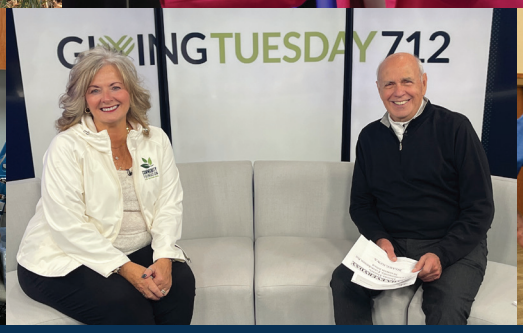


COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR WESTERN IOWA

2025 community IMPACT REPORT

OUR TEAM FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Catrina Trabal | Director of Operations
Sam Kruse | Community Engagement Manager
Rachel Morehead | Director of Marketing + Engagement
Donna Dostal | President + CEO
Cathy Wright | Finance Manager
Mindi Skokan | Operations Manager

This Annual Impact Report was proudly designed internally by the Community Foundation's director of marketing and engagement. A digital version is available on our website by visiting: www.givewesterniowa.org/impact

Photography credit to: Debra S. Kaplan, Rachel Morehead, Traci Stoop, Catrina Trabal, WIDA, and Community Foundation Fund Holders.

A Year of Record-Breaking Impact!

Looking back to 2025, the impact your generosity and leadership toward positive change has created across our entire western Iowa region shines through and illuminates the future possibilities our communities hold and treasure. **Hope, growth, and positive impact are the prevailing themes, and you helped to drive all three throughout the entire year.**

At the Community Foundation for Western Iowa, we strive to do three simple things every day: 1) be the bedrock and foundation for philanthropy so that giving back is easy and barrier-free in our region; 2) bring the change-makers, the necessary resources, and appropriate solutions together for positive change; and 3) be a subject-matter expert in all things having to do with giving back or growing impact. If we do these things well, we have confidence in the fact that our communities thrive, our nonprofit partners are able to succeed in their work to alleviate and address challenges that hinder progress or create community stressors, and our entire region has the resources and expertise they need to build consensus and access necessary information for success.

You play the most important role in this work. **You are the change-maker…you are the impact influencer…you make communities happen.** In the past year, your generosity and leadership resulted in 195 grants from donor advised, designated, scholarships, and agency funds, equaling to an incredible $4,577,091 being impactfully invested back into our region and beyond. You also came out in a HUGE way during GIVING TUESDAY, our region's largest and most powerful day of giving. More than $1.76 Million was raised to benefit nonprofit organizations doing the hard work of making our communities strong, vibrant, and filled with the promise of prosperity and positive change.

In 2025, we said farewell to our longtime employee and dear friend, Kelly Dix. Kelly worked with us at the Community Foundation for 10 years and was an instrumental part in our impact and growth throughout the entire region. Kelly retired in May 2025 but unfortunately lost her valiant battle with colon cancer on February 4, 2026. **We miss Kelly dearly and honor her memory in this issue of our impact report.**

We are pleased to provide you with a look back at the impact you created in 2025. Because of you, the Community Foundation for Western Iowa is here to help make it easy and seamless to give back and create change that can last for generations. **Your giving spirit shows us time and again that communities thrive, and great things happen when you give where we live!**

Sincerely,

Donna Dostal
President and CEO

IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED *Kelly Dix*

Our hearts are filled with sorrow at the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Kelly Dix, who passed away on February 4, 2026, after a valiant three-year fight with cancer.

In May 2025, Kelly stepped away from the Community Foundation to spend more time with her husband and children. Our team and Board of Directors held a small private reception for Kelly to share our love and fondest memories. We were so fortunate to have Kelly Dix as a member of our family for nearly 10 years. Her expertise, leadership skills, attention to detail, and professionalism was unmatched.

As Vice President of Operations, Kelly was our "guarding light" and helped the Community Foundation navigate through the Council on Foundation's National Standards accreditation process three times, spearheaded our building's renovation during 2020-21 (and helped lead through Covid), assisted with our organizational name change and re-brand in 2022, and managed the incredible life-changing gifts to the Community Foundation that helped to grow our assets to over $83 million.

Kelly's kind heart, gentle grace, tireless strength, and courage under tremendous adversity set a shining example for all of us. And, her unwavering commitment to her family was inspirational.

We are grateful for Kelly's dedication, service to our community, and the lasting impact she has made in our lives.

We love you, Kelly.

2025 BOARD *leadership*

CONNIE CASSON
Neola, IA

KATE CUTLER
Council Bluffs, IA
Board Vice Chair

RYAN DAISY
Council Bluffs, IA

SHERYL GARST
Council Bluffs, IA

LUCY HOUGH
Underwood, IA

SHEILA JACOBS
Council Bluffs, IA
Board Secretary

JOHN JERKOVICH
Council Bluffs, IA

MICK MCKINLEY
Council Bluffs, IA
Board Chair

DAN PETERSON
Neola, IA

CHRISTY SAUSER
Council Bluffs, IA
Board Treasurer

STACY NELSON
Council Bluffs, IA

NANCY SCHULZE
Council Bluffs, IA

COMMITTEES

Our valuable committee members provide specialized expertise, promote engagement, and ensure effective operations by providing insights and recommendations to our Board of Directors.

SEE OUR LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

- EDUCATION
- EXECUTIVE
- FINANCE
- HOUSING
- IMPACT GRANTS
- INVESTMENT
- MARKETING
- MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE FUND
- UNMET NEEDS
- WOMEN'S FUND OF SOUTHWEST IOWA

2025 *Impact*

21 NEW FUNDS *established*

TOTAL ENDOW IOWA ASSETS $47,094,717

We are proud to be able to offer the Endow Iowa Tax Credit, a 25% state tax credit on qualified gifts.

The Endow Iowa Tax Credit is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis for gifts made to a permanent endowment fund established for the benefit of Iowa charitable causes at a qualified community foundation in Iowa, like the Community Foundation for Western Iowa.

Giving through the Community Foundation to the causes you care about is rewarding in more ways than one. Those who give to an Endow Iowa fund are eligible to receive a 25% state tax credit for their gift, and are also able to take advantage of the tax credits in conjunction with federal tax deductions.

