality applications and the many wonderful projects planned for in communities throughout the county."

Recipients of grants will receive notification by mail and be invited to attend the April 9 event and receive their grant awards.

Donations to the Greene County Community Foundation are always welcome. Ongoing local philanthropy will assist with future grantmaking and improvements to the quality of life in Greene County. More information is available by calling 515-386-2138.