

News from...



HCF distributes \$12,000 in Impact grants

BY DON RATZLAFF
The Free Press

The Hillsboro Community Foundation awarded 14 area organizations and programs a total of \$12,000 in the fourth round of its Hillsboro Area Impact Fund grants Friday evening during half-time of the Hillsboro High School boys' basketball game.

The largest grant of \$2,000 went to the Hillsboro Senior Center and the smallest, \$350, was awarded to the HHS Chess Guild.

HCF established the Impact Fund as an undesignated endowment used to enhance the quality of life in the Hillsboro area. After raising more than \$266,000 in donations and pledges during the inaugural 2007 campaign, the first Impact Fund grants were awarded in 2008.

Including the \$12,000 being distributed Friday, a total of \$33,000 has been awarded over the past four years to organizations providing a variety of programs and services that enhance the lives of residents.

Following is the list of recipients and the designated purposes for the 2011 grants.

■ **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marion County** (\$500). The "Bigs in Schools" program provides one-on-one tutoring for at-risk students by matching them with carefully screened volunteers, many of whom are high school students.

■ **FACT: Families and Communities Together** (\$1,500). The Hillsboro Area Financial Assistance Fund provides emergency financial assistance to families residing in Unified School District 410.

■ **Goessel AGAPE Inc.** (\$500). The funds will be used to help purchase and install a door opener at the AGAPE Senior Center to improve access to services for frail and disabled individuals.

■ **Hillsboro Elementary School After-School Program** (\$750). The program provides activities for at-risk students between first and sixth grade who may be without adult supervision. Grant money will provide financial assis-



PHYLIS RICHERT PHOTO

TOP: Accepting one of the 14 Hillsboro Community Foundation grants for Marion County Big Brothers/Big Sisters from HCF chair Keith Harder is Jackie Rice, director. BOTTOM: Receiving a grant for the Hillsboro Fire Department from Bryce Wichert, HCF board, is Lloyd Spencer.

tance for students to participate in community activities.

■ **HHS Chess Guild** (\$350). The Chess Guild provides instruction, clinics and competition in the game of chess for about 30 students. The grant will allow the Guild to provide free lessons to students, plus opportunities to grow in skill, self-confidence, problem-solving skills and self-discipline.

■ **Hillsboro Convention & Visitors Bureau** (\$500). The organization shows three newly

released movies during June, July and August. "Family Movie Night" offers a venue where families, friends and guests can enjoy quality time together, free of charge.

■ **Hillsboro Fire Department** (\$1,200). Funds from the grant will be used to enclose the back end of the rescue truck so equipment can be securely stowed and transported to the scene of a rescue event.

■ **Hillsboro Police Department K-9 Unit** (\$500). The unit serves in the battle against drugs

in the community, participates in drug-awareness demonstrations and acts as a deterrent to drug-related activity. The funds will be used to replace Rico, the current HPD canine, who is 12 years old and will be retired.

■ **Hillsboro Police Department D.A.R.E. program** (\$400). The drug-abuse resistance program is a cooperative effort between law enforcement and schools. For each of 16 weeks, a Hillsboro police officer will make a presentation to each fifth-grade class about stressors, peer pressure, choice and consequences related to drugs and alcohol. The grant will help purchase supplies for the program.

■ **Hillsboro Public Library** (\$500). Grant funds will be applied to purchasing new Internet access computers for public use. Currently, the library averages 18 Internet users per day.

■ **Hillsboro Recreation Commission** (\$1,000). Grant funds will be used to purchase three portable sound systems that will be used for commission activities, including HHS softball and baseball games and Tabor College softball games.

■ **Hillsboro Senior Center** (\$2,000). Grant funds will be used to replace the sterilizer in the kitchen and upgrade the site manager's computer.

■ **Main Street Ministries** (\$1,800). The MSM Food Bank serves the less fortunate in the community and surrounding area. Usage has increased 1,500 percent over the past six years, averaging 50 to 75 families per month, which equates to 200 to 300 individuals. Grant funds will be used to supply the food bank.

■ **Tabor College Theater's Community Performance Project** (\$500). The project, a collaboration between Tabor and USD 410, involves alumni and students from both institutions and several adults from the community. The production of "To Kill a Mockingbird" last month was an example of how drama can be used to communicate basic human values.