TOTAL ASSETS
$86,134,651

1,019
DONATIONS *received*
$3,706,034

LAND HOLDINGS AND OPERATIONS
$6,801,545

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS
$8,565,942

COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND
$2,961,557

AGENCY FUNDS
$7,375,361

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP
$1,001,085

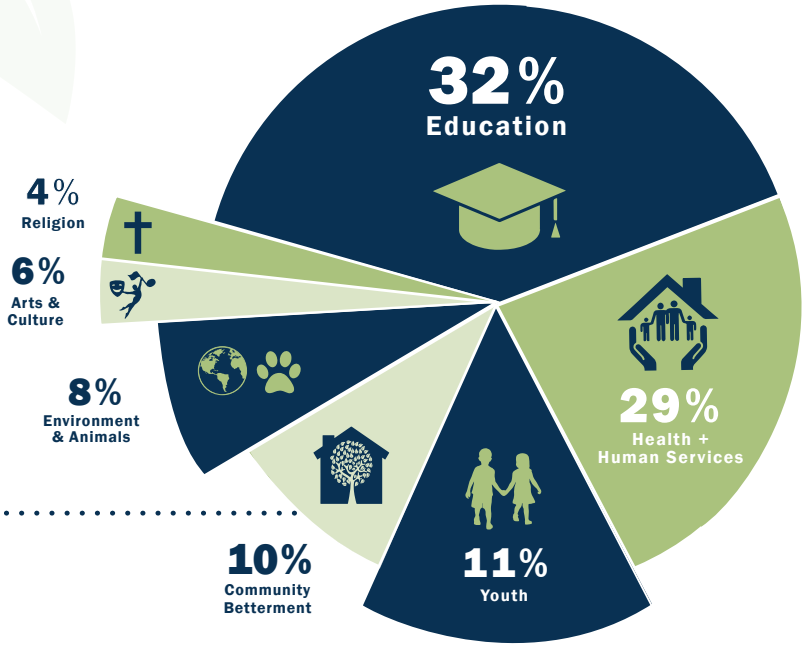
AFFILIATE FUNDS
$233,463

INDIVIDUAL FUNDS
$21,943,258

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS
$37,252,440

240 TOTAL # OF FUNDS

INVESTORS AWARDED
$4,577,091
THROUGH 195 GRANTS



funds LISTING

DESIGNATED

Designated Funds allow you to support the work of a specific nonprofit organization – a senior center, museum, church or virtually any nonprofit charitable organization.

All Care Health Center Endow Iowa Fund
Betterment of the City of Crescent Fund
Council Bluffs Parks & Recreation Foundation Fund
Council Bluffs Parks & Recreation Foundation Endow Iowa Fund
Council Bluffs Downtown Kiwanis Designated Endowment Fund
Council Bluffs Schools Foundation Endowment Fund
Des Moines Diocese Seminarian Endow Iowa Fund for Priestly Formation
DREAM Playground Endowment Fund
Joe Lehan - Minden Community Fund
Mathiasen Mercy Hospital Continuing Education Fund
MICAH House Endowment Fund
New Visions Homeless Services Endowment Fund
Pottawattamie Conservation Endowment Fund
Pottawattamie County Special Deputy Sheriffs Fund
Rene & Marguerite LaPrade Fund for St. Patrick Catholic Church
Shelby County Catholic School Education Tuition Endow Iowa Fund
Union Pacific Museum Association Endowment Fund

EXPENDABLE

Expendable Funds are not usually invested for the long term but will be used to meet a pressing priority. Expendable gifts can be for unrestricted or restricted use and have a large impact in the year that they are received.

Bethany Lutheran Health Services Expendable Fund
Harlan CSD Education Foundation Expendable Fund
Life Changing Dog Training Apprentice Program Fund
Life Changing Dog Training Program Fund
Minden, Iowa Community Fund
Nonprofit Cybersecurity Fund – American PCS, Inc.
Oakland Aquatic Center Fund
Parks to People Project Fund
Pottawattamie County Shop with the Sheriff Fund
Pottawattamie Veteran Service Office Expendable Fund
Riverside Pride Expendable Fund

AGENCY

Agency Funds are a simple and efficient way for nonprofit organizations to build an endowment and help create sustainability, while providing dollars to meet agency needs.

Avoca Cemetery Trust Fund
Avoca Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund
Avoca Public Library Fund
Bethany Lutheran Health Services Agency Fund
Carson Community Fund
Children's Square Endowment Fund
Firefly Fund
Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library Fund
Glenwood Community School Foundation Fund
Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs Fund
Harlan CSD Education Foundation Endowed Fund
Harlan CSD Education Foundation Endow Iowa Fund
Heartland Family Service Lakin Campus Endowment Fund
Historic General Dodge House Endowment Fund
Hope-Net Community Fund
Hope-Net Endowment Fund
Iowa YMCA of Greater Omaha Endow Iowa Fund
Iowa YMCA of Greater Omaha Endowment Fund
Jennie Edmundson Foundation Fund
Lewis Central Endow Iowa Fund
Lewis Central Impact Fund
Lookout Village Operating Endow Iowa Fund
Lookout Village Operating Endowment Fund
Macedonia Hamilton Development Corp. Fund
Macedonia Hamilton Development Corp's Mural and Public Art Fund
MICAH House Corporation Endowment Fund
Mills County Storehouse Endowment Fund
Montgomery County Family YMCA Endow Iowa Fund
Montgomery County Family YMCA Endowment Fund
NAMI Southwest Iowa Endowment Fund
Nishna Valley Family YMCA Endowment Fund
Pottawattamie County Trails Fund
Pottawattamie Veteran Affairs Fund
Riverside Community School District Endowment Fund
Riverside Community Schools Endow Iowa Fund
Southwest Iowa Educational Foundation Fund
Southwest Iowa CASA Program Fund
SWITCH - Southwest Iowa Technical Career Hub Fund
Treynor Community Athletic Booster Club Endow Iowa Fund
Trivium Life Services Endowment Fund
Trivium Midwest Endowment Fund
Trivium Mountain West Endowment Fund
Trivium New England Endowment Fund
Union Pacific Museum Association Agency Fund
Walnut Community Center Fund
Walnut Fire & Rescue Fund
Westfair Endowment Fund

FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS

Fiscal Sponsorships are a great way for community groups and civic organizations to focus on creating lasting change. We offer our legal and tax-exempt status, as well as marketing and administrative expertise to groups working on projects and engaging in activities related to the Community Foundation's mission.

Carter Lake Village Winter Festival
CenterSphere CB 01
Charles E. Lakin Capital Campaign Fund
Council Bluffs Veteran Banner Project
Father's House International
Maisy & Marley's Purpose
Pottawattamie County 911 Dispatch Enrichment Fund
Pottawattamie County K-9 Unit Support Fund
Project Lifesaver Fund
Southwest Iowa Art Tour
Southwest Iowa Down Syndrome Parent Group
Southwest Iowa Technical Career Hub (SWITCH)
Tech Access and Inclusion Fund

SCHOLARSHIP *funds*

Amplify your impact to future generations of learners and leaders!

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR WESTERN IOWA

The Community Foundation for Western Iowa is your connection in helping to preserve and grow the quality of life in our region by supporting higher education for area students.

Charitable investors and donors establish scholarship funds at the Community Foundation in honor or memory of a loved one, or to recognize a family, business, or a specific area of interest.

