

News from...



Hillsboro Community Foundation distributes annual checks

■ Record amount of \$16,300 presented in 2013

BY DON RATZLAFF
The Free Press

Hillsboro Community Foundation presented grant checks totaling a record \$16,300 Feb. 12 to 11 area public-service organizations and causes.

The presentation occurred during halftime of the Hillsboro High School boys' basketball game against Halstead.

This was the first year grants were awarded through the Kansas Health Foundation Fund, which was established about three years ago and has grown through annual contributions to the required \$150,000.

The other nine grants came through the Hillsboro Area Impact Fund.

Following are the recipients of this year's grants, with an explanation from each organization about its work and its intention for the money.

■ **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marion County, \$1,500.** "Bigs in Schools" is a one-

on-one mentoring program that matches at-risk children with carefully screened, caring volunteers, many of whom are high school students. Mentors meet weekly with their child at school to eat lunch, do homework or just talk.

■ **Circles Marion County, \$2,000.** Circles is a handful of people seeking solutions to the problem of poverty. The population served are adults and families who are experiencing resource shortages, and if not rectified will result in long-term adverse effects for household members and the community as a whole.

■ **Families And Communities Together (FACT), \$2,000.** The Hillsboro Area Family Financial Assistance Fund provides emergency financial assistance to families that reside in the USD 410 School District. "Children and families function better in all areas of their lives if they have uninterrupted shelter with water and electricity, adequate nutri-

tion, medical services and access to transportation."

■ **Hillsboro Chess Guild, \$500.** The Chess Guild provides instruction, clinics and competition in the game of chess for about 30 students, grades kindergarten through 12. The grant will allow the guild to provide free lessons to students and opportunities to grow in skill, self-confidence, problem-solving skills and self-discipline.

■ **Hillsboro first-grade teachers, \$2,000.** The project will provide six iPads for first graders. The primary goal is to impact struggling learners by engaging them in the use of purposeful and intentional educational apps. These iPads will be shared by the three first-grade classrooms during core instruction, as well as during math and reading intervention times.

■ **Hillsboro Public Library, \$1,750.** The

Continued on Back Page



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Jared Jost (right), a member of the Hillsboro Community Foundation board of directors, hands a Hillsboro Impact Fund check for \$2,000 to four local first-graders last Tuesday during halftime of the Hillsboro High School boys' game. Receiving the check with some apparent trepidation are (from left) Zaylee Werth, Levi Allen, Zander Haslett and Dawson Boldt. Behind them are their teachers, Michelle Faul, Julie Linnens and Eleanor Jost. The money will be used for iPads. Eleven area entities received checks totaling \$16,300.

A Worthwhile Investment that Makes a Lasting Impact: USD 410 Early Childhood Education Fund

"The best way to improve the American workforce in the 21st Century is to invest in early childhood education." - James Heckman (Nobel Laureate in Economics)

Research firmly establishes that early experiences have a profound impact on the development of children's brains and the cognitive, social, emotional and physical foundations of their lives. In fact, 85% of brain development happens before age 5. For the past several years, USD 410 has offered Parents as Teachers (PAT) for parents of children birth to 3 years of age and pre-school for children ages 3-5. These programs are vital to ensure our children are kindergarten ready. Eventually, these students will be expected to master a curriculum that prepares them for college and career readiness.

Lori Soo Hoo, Coordinator of

Marion County Parents as Teachers states, "Marion County PAT is a vital piece to the college and career readiness puzzle because we provide information, support and encouragement to families during those crucial early years of life while they are laying a strong foundation for their child's skill development

within the areas of Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Literacy." Early childhood programs including PAT and quality preschool are research proven as a critical first step to meeting the ultimate goal of college and career readiness for all of USD 410's students.

USD 410 and the Hillsboro

Community Foundation established the USD 410 Early Childhood Education Fund. This fund will be used to accept monetary gifts to help continue and expand quality PAT and pre-school programs in the school district. The exciting news is the Early Childhood fund now has over \$22,000! Our goal with our "alumni campaign" is to generate \$50,000 of additional dollars for this fund. This alumni newsletter reaches nearly 3,000 people so one can see how this goal is quite attainable.

Research from the Rand Corporation on Labor and Population (2005) found that well-designed early childhood interventions have been found to generate a return to society ranging from \$1.80 to \$17.07 for each dollar spent on the program.

Please consider a gift to the USD 410 Early Childhood Education Fund.



Lori Soo Hoo meets with the Dies family, Lehigh, Denaye, Wyatt and Ron Dies.

Hillsboro Community Foundation Donors

2012 - 2013

"Building Our Community By Connecting Donors Who Care With Causes That Matter"

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Hillsboro Area Community Arts Endowment Fund

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Clariece Schroeder

C.M. Sextro Memorial Math Scholarship Fund
Robert Sextro

David F. Wiebe Memorial Fund for Hillsboro Pioneer Adobe House & Museum

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HHS Citizenship Award Fund
Robert Sextro

Hillsboro Senior Center Endowment Fund

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The Hillsboro Community Foundation is an affiliate of Central Kansas Community Foundation.