Marga Ebel in her later years as a resident of Salem Home in Hillsboro.

COURTESY PHOTO

Local benefactor lived modestly

BY DON RATZLAFF
The Free Press

Relatively few people knew Marga Ebel during the years she lived in the community, but her estate gift of \$350,000 to the Hillsboro Community Foundation will do a lot of good for local children in the years to come.

Delores Dalke, mayor of Hillsboro and Ebel's friend and power of attorney in her later years, said her story is a classic example of surprising charitable impact: An elderly person with a spartan lifestyle and low profile who leaves behind a sizeable financial gift to benefit a good cause.

"A lot of people didn't even know her," Dalke said of Ebel. "I had no idea, when her life was all over, that she would make such a splash here in the community."

Ebel's posthumous impact would have been hard to predict. She was born in Nebraska as the only child of Otto and Lydia Ebel, immigrants from Germany. The family eventually returned to the homeland, where the father ran a candy factory.

"Marga had a great childhood in Germany, going to school and in later years she loved to tell about the parties and other events she attended," Dalke said.

But when World War II erupted, their lives were disrupted. With the Russian Army advancing on their city, Marga and her parents left everything behind and fled to an island in the North Sea. All that they owned was either bombed or burned by the time the war ended.

After a two-year stint as refugees, the Ebels came to Hillsboro with the financial assistance of the Schaeffler family, relatives who ran the successful Schaeffler Mercantile on Main Street.

While her parents found work in the community, Marga attended Tabor College, where she earned a teaching degree. She then taught school in Rose Hill and in various schools in Wichita.

Ebel completed her teaching career with a satisfying stint at the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita (now operating as Heartspring).

When her parents developed health issues, Ebel returned to Hillsboro to care for them.

Dalke said she got know to Ebel about 30 years ago and they became friends. Dalke said she didn't become aware of Ebel's financial assets until later.

"It wasn't that she ever made a huge salary, she just took care of what she had," Dalke said. "She

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Foundation reports major gifts for community's benefit

■ HCF assets could exceed \$1 million within six years.

BY DON RATZLAFF
The Free Press

Leaders of the Hillsboro Community Foundation led a celebration of past, present and anticipated activity during a community-wide appreciation dinner Tuesday, Nov. 9, at the Parkview Mennonite Brethren Church Activity Center.

Key announcements included receipt of a bequest exceeding \$350,000 from the estate of Hillsboro resident Marga Ebel, a matching-fund grant of up to \$300,000 from the Kansas Health Foundation and the appointment of HCF's first staff person.

The financial developments, which included a fundraising campaign to take full advantage of the KHF matching grant, could push the combined assets of HCF to well over \$1 million within six years, according to Keith Harder, chairman of the HCF board.

"We had about \$250,000 in our Impact Fund, and with what we've already received from the Ebel estate and the Kansas Health Foundation, we now have about \$600,000 under the foundation umbrella," Harder said.

"If we receive the additional matching requirement and the rest of the Kansas Health Foundation grant, it will be in excess of \$1 million."

Recent start

Hillsboro Community Foundation, formed six years ago, was launched with the successful completion of a community-wide campaign to raise \$250,000 to establish the Impact Fund. That fund has resulted in local grants totaling \$33,000 to 18 area service groups and organizations over the past four years.

Since then, several other endowed funds have been established under the HCF umbrella. Included are endowments to support park maintenance in Lehigh, the operation of the Hillsboro Senior Center and upkeep of the Scout House in Memorial Park.

The Ebel gift, which will qualify for about half of the matching funds awarded by KHF, will establish an endowment for the support of children's health in the community.

That designation could include a range of causes, Harder said.



Kathy Decker: part-time HCF executive director.

"It's not health care—the Kansas Health Foundation doesn't want this money going to hospitals or doctors," he said. "They really want it to build wellness and encourage activities that

promote health in the community."

The KHF matching grant for Hillsboro was one of 12 announced last December as part of its GROW II program, which stands for Giving Resources to Our World Healthy Kansas Initiative.