FUNDS CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Barbara J. Green Scholarship
Cari Farver Memorial Scholarship
Deputy Melvin Richardson "Be Good" Memorial Scholarship
Doug Goodman Memorial Scholarship
Douglas S. Lash Memorial Scholarship
Fletcher and Avonell Nichols Achievement Scholarship
Hamilton-Junior ROTC Scholarship
Harry & Jane Paul Memorial Scholarship
HGM Associates, Inc. Education Scholarship
Hoff Family Arts Scholarship
Jill E.Pechacek, M.D. Memorial Scholarship
John and Rose Dalton Westfair Scholarship
Joseph DeHoyos Carle Memorial Scholarship
Kelly and Joan Scott Scholarship
Kerrie Orozco Memorial Scholarship
Marilyn Weber Memorial Scholarship
Mid-Day Optimist Scholarship
Nick Benzing Memorial Education Scholarship
Nick Benzing Memorial Scholarship
Obert "Ob" and Gaye (Brown) Rutenbeck Annual Senior Scholarship
Reason-LeKander Memorial Scholarship
Richard P. Wenninghoff Memorial Scholarship
Riverside Links Scholarship
Roger and Shirley Madsen Thomas Jefferson High School Scholarship
Ryan Nash Memorial Scholarship
The Clyde and Fern Stuntz Memorial Scholarship
Thomas Jefferson Class of 1965 Quandt Memorial Scholarship
Thomas Jefferson Class of 1966 Scholarship
TJ Class of 1967 Scholarship
Wisecup Family Scholarship
Southwest Iowa Educational Foundation Scholarships and Subfunds

In 2025, 52 students totaling $184,000 were awarded undergraduate, veterinary medicine and internship scholarships to Iowa State University through the Community Foundation's partnership with SWIEF and Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Since the Fund's inception, 181 total scholarships have been awarded totaling $468,000.

SOUTHWEST IOWA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Southwest Iowa Educational Foundation (SWIEF) was founded in 1984 for the purpose of administering scholarships to the students of southwest Iowa. SWIEF scholarships are limited to eligible senior students who attend high school in the following southwest Iowa counties: Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby. Other eligible high schools include: Boyer Valley, Exira-EHK, IKM-Manning, and Southwest Valley.

In 2025, nearly 130 students from 30 area high schools received over $525,000 in scholarships from SWIEF. SWIEF solicits and awards more than 140 scholarships for southwest Iowa students in partnership with the Community Foundation for Western Iowa. The Community Foundation manages and administers the scholarship funds.

RICHARD P. WENNINGHOFF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2021, the late Rick Wenninghoff left a $5 million endowment gift to the Community Foundation earmarked for scholarships in the Treynor and Underwood Community School Districts – a gift that will benefit students for generations.

Since its inception, the Richard P. Wenninghoff Memorial Scholarship has awarded a total of **$1.5 Million** in scholarships and significantly impacted the lives of 82 students graduating from Treynor and Underwood. **In 2025, 8 students from each school district (16 total, pictured above) were awarded $5,000 scholarships**, which are renewable for up to four years.

BARBARA J. GREEN SCHOLAR: LAINEY DEVRIES

VIEW 2025 GREEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Lainey DeVries, a native of Red Oak and recipient of a Barbara J. Green Memorial Scholarship, spent her summer months interning with our friends Evan Summy and Kelly Summy at Midwest Ag Services in Council Bluffs. Her internship was in preparation for her third year at Iowa State as an Agricultural Business major.

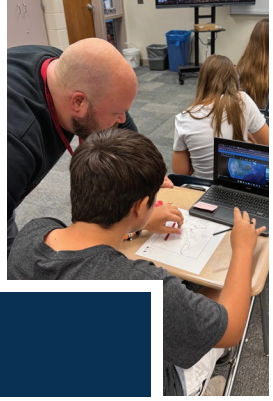
During her internship, Lainey gained hands-on experience supporting day-to-day operations while actively engaging in three core disciplines: farm management, appraisal, and real estate. She contributed to both collaborative projects and independent tasks, developing strong communication and problem-solving skills along the way.

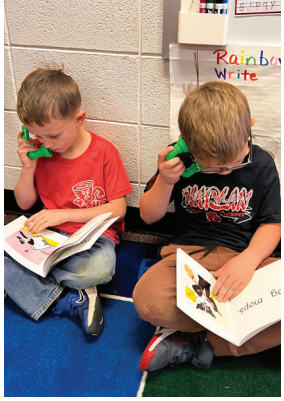
Lainey's willingness to lean into each area gave her a well-rounded perspective of the work, and she consistently demonstrated adaptability, curiosity, and a positive attitude as a valued part of the Midwest Ag Services team.

"We're proud to offer internship opportunities that give students meaningful, real-world experience across the agricultural industry," said Evan Summy, President of Midwest Ag. "Our ongoing relationship with Iowa State and the Community Foundation allows us to connect with talented individuals like Lainey and support the next generation of professionals in a hands-on, impactful way."

The Barbara J. Green Century Farm, valued at $5.9 million in 2019, was donated to the Community Foundation with the intent for the land to continue to be farmed and used for agricultural purposes. The Community Foundation is in charge of the land in perpetuity, and annual farm proceeds are provided to the Iowa State University Foundation as scholarship and internship support for students attending the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and studying agriculture, with a preference for southwest Iowa students residing in Pottawattamie, Mills and Montgomery counties.

impact IN ACTION





HARLAN COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The **Harlan Community Education Foundation** is strategically focused on building a sustainable future for the Harlan Community School District (HCSD) through its partnership with the Community Foundation for Western Iowa. In 2025, the Harlan Community Education Foundation created an endowment, an Endow Iowa fund and an expendable fund to support their goals, initiatives and future plans.

Present Goals and Initiatives

The Foundation's immediate priorities center on enhancing the educational experience for current students and staff through several key "buckets" of funding:

- Teacher and District Grants: Allotting $10,000–$15,000 annually to support innovative classroom projects and district-wide needs.
- Teacher Scholarships: Providing 10 scholarships of $1,000 each annually to support educator professional growth.
- Community Engagement: Increasing the donor base to 125 active contributors and expanding the alumni network to 1,000 contacts to foster a broader "community of champions."
- Immediate Impact Projects: Recent successes include funding ClearTouch boards for all PK–12 classrooms, playground equipment for the intermediate building, and Camp Invention scholarships for students.

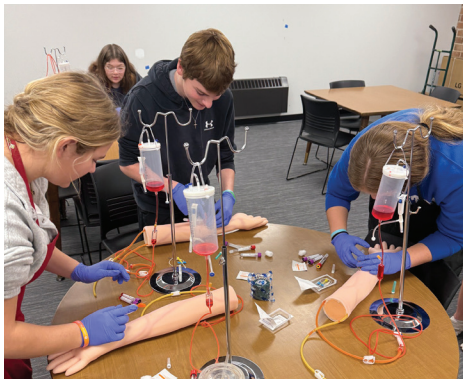
> **"The Harlan Community Schools Foundation mission is to enhance Cyclone success in school and life with a vision of being a destination for a community of CHAMPIONS. We chose to partner with the Community Foundation for Western Iowa because it is an Iowa-based organization that aligns with our goal to create a lasting legacy. This partnership allows us to build a sustainable financial structure that will outlive any one group of leaders, ensuring our children, families, faculty, and staff are supported now and far into the future."**
>
> **Dr. Jenny Barnett**
> **Superintendent**
> **Harlan Community School District**

Future Plans and Long-Term Vision

The Foundation's roadmap is anchored by ambitious financial and structural goals designed to provide permanent support for HCSD:

- Endowment Growth: A short-term target of $250,000 by June 30, 2026, with a long-term "sinking fund" goal of $2.5M over the next decade.
- Annual Giving Targets: Establishing a consistent cycle that provides $35,000 in annual support to the district for technology updates and evolving educational requirements.
- Strategic Partnerships: Continuing to leverage the "Endow Iowa" tax credit to incentivize major gifts and collaborating with regional entities like the Southwest Iowa Student Wellness Alliance for specialized grants.

