

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than \$14,000 is awarded

Five entities receive grants from county foundation in second go-round of 2006

For the second time this year, the Wright County Charitable Foundation (WCCF) has awarded monies to organizations submitting grant applications to the group. This time five organizations have received \$14,050, presented in a recent ceremony at the Wright County Extension Office. There were seven applicants requesting nearly \$32,000.

Those receiving money from the county's charitable fund are: 1. Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center - \$1,700 (program to reach teens who are isolated, face bullying, date violence, or sexual assault in Wright County); 2. Krysilis - \$1,250 (help building to comply with American's with Disabilities Act); 3. The Choralaires - \$3,500 (produce an educational/historical documentary DVD for use in schools, libraries, museums in Wright County); 4. Dows Chapter of the Wright County Historical Society - \$4,600 (restore roof, preserve building); and 5. Goldfield American Legion - \$3,000 (replace 50 year old inefficient furnace).

The WCCF was formed to receive gambling funds being given to non-gaming counties. As a part of state legislation, a percentage of annual gambling revenues is divided among the 85 counties which do not have gaming in their counties. A portion of the funds must be given annually as grants to not-for-profit organizations for educational, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, religious, economic development, and entrepreneurial purposes. Wright County has given away \$46, 480 in its spring and fall grant cycles in 2006. This completes the granting process for this year.

According to Dennis Bowman, Wright County Economic Development Director who works with the WCCF board of directors, the Wright County Charitable Foundation is dedicated to seeing that funds are spread to help as many communities and county residents as is possible. "In 2006 and the two granting cycles, dollars have now been given to each community in the county," he said. "The grant review committee looks at lots of facets to see that the money is delivered to help in maintaining buildings, programs, developing fine arts, adding to services, serving people of all ages, and people with numerous needs." Board members come from seven communities in the county.

Bowman said that just because a grant has been made to a group or organization doesn't mean that a second grant to the same group or organization wouldn't be considered in another grant cycle. "Funds must be given to non-profit groups and organizations," he said. "The WCCF doesn't fund ongoing operational budgets. If someone has a bright idea to which the county endowment fund might give money in the future, please come into the county development office (lower level of the courthouse) or give our office a call (515-532-6422) and we will talk with anyone about details on filling out a future grant application."

The program is ongoing, even more dollars will be granted by the county charitable group to non-profit organizations in 2007. Grant applications can be picked up at the County's Economic Development Office or can be found on the county's web site at www.wrightcounty.org.