

For Immediate Release:

Note to media: please consider boxing the listing of grants for ease of readers!

Thirteen groups receive grants of \$31,000 from county foundation

The Wright County Charitable Foundation (WCCF) awarded \$31,000 to thirteen non-profit groups in Wright County at a recent ceremony held at the Wright County ISU Extension Office. There were twenty grant applications, requesting funds for projects totaling more than \$1 million. The grants ranged from \$500 to \$5,000, given to county non-profit organizations.

<u>Gifts given to 13 Wright County Organizations</u>		
Belmond Historical Society	Acquire copier, laminating machine	\$500
Wright County Here's to Your Health	Sustain Farmers' Markets/food voucher program	\$1,000
Heartland Museum	Handicap chair lift for ag hall balcony displays	\$2,000
Krysilis	Special computer for Krysilis programming	\$1,500
Dows Senior Citizens	Purchase new, more efficient furnace	\$2,500
Rowan American Legion Post #159	Replace septic tank and sewer system	\$3,500
Lake Cornelia Improvement Assn.	Purchase playground equipment & landscaping for picnic/beach area	\$5,000
Clarion Senior Citizen Center	Replace carpet in senior center	\$1,500
Dows Historical Society	Replace/repair siding/wall in old country schoolhouse	\$1,000
Clarion VFW Post 2612	Replace floor in VFW building	\$3,000
Eagle Grove Memorial Library	Purchase multi-media projector	\$1,500
Belmond Trees Forever	Survey/signage for bike trail from Belmond to Thornton	\$5,000
Wright County Fair	Feasibility master plan for fairgrounds	\$3,000
Total of \$31,000 in spring grant cycle - 13 grants		

The Foundation was formed to receive gambling funds, which are being given to 85 counties which do not have gaming in their respective counties. The first grants were made statewide in 2006. WCCF President Duane Asbe, representing the Clarion area, said, "In the past year, 1509 grants were awarded from 2601 applications totaling \$3.9 million from across the state of Iowa". Each of the 85 counties receives the same annual funding, regardless of the population of the county.

Steve McClintock, WCCF grant making chairperson representing the Belmond area, said, "This is our third grant program and our first in 2007. The fourth grant cycle will be conducted in September and October of 2007. Once again, we are pleased that local organizations took the time to think through projects which could improve our local communities and our county as a whole and took the time to fill out the grant applications. These dollars help to make things work in our county. We like to fund projects which impact the greatest numbers of people, or impact areas to which other funding may not be available. To show a commitment by the organization we ask that they provide some matching funds when making their grant request." Wright County received \$67,000 this year from the state of Iowa. Seventy-five percent (\$50,250) must be granted in 2007; twenty-five percent (\$16,750) must be retained by WCCF in the county's permanent endowment fund.

There remains \$19,250 to be awarded from grant applications which need to be submitted beginning September 14 with a grant filing deadline of Monday, October 15. WCCF Treasurer Connie Wilson, representing the Eagle Grove area, said, "Because of the funds which we are required to keep, we have almost \$1,800 of earnings from the WCCF endowment portion, which we can also grant at that time. If we have enough worthy requests, we will make those dollars available also." The county's endowment fund had a return of 12% on its investment in 2006.

Asbe said to the group, "We appreciate all of your work on these grant applications and that you brought these projects to us." There are 14 people on the WCCF board of directors, two from each of the seven communities in the county. Each community is represented on the grantmaking committee when the grants are reviewed and recommended for funding. Grants are approved by the full board of directors.

Grant applications and guidelines are available online at www.wrightcounty.org, or if you have questions regarding the granting process, contact the Wright County Economic Development office at the lower level of the courthouse building or call (515) 532-6422. Wright County Economic Development staff Dennis Bowman and Pam Meeder will be happy to provide needed information.

Photo captions - choose the one listed below which applies to the appropriate area; please rework the wording if more than one photo is chosen to be used by any one newspaper:

General caption phrase: The Wright County Charitable Foundation (WCCF) was pleased to award \$31,000 to 13 non-profit organizations across the county in recent ceremonies. Monies come annually to the foundation from the state of Iowa and are provided to 85 non-gaming counties from a small percentage of gambling proceeds.

Add one of these selected individual photo caption phrases:



Belmond Historical Society received \$500 for copier and laminating equipment. Picture (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; Belmond representative James Pals; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Wright County Here's to Your Health received \$1,000 for the farmers' markets and food voucher program. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; Mark Schutt, representing the Here's to Your Health group; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Heartland Museum in Clarion was one of the recipients of grant money from the Wright County Charitable Foundation. Heartland Museum received \$2,000 towards the purchase and installation of a chairlift in the ag hall display area, making the upstairs display handicap accessible. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; museum representatives Ralph Borel and George Boyington; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Krysilis, with group homes in Belmond, Eagle Grove and Clarion, was a recipient of grant money from the Wright County Charitable Foundation. Krysilis received \$1,500 towards the purchase of special computer equipment and software to be used in Krysilis programming. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; WCCF board member Karen Weld; Krysilis representatives Lisa Nelson and Willa Taylor; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Dows Senior Citizens Center received \$2,500 toward the purchase of a new, more efficient furnace for their center building which is on the National Historic Registry. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; WCCF secretary Jeanne Russell; Dows senior citizens representatives Maxine Weir and Joan Rash; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Rowan American Legion Post #159 received \$3,500 toward to replace a septic tank and sewer system in a building owned by the legion. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; WCCF board members Berne Ketchum and Tom Groom (also a Legion representative); Legion representative Lee Aldrich and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Lake Cornelia Improvement Association received \$5,000 in funds to go toward the purchase of newer and safer playground equipment and landscaping in/near the picnic and beach area. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; WCCF board member Karen Weld; Lake representatives Rich Reiland and Steve Sebby; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Clarion Senior Citizens Center was awarded \$1,500 for new carpet at the center. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; WCCF board member Karen Weld; Senior Citizens representatives Francis Schilling and Phyllis Woodley; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Dows Historical Society was granted \$1,000 to replace/repair siding and a wall separated from the foundation in the old country schoolhouse museum. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; WCCF board secretary Jeanne Russell; Historical Society representative Velma Butt; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Clarion's VFW Post 2612 was awarded \$3,000 to help with replacement of a 1947 floor, which is cracked and needs to have the asbestos removed. Pictured (front, left to right) are VFW representatives Merle Paulson and Herb Billman; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock. (Back row from left): WCCF board member Karen Weld; WCCF board president Duane Asbe; VFW members Raynard Southard and Dennis Mraz.



Eagle Grove Public Library received \$1,500 towards the purchase of multi-media projector to show weekly movies to the youth and others in the community. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; WCCF board treasurer Connie Wilson; Eagle Grove Librarian Jan Grandgeorge; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Belmond Trees Forever received \$5,000 to help fund completion of survey and purchase of signage for the expanding bike trail from Belmond to Thornton. Pictured (left to right) are WCCF board president Duane Asbe; Belmond representatives Lisa Nelson, James Pals, and Mark Schutt; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.



Wright County District Junior Fair was the recipient of \$3,000 to aid in funding an ISU long range feasibility master plan for fairgrounds and its facilities. Pictured (front from left) are WCCF board treasurer Connie Wilson; and Fair Secretary/Manager Tricia Rosendahl; and WCCF grantmaking chairperson Steve McClintock.(Back from left): WCCF board president Duane Asbe; WCCF board member Jack Stoakes; and Fair Board Vice-President Dean Kluss.