HARLAN COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



FRIENDS OF THE COUNCIL BLUFFS PUBLIC LIBRARY

> **The support from the Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library Fund allows the library to reach even more community members and provide access to resources and services throughout Pottawattamie County.**
>
> **Antonia Krupicka-Smith**
> **Council Bluffs Public Library Director**

The Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library Fund was created in May 2019 to support programs and services of the Council Bluffs Public Library. The agency endowment ensures long-term financial sustainability for the Council Bluffs Public Library, and under the management of the Community Foundation, their charitable purpose will be preserved in perpetuity.

The Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library Fund has supported numerous programs and services over time, including early literacy initiatives like 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, and community-wide programs such as Summerfest, Costume Night, and Winterfest.

In 2025, the Fund invested in a larger project – Willow on Wheels – the Library's new outreach van used to transport materials to the library kiosk, local events, and much more. Funds also supported the attractive vehicle wrap and assisted in the training of staff members that drive the van.

COUNCIL BLUFFS
Public Library

impact IN ACTION

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD MUSEUM

Lolli Bryan, a delightful woman with a big personality, first became a Patron of the **Union Pacific Railroad Museum** in 2019. As a lifelong railfan, Lolli was excited to participate in the Museum's 2019 gala fundraiser, an excursion behind the newly restored 4014 Big Boy Locomotive. Lolli took a train from her home in California to Omaha for the event, and stepped foot into the UP Museum for the first time.

When the 2020 pandemic caused the UP Museum's doors to close, staff launched virtual happy hours (now called Club Car Conversations). Lolli attended the virtual programs and was an avid participant. It was an excellent opportunity to get to know Lolli and other out-of-state patrons, and help them stay connected to the Museum's mission. Lolli particularly enjoyed the virtual show and tell sessions that gave her an opportunity to show off treasured items from her extensive collection of railroadiana — artifacts of currently or formerly operating railways around the world — and share stories about her other passion, horses and carriage driving. Lolli was truly fascinating.

Whenever she came to visit her cousin John, and his family in western Iowa, Lolli would call ahead and the Museum team would provide her with a special tour experience. She loved that the Museum offered free admission, and enjoyed seeing all of the young families exploring the galleries. Lolli and Vanessa Dobles, executive director of the UP Museum Association, talked a lot about sustainability and the importance of long term stability to weather situations like the pandemic. In February 2024, those conversations culminated in Lolli's decision to amend her Living Trust to include a gift to the Union Pacific Museum's endowment. Her incredible choice indicated that Lolli enjoyed the Museum, as much as the Museum team enjoyed her. Lolli passed away peacefully on July 13, 2024. Her estate settled in late November 2025 just in time for the best Giving Tuesday gift the UP Museum has ever received — an incredible donation of $476,123.37. Lolli's gift was transformational to a nonprofit organization their size.

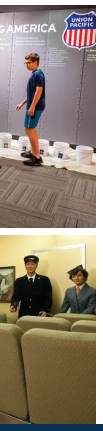
With the UP Museum's Endowment — created at the Community Foundation in 2017 — now at just over $1.5 Million, the annual disbursement to their operational budget provides increased stability, and allows their Board of Directors to boldly look forward in planning the future of the Museum.

Back in 2023, the Museum engaged in Strategic Planning,

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DONATES $100,000 TO WESTFAIR

The Community Foundation for Western Iowa has been a champion of Westfair's capital campaign – Spirit of Westfair – since the beginning. Through meetings, planning sessions, and helping to create an endowment fund to provide sustainable, long-term financial support, the Community Foundation is honored to partner with Westfair so they can continue to fulfill their mission for generations to come. **We were delighted to support their transformational project with a $100,000 grant in 2025!**

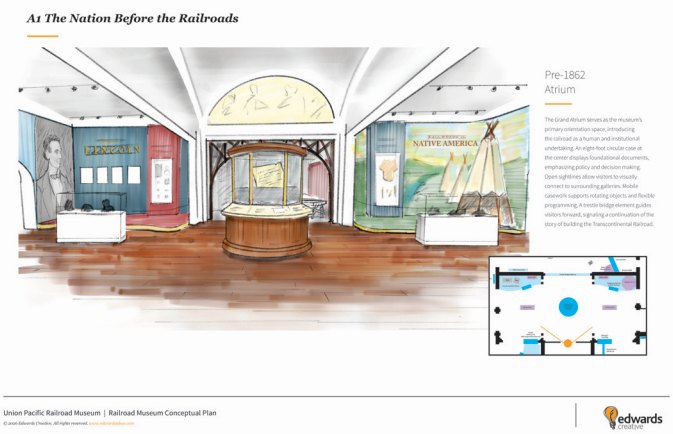
LEARN MORE!



> **Our mission at the Union Pacific Museum is to share American history through the lens of the railroad; connecting generations who have been impacted by Union Pacific. The Community Foundation for Western Iowa is an essential partner for the museum in delivering on this mission. We are grateful for their partnership and for museum patrons like Lolli Bryan – her story and her impact will not be forgotten.**
>
> **Vanessa Dobles**
> **Executive Director, UP Museum Association**

developing a five-year plan. They continued with a formal exhibit assessment in 2024, and began the conceptual design process in 2025. Due in part to Lolli's gift and the financial security it provides, the Museum is delighted to be moving forward in 2026 with phase one of its renovation, the Grand Atrium Project. This renovation is part of the museum's ongoing commitment to enhancing visitor experience and sharing key historical materials in new and engaging ways.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MUSEUM AND BECOME A PATRON!



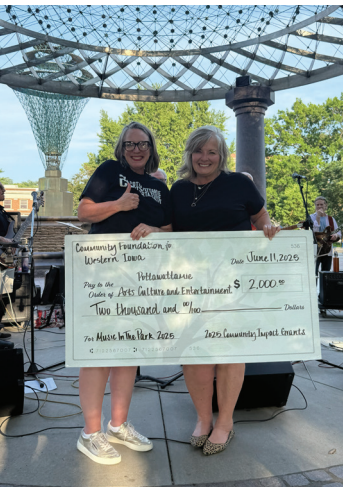
The first phase of the multi-year project will bring history to life with custom-designed, illuminated animations in the Grand Atrium, which serves as the heart of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum.