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDS

Building Our Community By Connecting Donors Who Care With Causes That Matter

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 endowed 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.
- Marga Ebel Health Fund** – an estate designated for the health and welfare of the children in the community.
- Kansas Health Foundation Fund** – this fund will enhance and encourage healthy lifestyles in Hillsboro and surrounding areas through education, recreation, and all things connected to good health.
- Hillsboro High School Citizenship Award Fund** – established so each year funds will be used exclusively for the HHS Citizenship Award. I
- Hillsboro Senior Center Endowment Fund** – earnings will provide for support of ongoing programming and facilities of the local senior center.
- Hillsboro CF Operating Fund** – earnings support operational and promotional expenses of HF to assure stability for service to future generations.
- C.M. Sextro Memorial Math Scholarship Fund** – each year funds are awarded to qualifying HHS graduates who have indicated a desire to further their education with a curriculum involving higher mathematics.
- John A. and Harriet Kizler Wiebe Fund for Hillsboro High School** – designated gift for HHS.
- Hillsboro Kiwanis Opportunity Fund** – an endowed gift fund supporting charitable activities and designed to enhance the quality of life in the Hillsboro and surrounding communities.
- Hillsboro Area Community Arts Endowment Fund** – established to promote and enrich our community through various expressions of the arts.
- David F. Wiebe Memorial Fund for Hillsboro Pioneer Adobe House and Museum** – Endowed fund to ensure the future of the House and Museum and to preserve the history of the Mennonite culture.
- USD 410 Early Childhood Education Fund** – Created to support the mission of early childhood education, to enhance school readiness for children birth to age 5.
- Lehigh Parks Endowment** – established in 2008 with funds from the sale of Lehigh Senior Center, earnings will be used to enhance public areas in and around Lehigh.
- 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.

Hillsboro Community Foundation / P.O. Box 273 / Hillsboro, KS 67063

director@hcfoundationks.com

Kathy Decker, Executive Director, 620-947-0170

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

Mail to:
Hillsboro Community
Foundation
P.O. Box 273
Hillsboro, KS 67063



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Members of the Hillsboro Community Foundation board of directors, hand a Hillsboro Impact Fund check to the following community representatives beginning top row, from left to right: Keith Harder to Jackie Rice representing the Marion County Big Brothers and Sisters; Jackie Volbrecht of Circles Marion County from Eileen Unruh; Tamara Heinerman and Ashlee Gann from Randy Whisenhunt; second row, left to right; Mike Moran of the After School program from Kathy Decker; Janet Whisenhunt and two members of the Hillsboro Chess Club from Cynthia Fleming; Deb Ewert to Delorah Kaufman of the Hillsboro Public Library; third row, from left to right: Kimberly Swaney of Main Street Ministries from Steve Noble; Ryan Hefley of the Marion County Fair Association from Randy Wiens; Todd Jost of Hillsboro Boy Scouts from Robert W. Loewen; and bottom right; Bonnie Funk presents to Gretchen Wagner of Parkside Homes. Eleven area entities received checks totaling \$16,300.



Continued from Page 1

Kansas State Library has launched a new toddler/preschool program called "6 x 6" whose main objective is to help parents/caregivers develop six pre-reading skills for their children before they reach 6 years of age and are ready for school. Our library sees preschool children who are not involved in any kind of reading program and we plan to give parents the opportunity to work on these skills with their children while in the library.

■ **Main Street Ministries, \$1,000.** Main Street Ministries' food bank serves those less fortunate in the community and surrounding area. Food is provided by donations and pur-

chases from local grocery stores. An average of 75 to 125 families use the food bank each month, which equates to 205 to 470 individuals. Records are kept on the families who receive foods and recipients are allowed to receive food once every four weeks.

■ **Marion County Fair Association, \$750.** The goal is to bring nationally known gospel artists, Susie McEntire (and friends) to the area. Based on our county's strong religious background, the MFCA board feels that her country gospel concert is an excellent fit. Funds will be used for lodging, meals, rent and advertising.

■ **Boy Scouts of America Troop 129, \$1,300 (KHF Fund).** The grant will provide 14

durable, all-season, two-man tents. Troop leaders hope to reinvigorate their camping and outdoor program and provide healthful activities for the troop. The troop serves all interested young men between the ages of 11 and 18 in the USD 410 area.

■ **Parkside Homes Inc., \$2,500 (KHF Fund).** Parkside Homes would like to help community members stay home longer after extended nursing facility stays. By checking on clients a week after they've gone home, we will help ensure their discharge plan is working effectively. Parkside will bring a prepared meal, a questionnaire and staff would help make contacts to get more assistance in place, if needed.