

O'BRIEN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

c/o OBCCF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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O'BRIEN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS

The O'Brien County Community Foundation (OBCCF) recently awarded 29 grants totaling \$93,829 to nonprofit organizations and units of local government in support of projects throughout O'Brien County. Since the first grants were made in 2006, over \$462,000 has been awarded. Funding for the grant program is a result of County Endowment Fund legislation (HF2302) passed in 2005 which provides that a percentage of state gambling revenues be distributed among all Iowa counties that do not have a gambling entity.

"The Community Foundation is pleased to support projects and programs that positively impact the quality of life in our county," stated Ann Carpenter, OBCCF Advisory Board Chair.

The OBCCF was formally established in 2005 through affiliation with the Siouxland Community Foundation and is governed by a local nine-member advisory board composed of representatives from each of the communities in O'Brien County: Archer, Calumet, Hartley, Paullina, Primghar, Sanborn, Sheldon, and Sutherland; as well as one county-at-large member.

The following grants were recently awarded by the Community Foundation:

Arts and Culture

- **Sheldon Prairie Museum - \$2,150:** Funding to complete the last phase of the exterior renovations which includes repairing and painting of exterior doors, trim work, gables, eaves, and garage storage area.

Civic and Community

- **City of Calumet - \$4,524:** For the immediate repair of the tornado warning siren to ensure the safety of the residents of Calumet.
- **City of Paullina - \$2,500:** Funding to design and build two City of Paullina signs at the east and west entrances on Highway 10 as well as for landscaping to beautify the entrances into Paullina.
- **City of Paullina - \$1,500:** For the purchase of a new set of bleachers at the city ball diamond. New bleachers will provide more safety by having a railing around the top as well as a handrail and aisle.
- **City of Paullina - \$5,000:** Funding provided to the Ambulance Service for the purchase of a Stryker Power Pro Cot and a stair chair.

- **Community Memorial Health Center - \$1,520:** An outdoor garden/park with learning opportunities for people of all ages is being established. Funding will be used toward the purchase of 3 four foot bronze benches for inside the covered gazebo.
- **Hartley Community Center Association - \$3,000:** For the purchase of a new sign and landscaping to replace the old one on the Highway 18 side of the building located on the east edge of town.
- **Hartley Park Department - \$774:** Funding to add new red limestone to the Hartley baseball and softball fields as well as install lightning detectors at the ball fields in the north section of the city and near the public swimming pool in the south section of the city.
- **Hartley Park Department - \$2,500:** For the installation of six cement pads, six electrical hook-ups, and three water hydrants to provide campsites at Neebel Park.
- **Hartley Volunteer Fire Department - \$1,000:** For the purchase of a Multi-Gas Monitor which checks for carbon monoxide, oxygen, lower explosive limits and hydrogen sulfide to better protect members of the fire department and the people they are called to help.
- **O'Brien County Fair Board - \$3,500:** Toward the purchase of materials to soundproof and cool the Administration/Events Building and install overhead fans in the open class building on the Fair Grounds.
- **Paullina Fire Department - \$4,330:** For the purchase of a heavy duty fire-clothes dryer for firemen attire to compliment the industrial washer that was purchased last year with grant funds.
- **Paullina Public Library - \$1,000:** Funding to assist with landscaping in the front of the building.
- **Primghar Community Building Corporation - \$3,000:** Toward the purchase of a new refrigerator, paint, new chairs, and tables to enhance the Community Building.
- **Sanborn Park & Recreation Board - \$6,000:** Funding toward the addition of a Water Walk pool feature at the new Sanborn Aquatic Center. The Water Walk pool feature will provide a unique recreation activity and be the only feature of its kind in O'Brien County.
- **Sutherland Economic Development - \$3,500:** For Phase 1 of a new town sign project. Funding will help purchase materials for 3 town sign replacements on west & east sides of town along Highway 10 as well as north side along county road M-12. Funds will also be used to landscape one location (west sign location on Highway 10).
- **Sutherland Park Board - \$3,000:** Toward the purchase of eight picnic tables to be placed in the new open shelter house that was built in 2010.
- **Sutherland Police Department - \$4,066:** For the purchase of an in-car video system for its squad car to help capture evidence, deliver evidence to court, as well as protect officers and the community.

Education

- **Hartley Community Daycare - \$6,000:** Funding toward improving the energy efficiency of the building with new kitchen faucets and plumbing insulation, window and door replacements, roof replacement, and heating and air conditioning systems.
- **Hartley Public Library - \$1,500:** For scanning and digitizing the 81 reels of microfilm dating from 1887 through 2010 in order to preserve history. This newspaper archive includes all newspaper issues of the Hartley Record, Hartley Journal, Hartley Herald, Hartley Sentinel and Hartley Everly-Royal

News. Process will allow anyone with a computer to access the newspapers.

- **Kids Express Daycare - \$6,000:** Funding toward the replacement of unsafe playground equipment and updating the playground with added equipment.
- **Kids Kampus Daycare - \$6,000:** To assist with the purchase of a 15 passenger van to provide safe reliable transportation that meets all safety standards for transporting children to and from school, outings, and activities in the summer.
- **Primghar Public Library - \$1,165:** Toward replacement of the current book return with a new book return delivery system.
- **Sanford Sheldon Medical Center - \$5,000:** Funding toward the purchase of a Virtual Driver Interactive System which will be used to publicly educate students and adults on the importance of safe driving habits. The system will help educate people on the consequences of poor decisions while driving such as being impaired by alcohol or drugs, texting and cell phone use, peer distractions and distractions from other electronic devices.
- **Sheldon Community Daycare Center - \$3,000:** Funding toward the purchase and installation of playground equipment in a portion of the playground that will be age appropriate for older children that attend the center.

Health

- **O'Brien County Extension - \$5,000:** Support for Rock Into Fitness program that targets middle school youth to promote physical, nutritional and emotional wellness. This year's expanded will run from July 2011 through May 2012.

Human Services

- **Family Crisis Centers of NW Iowa - \$3,300:** Funding for the purchase of computers, a fax machine, a scanner, and printers for use in the O'Brien County offices in Sheldon and Primghar.
- **Rotary Club of Rock Valley Foundation, Inc. - \$2,000:** Funding for reimbursements to volunteers that provide client-related transportation at no cost to 29 home-based seniors through the Senior Companion Program. Provide transportation to doctor's appointments, for getting groceries, or running errands, etc.
- **Rotary Club of Rock Valley Foundation, Inc. - \$2,000:** Funding for travel reimbursements to seniors in the Foster Grandparent Program that volunteer to help children reach their full social and academic potential at area Head Start Centers, elementary schools and non-profit daycare centers. Currently assist over 300 children in O'Brien County.

The mission of the O'Brien County Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of life in the communities served by encouraging permanent charitable giving to meet the needs of present and future generations.

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