NELSON ENDOWMENT FUND FOR ADVANCEMENT

Kristine and Chris Nelson, residents of Council Bluffs and employees of Union Pacific Railroad, started their donor advised fund at the Community Foundation for Western Iowa in 2025. The **Nelson Endowment Fund for Advancement** was created in memory of Chris' father Alan, a United States Army Veteran, who passed away in April 2025. The new fund will honor how generous Alan was to his family, and will create a transformational legacy.

Kristine and Chris are excited to honor Alan's memory through their fund by supporting projects focused on making their hometown and region strong and vibrant.

Awarded 37 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS TOTALING $66,876



Pottawattamie County Impact grants are a legacy program of the Community Foundation for Western Iowa. Grants are available to organizations whose innovative and meaningful work benefit the lives of all Pottawattamie County residents, and range from $500 to $5,000. The first cycle of 15 Community Impact Grants was awarded in 2008, totaling $15,256. Since inception, the Community Foundation has awarded nearly $700,000 to over 500 programs and projects within Pottawattamie County.

2025 GRANT AWARDS

Applied Information Management Institute | $1,000
Southwest Iowa Youth in Tech Program

All Care Health Center | $2,000
Breaking Barriers to Care through Interpretation

American Midwest Ballet | $2,000
AMB Season 16 Education & Community Engagement

Ataxia Connection | $1,000
A Better Tomorrow Grant Program

Avenue Scholars Southwest Iowa | $2,000
Summer Career Experiences

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands Inc. | $2,000
Readers to Leaders

Carson Business Club | $500
32nd Annual Carson Christmas Celebration:
Gnome for the Holidays

Carson Community Rodeo | $2,000
2025 Skybox Addition

Carter Lake City Hall | $1,500
Carter Lake Village Winter Festival Lighting Ceremony

Carter Lake Public Library | $2,000
Pollinator Event

Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus | $3,000
Back to School Extravaganza

CHI Health Mercy Council Bluffs | $2,000
The Basic Health Needs Assistance Program

Avoca Main Street | $1,450
Entertainment and Customer Engagement

City of Avoca | $1,000
Holidays on Main Street

Council Bluffs C.A.R.E.S. Inc. | $1,500
Tropical Paradise Prom 2025

Council Bluffs Public Library | $1,800
Reminisce and Visit with the Library

Dexter's Dream Foundation | $1,000
Sensory Santa

Dreamweaver Foundation | $1,500
Music, Laughter, and Memories for Seniors

Eckels Memorial Library | $4,000
Story Walk in the Park

Focusing Philanthropy | $1,000
Increasing Vision Care Access for Pottawattamie County Students

Friends of Iowa CASA | $2,000
It Starts With You Program

Inter-Faith Response, Inc. | $2,000
Program Fund

Iowa Legal Aid | $2,000
Legal Services for Low Income Pottawattamie County Residents

Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital Foundation | $2,000
Caring for Our Communities

Macedonia Historical Preservation Society | $1,000
The Painted Camel Gallery, 2025 Programming

Midlands Humane Society | $900
Compassion in Action: Supporting Pets and Their Owners in Times of Need

Midlands Latino Community Development Corporation | $2,000
Economic Development for Immigrant Communities

Oakland Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department | $1,214
Windshield Cutter and Reciprocating Purchase

Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty, Inc. | $1,500
Southwest Iowa Poverty Alleviation Initiative

Omaha Performing Arts | $1,500
Southwest Iowa Music & Arts Education Programs

Omaha Symphony | $1,500
2026 Mission Imagination Education Program at
Iowa Western Community College

Partners for Livable Omaha | $1,500
June Council Bluffs Youth Talent Show

Pottawattamie Arts Culture & Entertainment | $2,000
2025 PACE Music in the Park Series

Prevent Blindness Iowa | $1,000
Children's Vision Screening

Reach Out and Read, Inc. | $1,000
Investing in Pottawattamie County's Youngest Children

Share My Smile | $1,000
Project Birthday Joy

Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc. | $1,000
No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!

Southwest Iowa Art Tour | $1,000
12th Annual Southwest Iowa Art Tour

Southwest Iowa Leadership Academy | $500
2025-26 SWI Leadership Academy

TeamMates Mentoring Lewis Central | $500
Furnishing for Mentoring Areas

The Salvation Army | $500
Personal Care Pantry

Thriving Titans | $2,000
Thriving Titans Clothing Closet

Visiting Nurse Association | $1,500
Parenting Support- Helping Pottawattamie County Families Thrive

Walnut Community Center Foundation, Inc. | $2,500
Playground Update

FIELD OF INTEREST *funds*

Field of Interest Funds allow donors to target gifts that address a specific area of community life. The arts, at-risk youth, education and the environment are just a few examples. Donors can identify their personal interest area when making contributions and the Impact Grants committee and Community Foundation Board will award grants to community organizations and programs that are making a difference in the selected area of interest.

Field of Interest Funds ensure that gifts remain flexible enough to meet community needs in the interest area, even as they change over time.

Revitalize Southwest Iowa Funds were created in 2024 by the Charles E. Lakin Foundation. The Lakin Foundation established four Field of Interest Funds to enhance local housing, childcare and educational causes in Treynor, Stanton, Malvern and Atlantic.

Women's Fund of Southwest Iowa supports programming designed to improve the quality of life and well-being of women and their families in a nine county service area. Focus areas include: education initiatives; access to affordable and quality childcare; women's health, safety and well-being; and aging in place.

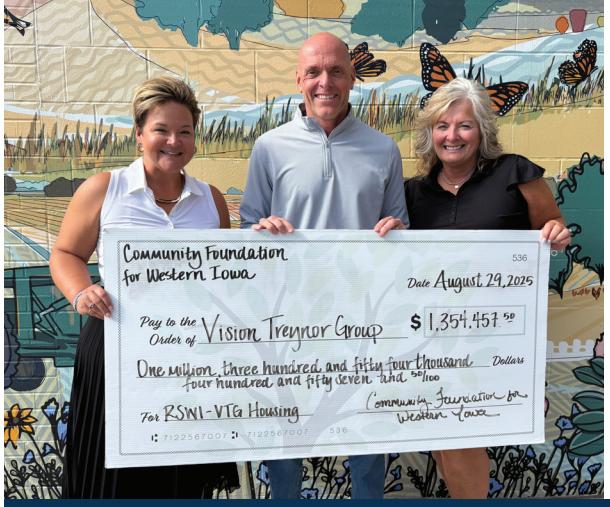
Southwest Iowa Mental Health & Substance Abuse Fund creates long-term, sustainable and quantifiable positive impact in nine Iowa counties through professional development and awareness.

Pottawattamie County Disaster Long-Term Recovery and Unmet Needs Fund (Southwest Iowa Covid-19 Response) was established in 2019, this Fund supports long-term disaster relief needs not addressed by federal, state and local funding programs.

Rassekh Education Fund was created in 2021 to support education initiatives and programming in Pottawattamie County.

Rassekh Health & Human Services Fund, established in 2021, supports health and human services in Pottawattamie County through clothing assistance, addressing food insecurity, homelessness, and family and youth well-being.