The \$300,000 will be applied to donor contributions to HCF over the next six years at a 2-to-1 or 4-to-1 match, depending on the designation of the gift. That would make a \$1,000 charitable gift to the foundation worth either \$1,250 or \$1,500, Harder said.

Organizational support

In addition to the matching funds for health-related endowments, HCF will receive organizational training, one-on-one consulting and support from KHF as well as an annual operating grant of 3.5 percent of the matching grant award for six years.

For HCF, that means about \$10,000 a year for operations.

"That's what we're using to fund Kathy Decker as our new executive director," Harder said. "(KHF) really want us to build up our infrastructure and ensure that these foundations will endure."

Decker, who officially began the part-time position Nov. 1, worked for nearly 27 years with Great Plains Federal Credit Union in Hillsboro before retiring a couple of years ago.

In her new role, Decker will become the public face of the foundation in the Hillsboro area as well as assisting residents with their estate goals through HCF.

"As I've been getting oriented to the foundation and what it's about, my own excitement has been building about it—it's a very worthy thing," Decker said.

"I think there's a lot of people who don't have any idea what the foundation is all about and what it does," she added. "Hopefully, that will be part of my job—to see that

more people do learn about the foundation and what they can do (through it).

"It's a way to give back to your community and a way for people to know they can direct how their contributions will be used," she added. "It's a legacy for them over the years. In that respect, it's very beneficial for people doing estate planning."

Celebration emphasis

Harder said the KHF matching grant has been in the works for more than a year and last Tuesday's dinner was one way to share the good news with the community.

"We've been holding off from any kind of public announcement (about the matching grant) because we wanted to do some more strategic planning to leverage it as much as possible," Harder said.

"In the meantime, we heard about the (Ebel) estate gift, which will cover approximately half of the matching requirement of the Kansas Health Foundation grant."

Harder said the board downplayed the community fundraising campaign—estimated to be in the \$400,000 range over six years—that will be required to make full use of the KHF matching grant.

"We really wanted to make it an appreciation and information night," he said. "We wanted to thank people who gave to the Impact Fund and helped with some of these other funds, and then to report that there are more opportunities for them to consider."

"We didn't have people fill out pledge forms or really emphasize that we would be needing to receive additional money to realize the full potential of the KHF grant."

The dinner program also included reports from two recipients of Impact Fund grants, Janet Whisenhunt representing the Hillsboro High School Chess Guild, and Jackie Rice representing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marion County.

Larry Hatteberg, news anchor at KAKE-TV Channel 10, was the featured presenter.

Hillsboro Community Foundation can be contacted by mail at P.O. Box 273, Hillsboro, KS 67063 or by e-mail at hillsborocommunityfoundation@gmail.com.

HCF is in the process of establishing a Web site which is still in the concept stage. Decker may be reached by calling 620-947-0170.

Hillsboro Area Impact Fund Donors

As of January 1, 2011

Together Planting Possibilities for Tomorrow

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Donor Recognition Levels

Foundation Friend
up to \$2,999
Bronze Founder
\$3,000-\$4,999
Silver Founder
\$5,000-\$9,999
Gold Founder
\$10,000 or more

HCF Board Members

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Delores Dalke	Mike Padgett	Robert W. Loewen
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wasn't a hermit—she went out to eat with her friends.”

But Ebel was frugal and conscientious.

“She was so very, very careful with everything she got her hands on,” Dalke said.

“The only car she had, that I know of, was some kind of '60s model Chevrolet. After she didn't drive anymore, she sold it to a lady who was one of the caregivers who came in to look after her.

“I know she sold it for \$500,” Dalke said. “Then there was something wrong with it because it hadn't been driven for so long. So she gave the lady back \$100 because she thought she had taken advantage of her.

“That's just the kind of person she was.”

In Ebel's later years, Dalke asked her where she wanted her assets to go after she passed away. Ebel's original desire, Dalke said, was to have them distributed among her friends.

But when she outlived them all, Ebel and Dalke talked about other options. With Dalke's help, they developed a trust for her, which covered her expenses during her final five years at Salem Home in Hillsboro.

It was there that she expressed a desire to help children with the remainder of her estate.