Tauke Outdoor Recreation Fund was established in 2021 to support maintenance, repair, improvement or construction of Pottawattamie County or City of Council Bluffs Parks.



VISION TREYNOR GROUP

Vision Treynor Group is leading the transformational initiative of creating a new housing division surrounding the Treynor Family Recreation Complex, better known as "The T."

Utilizing funds from their field of interest endowment, Vision Treynor Group will develop the land for a new 37-home subdivision, which will be a catalyst for growth in their community and bring new families, businesses, and economic opportunities. Vision Treynor Group was also the recipient of a 5% annual grant from the endowment, which they used to complete the final enhancements to the Treynor Family Recreation Complex.

Additionally, the Community Foundation has been a proud supporter of Vision Treynor Group and the Family Recreation Complex through our Community Impact Granting program since 2019.

2025 Breakfast Event Sponsor

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK

MARCH MENTAL HEALTH EVENT

The Community Foundation hosted its third annual Mental Health & Substance Use Fund event on March 26 at Iowa Western for over 50 community members, business leaders, and mental health providers.

Hosted by the Southwest Iowa Mental Health & Substance Use Fund Committee and sponsored by American National Bank, the breakfast event featured frontline medical and emergency professionals, and mental health subject matter experts to share insights, inspiration, and available resources in our region for First Responders, Veterans, and their Families.

Presenters and organizations included:

- **Chief Matthew Davis**
  Chief of Police
  Council Bluffs Police Department
- **Leah O'Brien, LIMHP, CPC, LADC**
  Director of Behavioral Health
  First Responders Foundation
- **Mary O'Neill**
  Chief Operating Officer
  Heartland Family Service
- **Deputy Jerome Stewart**
  Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office - Iowa
- **David Tuttle**
  Suicide Prevention Manager
  Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System
- **Jenene Vandenburg, MS, BSN, RN**
  Vice President of Patient Services
  Chief Nursing Officer
  Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital
- **Gail Williams, MS, LMHP**
  Clinical Director
  At Ease USA

SOUTHWEST IOWA MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE FUND

A fund of the Community Foundation for Western Iowa

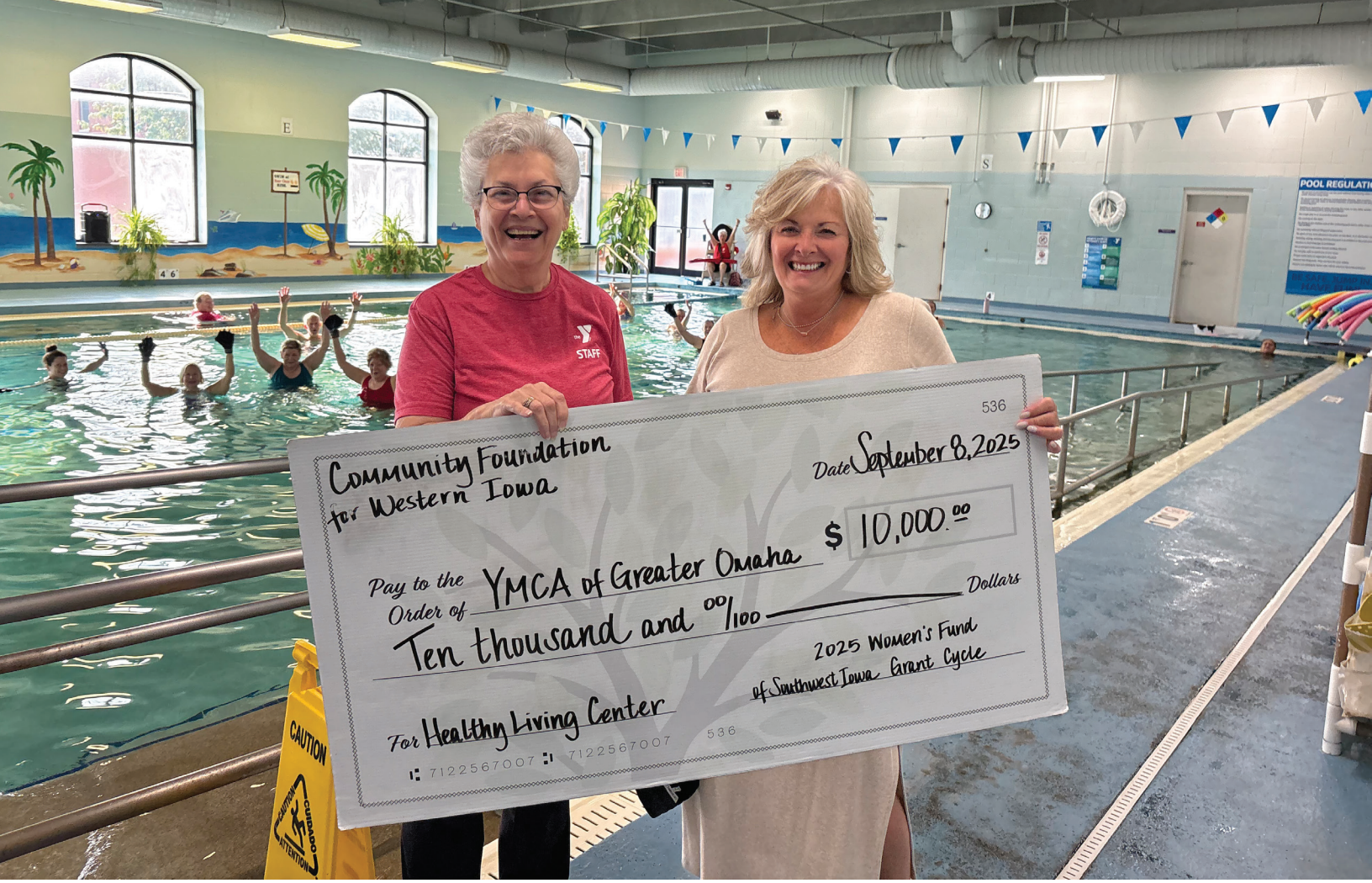
The Southwest Iowa Mental Health and Substance Use Fund grants to the following counties in Iowa: Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby.

2025 PROJECT FUNDING

NAMI SOUTHWEST IOWA received $2,500 for the ReConnect Peer Insights program — a trauma-informed, peer-led educational program designed to support incarcerated individuals living with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Delivered weekly at the Pottawattamie County Jail, the 90-minute session provided accessible, evidence-informed education for individuals who may never have received formal mental health support. The program's core curriculum addresses the relationship between trauma, substance use, and mental health, introducing concepts such as emotional regulation, symptom identification, relapse prevention, and community-based support options.

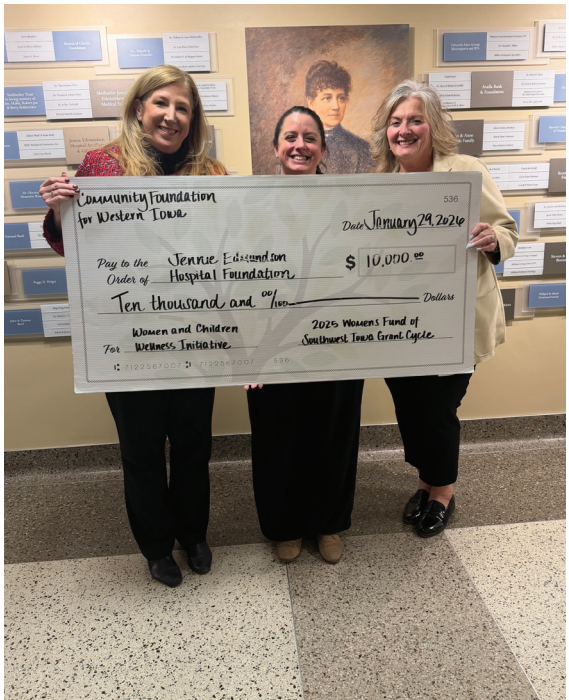
COLLECTIVE FOR HOPE received $2,500 to support expenses associated with Camp Hope — a supportive overnight retreat that brings together youth (ages 10-18) for connection, reflection, and a little bit of adventure. Surrounded by trained grief facilitators and caring adults, campers received structured grief support and experienced traditional camp offerings such as creative arts, outdoor exploration, team-building activities, campfire time, and space to simply be together and make friends. Camp hope reduces stigma around grief and loss and creates a safe space for children and family to openly discuss loss.

ALL CARE HEALTH CENTER received $2,495 to implement the Five Wishes Program. Three behavioral health professionals completed the Five Wishes facilitator training focused on developing communication skills and framing conversations. Grant funding also enabled All Care to purchase printed and digital versions of the booklet to ensure equitable access for all patients regardless of insurance status, income or ability to pay.



WOMEN'S FUND *awards* $100,000 IN GRANTS

WOMEN'S FUND
of Southwest Iowa



The Women's Fund of Southwest Iowa awards grants annually to nonprofit organizations who provide services within the geographic area and can demonstrate need and ability to create change to the benefit, growth, education, and welfare of women and their families. The fund creates positive, durable change to connect the solution with the need in four focus areas: education initiatives for women of all ages; women's health, safety and well-being; access to affordable, quality childcare; and aging in place.

ALL CARE HEALTH CENTER | $5,000 Grant funding provided free cervical cancer screenings for low-income uninsured women. By removing financial barriers, the project ensured women at or below 200% of the federal poverty level could access vital preventive care at no cost.

CAM CUBS CHILDCARE | $5,000 Grant funding helped support Cam Cubs Childcare in Anita, Iowa with the purchase of furniture, equipment, and a new camera system.

FAMILY CRISIS CENTERS | $6,000 Women's Fund grant dollars helped to sustain the vital work of Family Crisis Centers' Homicide & Other Violent Crimes program that provides free, confidential support to victims of human trafficking, homicide, assault, and other violent crimes in Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties.

IOWA LEGAL AID | $5,000 Iowa Legal Aid provides civil legal services to low-income women at no cost to them, including legal representation and education to help stabilize their lives. Grant funding from the Women's Fund of Southwest Iowa supported salaries and benefits (85% of budget) for attorneys, paralegals, and non-legal staff serving women.

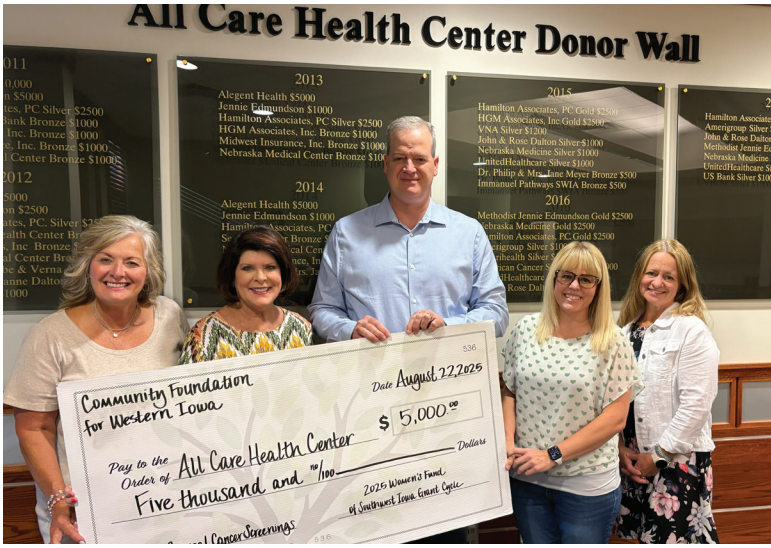
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION - WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY | $5,000 Grant funding supported the training of program facilitators. By training, staff raised their own awareness and tought adolescents and teens in two 45-minute lessons about personal safety skills, peer support strategies, and how to prevent and deal with the important issue of online exploitation, including sextortion.

JENNIE EDMUNDSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION | $10,000 Grant funding supported Caring for Our Communities in Mills and Pottawattamie Counties — a program helping individuals facing poverty, housing instability, food insecurity, and other barriers to health and well-being.

KIDS IN THE VILLAGE | $10,000 Women's Fund grant dollars were used for tuition assistance, materials and training resources. As women gain confidence, leadership skills and credentials, they become better equipped to implement best practices, support child development, and contribute to a thriving, stable childcare system.

MICAH HOUSE CORPORATION | $5,000 Grant funding directly supported full childcare tuition scholarships for families experiencing homelessness and unable to pay, ensuring that no child is turned away due to financial hardship.

NEW VISIONS HOMELESS SERVICES | $10,000 Grant funding to the Women First Initiative allowed the New Vision's Street Outreach Program to primarily focus on women experiencing homelessness, providing opportunities to assist with rental application fees, first month's rent and deposits, vital records such as birth certificates, license, State ID's, and Social



Security cards required for employment and housing, bus tickets, gas vouchers, and hotel vouchers for short-term safe placement.

OMAHA/COUNCIL BLUFFS BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY | $5,000 Grant dollars supported the "Getting Ahead" program where women learned valuable fiscal management, positive social-emotional growth tools, and developed soft skills like problem-solving, time management, goal setting, negotiation, professional communication, emotional regulation, and basic financial management.

PLAY HAVEN CHILD CARE | $12,500 Play Haven is a child care facility that offers age-specific rooms for up to 50 children for children up to 5 years of age. Grant funds supported construction playground costs, indoor and outdoor play spaces, and opportunities to engage with senior residents from Peace Haven.

SOUTHWEST IOWA FAMILIES, INC. | $6,500 Grant dollars supported classes for expecting and new parents with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to successfully breastfeed their babies. Led by Certified Lactation Consultants, classes offered guidance and practical support and focused on the importance of breastfeeding and overall health benefits for Mom and baby.

YMCA HEALTHY LIVING CENTER | $10,000 Grant funding supported the Healthy Living Center — the only wellness facility in the metro area designed specifically for older adults. With women being more than 65% of its 2,000+ members the Healthy Living Center plays an important role in helping women age in place through safe, senior-focused fitness programs and robust social engagement opportunities.