“She said make sure they have good health care,” Dalke said. “Her last teaching position was at the school of logopedics, so she understood very well about kids with needs, and not having all the resources to take care of them.”

The estate gift, the precise amount of which is still being finalized, has been set up as an endowed fund through HCF. It will be enhanced with up to \$150,000 more, thanks to the \$300,000 matching grant from the Kansas Health Foundation.

“What will be spent is the income off the endowment, not the endowment itself,” Dalke said. “So it will be there forever.”

10K Club

Many of us make gifts to charity throughout our lifetime. We give regularly to our church or other favorite charities to support the causes that we feel strongly about. Why not make those gifts last by beginning an endowment through the Hillsboro Community Foundation's 10K Club?

What is an Endowment?

An endowment is a permanent fund which is invested to earn income to be given to your designated charities. The principal amount is never spent. Only the income is distributed. This allows the charities to receive an annual gift from an endowment forever. An endowment creates a lasting gift that gives again and again...and again.

"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world"
—ANNE FRANK

How the 10K Club Works

The 10K Club allows you to begin an endowment to support your favorite charities. You agree to contribute a minimum of \$1,000 per calendar year for the next 10 years or until your 10K Club account reaches a minimum of \$10,000.

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

—WINSTON CHURCHILL

Once the account reaches this amount, you will have the option of recommending a distribution of 5% of the balance of the account. You may choose to have the entire 5% go to one charity, or you may choose multiple charities (with a minimum distribution of \$100). You may also elect not to make any recommendations and allow the money in the account to grow and be used for future gifts.

As a member of the 10K Club, you will receive newsletters and invitations to 10K Club events. However, the most rewarding part of membership is supporting the causes that are important to you and making a difference in the lives of others!

YES! I / We would like more information about joining the 10K Club!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Some charities or causes that I/we may be interested in supporting with my 10K Club account include (this information will remain confidential):

I / We would like help identifying charities to support

The best time to call me to set up an appointment to visit about the 10K Club is:

Mornings Afternoons Evenings

Comments or Questions:

Hillsboro Community Foundation, P.O. Box 273, Hillsboro, KS 67063 • hillsborocommunityfoundation@gmail.com
Kathy Decker, Executive Director, 620-947-0170

EXISTING FUNDS OF HILLSBORO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Here is a listing of funds established within the Hillsboro Community Foundation. Each of these is open for additional contributions:

Enclosed is my/our contribution to the:

\$ _____ **Hillsboro Area Impact Fund***—an undesignated endowment fund established to enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Hillsboro area. Grants are distributed annually to deserving community groups through an application and selection process.

\$ _____ **Clariece and Dean Schroeder Endowed Fund for Scout House Maintenance***—The Scout House is home to local scouting programs and is used in the community for receptions, reunions and public meetings. This fund will provide for ongoing maintenance of this attractive log structure.

\$ _____ **Lehigh Parks Endowment***—established in 2008 with funds from the sale of Lehigh Senior Center, endowment earnings will be used to enhance public areas in and around Lehigh.

\$ _____ **Hillsboro Senior Center Endowment***—Earnings will provide for support of ongoing programming and facilities of the local senior center.

\$ _____ **Children's Health Endowment***—a new fund established in 2010. This fund will enhance and encourage healthy lifestyles for young people in Hillsboro and surrounding areas through education, recreation and all things connected to good health.

\$ _____ **Hillsboro Community Foundation Operational Endowment Fund***—earnings support operational and promotional expenses of HCF to assure stability for service to future generations.

\$ _____ **Expanding Our Influence Stadium Campaign Fund***—a project fund established to cover costs of the new Joel Wiens stadium above those funded by USD 410 taxpayers through a local bond issue. \$1.77 million remains to be raised.

\$ _____ **"your name here" Endowment Fund***—can be established with as little as \$1,000 per year to fund projects that are meaningful to you—See 10K Club information top of this page.

*denotes endowment funds for which contributions are eligible to be matched by a Kansas Health Foundation Grant at a rate of between 25 cents and 50 cents for each dollar given.

MAIL TO: HILLSBORO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, P.O. BOX 273, HILLSBORO, KS 67063

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I/we would like more information about including HCF in my/our estate plan.

I/we want more information on the 10K Club