Premier Presenting Sponsor

THE ROD RHODEN FOUNDATION

SUPERIOR 1 Honda Of Omaha

ACURA Acura Of Omaha

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HOSTS SUMMIT FOR 550 ATTENDEES

The Community Foundation hosted its third IMPACT for Women Summit on Thursday, September 25 at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs with over 550 attendees, and the support of 45 sponsorships from philanthropic businesses and individuals in western Iowa.

The powerful, biennial event is an opportunity for our region to see the impact of the Women's Fund of Southwest Iowa and bring awareness to the challenges facing women and their families in the fields of education, childcare, safety and well-being, and aging in place.

The 2025 Summit, emceed by local celebrity and news personality, Deborah Ward, was packed with dynamic conversations geared toward sharing knowledge and building community to support women in our region. Subject matter experts shared stories and information, each highlighting a different touchstone of what drives the Women's Fund.

This year's special keynote speaker was Academy, Oscar, and Golden Globe Award-Winning-Actress and published author, Marlee Matlin. Ms. Matlin was incredibly dynamic and inspiring, sharing her personal story of resilience as a warrior and survivor of domestic violence and addiction, and the highs and lows of her Hollywood career.

Many thanks to the 2025 Premier Presenting Sponsors — the Rod Rhoden Foundation, Acura of Omaha and Superior Honda of Omaha, and all of our amazing supporters for investing in women and for helping us raise awareness of the serious issues facing women and their families in our Fund's nine-county region.

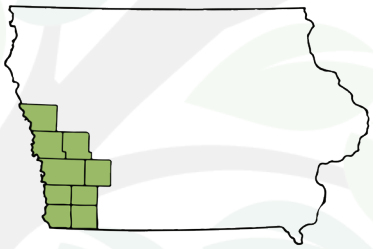
VIEW EVENT DETAILS AND PHOTO ALBUM

WOMEN'S FUND *Impact*

55 *grants awarded*

TOTALING $495,160

9-COUNTY *service area*



- CASS
- FREMONT
- HARRISON
- MILLS
- MONONA
- MONTGOMERY
- PAGE
- POTTAWATTAMIE
- SHELBY

GRANTS BY FOCUS AREA

13%	34%	20%	33%
AGING IN PLACE	CHILDCARE	EDUCATION	HEALTH, SAFETY & WELL-BEING

2025 impact

share IOWA

In 2025, SHARE Iowa connected community members and donors to 277 nonprofit organizations in the Community Foundation's nine county region: Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby.

SHARE Iowa continues to amplify the needs of the entire nonprofit community and inspire a culture of giving in western Iowa. The free and inclusive platform gives nonprofit organizations a chance to be seen and heard regardless of size, focus area or budget, and helps organizations communicate events, offer online wish lists, promote volunteer opportunities, and receive monetary donations.

277
NONPROFIT PARTNERS

$109.65
AVERAGE DONATION
A 25% INCREASE FROM 2024

337 DONATIONS
THROUGH SHARE PLATFORM

DO GOOD DAYS RECAP – APRIL 23-26

SHARE Iowa celebrated Do Good Days on April 23-26 during National Volunteer Week! Nearly 20 nonprofit leaders attended a free networking opportunity and panel discussion around marketing and communications sponsored by InoTek, LLC. Panelists included Craig Carlsen, Director of Marketing at the Council Bluffs Convention and Visitors Bureau, Jacey Kallsen, Communications Manager at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, and Rachel Morehead, Director of Marketing and Engagement at the Community Foundation.

SHARE Iowa awarded its third annual "Do Gooder of the Year" award to Christine Versaw for making a lasting impact in the lives of children through her volunteer role at the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation.

"Christine is generous with her treasures and is also generous with her time," said Bridgette Watson, Executive Director at the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation. "She loves kids and loves supporting the school district."

Christine has supported the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation for many years, thinking about the kids every time she leaves her house. She purchases items and supplies that can be used in classrooms or at the Early Learning Center, and also visits numerous garage sales looking for gently-used books. The books are gifted to kids to help build their at-home libraries, and are also distributed to Kids & Company and at some of the District's high-risk schools. Christine has donated countless hours of her time, and has delivered school supplies and thousands of books to the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation office.

The impact Christine has made at the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation is immeasurable and her support continues to make a tremendous difference in the lives of children in the Council Bluffs School District.

GIVING TUESDAY 712

ACTIVATE YOUR COMMUNITY

Kiley Miller, Senior Data Center Services Specialist for Alliant Energy, joined us in Stanton, Iowa on October 27 for a Giving Tuesday 712 launch event, "Activate Your Community." Kiley shared his insights and experience on how Iowa communities have utilized their collective resources to implement amazing change projects. More than 50 attendees learned practical strategies for community engagement; discovered how to activate local partnerships and resources; and connected with other nonprofit and community leaders from across the region.

IOWA COMMUNITIES TOP $1.76 MILLION FOR GIVING TUESDAY 712

The giving spirit was alive and well in western Iowa for Giving Tuesday 712. For the third consecutive year, Giving Tuesday 712, sponsored by Katelman Steel Fabrication, exceeded its $1.5 million goal. Through the generosity of 645 community members, nonprofit partners using SHARE Iowa and the Community Foundation's donation platform collectively raised $1,765,096, shattering the 2025 goal by over $200,000 – a true testament to the giving spirit of individuals, families, and businesses across our region.

The average SHARE Iowa donation was up 16% to $111.48 compared to the 2024 average of $95.82, and 147 nonprofit partners on SHARE Iowa benefitted from online donations.

The Community Foundation partnered with generous area businesses and individuals to award a record 37 $1,000 hourly prizes to active nonprofits on SHARE Iowa's giving platform – 24 of which were sponsored by Google.

VIEW PRIZE WINNERS & PHOTOS

AFFILIATE UPDATE

FOUR CORNERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

In 2025, Four Corners Community Foundation (4CCF) – an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Western Iowa – granted $1,000 to Southwest Iowa Leadership Academy. Grant dollars supported the Southwest Iowa Leadership Camp for 100 seventh graders from schools including Kirn, Lewis Central, Saint Albert, Treynor, Tri-Center, Underwood, and Wilson. The immersive leadership camp empowers youth, inspires change, and builds up local young leaders.

4CCF FUNDS LISTING

Lamar Hartje Legion Post 725 Fund
Treynor Optimist Fund
Vision Treynor Group
Treynor Recreation and Trails Commission
Treynor Community Schools Fund
SWIA Leadership Academy
Southwest Iowa Impact Fund
Treynor Legion Post 725 Boys State and Girls State and Scholarship Programs Fund
Give Recovery Fund

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FOR WESTERN IOWA

The Community Foundation for Western Iowa is dedicated to creating a lasting legacy in our region by engaging our citizens and communities for durable change and fostering a culture of philanthropy. *This is where giving grows.*

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Council Bluffs, IA 51503
712.256.7007
www.givewesterniowa.org

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PROGRAM OF
COUNCIL BLUFFS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE