

News from...



HCF distributes \$14,000 in Impact grants

BY DON RATZLAFF
The Free Press

Hillsboro Community Foundation celebrated reaching \$1 million in managed assets Feb. 7 by giving away free cookies and awarding a record \$14,000 to 10 area public-service organizations and causes.

The celebration occurred during halftime of the Hillsboro High School boys' basketball game against Sterling.

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

■ **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marion County, \$1,000.** "Biggs 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.

■ **City of Hillsboro playground equipment, \$1,750.** The Hillsboro Playground Committee was formed by the city to update the playground equipment at the city park. To date, significant funds have been raised and some equipment has already been installed. Funding from this grant will be used to purchase a handicap-accessible swing and rubber mulch.

■ **Families And Communities Together (FACT), \$2,250.** 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 nutrition, medical services and access to transportation."

■ **Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland, \$1,000.** Building courage, confidence and character is the mission of the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland. This organization serves 80 counties in Kansas, including the Hillsboro Girl Scout Troop. Funds provided by this grant will be used to support the development of girls in the local troop.

■ **Hillsboro Elementary School After School Program, \$1,000.** The focus of the after-school program is to provide healthy, enriching and emotionally developing activities for at-risk students between first and sixth grade who may be without adult supervision. Grant money will help to continue this service and provide financial assistance for students



PHYLLIS RICHERT PHOTO

Hillsboro Community Foundation 2012 Impact Fund grantees gather for the presentation of checks during halftime of the Hillsboro/Sterling boys' basketball game on Feb. 7. This year \$14,000 in grants were given to 10 area public-service organizations and causes.

to participate in community activities.

■ **Hillsboro Chess Guild, \$500.** The Chess Guild provides instruction, clinics and competition in the game of chess for about 30 students, grades 2 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 Police Department K-9 Unit, \$500.** The K-9 Unit serves in the battle against drugs in our community, participates in drug awareness demonstrations and also acts as a deterrent to drug related activities. Rico, the current HPD canine, was retired in 2011 and a replacement has been selected. These funds will be applied to the training and equipment costs for the new canine.

■ **Hillsboro Recreation Commission, \$1,000.** Organizing and facilitating the summer recreation activities for local youth is an ongoing task of the Hillsboro Recreation Commission. Currently, the catcher's equipment used by the baseball and softball programs is in need of replacement. This grant will be applied to purchasing the required equipment while keeping participant fees at a reasonable amount.

■ **Hillsboro Senior Center, \$2,500.** The Senior Center serves the seniors of our community by providing meals, social interaction and informative programs. Funds received from this grant will be applied to the replacement of the kitchen floor at the center.

■ **Main Street Ministries, \$2,500.** Main Street Ministries' food bank serves those less fortunate in the community and surrounding area. Food is provided by donations and purchases from local stores and the Kansas Food



PHYLLIS RICHERT PHOTO

The Hillsboro Chess Guild was one of 10 area organizations and programs to receive an Impact Fund check during halftime of the Trojan boys' basketball game last Tuesday against Sterling. Holding the check for \$500 is Janet Whisenhunt, guild director. Standing with her are guild members (from left) Tristan Rathbone, second grade, Abby Fryhover, fourth grade, and Alex Lubbers, fifth grade. Behind them is HCF board member Robert Loewen, who presented the check.

Bank Warehouse. An average of 75 to 100 families use the food bank each month, which equates to 300 to 400 individuals.

Foundation growth a highlight for 2011

■ Assets reach \$1 million after only five years.

BY DON RATZLAFF
The Free Press

One of the bright spots in Hillsboro's economic picture during 2011 has been the continued growth of the Hillsboro Community Foundation.

"It's remarkable," said Keith Harder, HCF board president.

Thanks to a variety of factors, the charitable funds managed by the foundation, which formally was launched only five years ago this fall, has hit the \$1 million mark.

The best news of all? Some \$28,000 in grants were awarded in



Keith Harder,
HCF board
president



Kathy Decker:
part-time HCF
executive
director.

2011 to help meet a variety of needs within the community.

In February, HCF awarded 14 area organizations and programs a total of \$12,000 in the fourth round of its Hillsboro Area Impact Fund grants.

In July, HCF awarded a \$16,000 grant to USD 410 for the coordination and collaboration of health services in the following areas:

■ USD 410 health services for children ages 5 through 18—staff wellness and coordination, student health and wellness coordination, student dental health coordination and liaison with Head Start health services.

■ Early childhood (birth to 5 years) services coordinated under the umbrella of the Comprehensive Early Childhood Health Initiative, including supervising healthy start home visitation; providing nurse home visitor services, and collaborating with Parents as Teachers, Marion County Special Education Cooperative, Families and Communities Together, Prairie View, Child Start, Health Wave and Head Start.

■ Marion County Health Department for immunization programs, the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program, child-care licensing, healthy start program and county health administration.

The latter grant was a direct result of the Marga Ebel Fund, a

\$350,000 estate gift that was finalized early this year.

"I think probably that was the biggest highlight of the year," Harder said of the now permanent endowment that is designated for the health-related needs of children.

"The other kicker is that it's a matching grant," Harder added.

That means, the Ebel gift will match about half of a \$300,000 matching grant from the Kansas Health Foundation that HCF was awarded in November 2010.

That will leave about \$150,000 that HCF will need to receive within three years to realize the full \$300,000.

Beyond these two developments, Harder said HCF also has accepted several other community-based gifts to manage under its umbrella, including three significant funds that previously had been managed by USD 410: one from John A. and Harriet Kizler Wiebe and two from Robert Sextro, a retired school-teacher.

Rapid development

Hillsboro Community Foundation was launched five years ago with the successful completion of a community-wide campaign to raise \$250,000 to establish the Impact Fund.

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 rapid growth of HCF has been a model for other communities to emulate, according to Sandi Fruit, executive director of the Central Kansas Community Foundation.

HCF, along with about nine other area community foundations, is affiliated with CKCF, which provides accounting service, expertise, broader awareness and tax status.

"As I work with other small communities across central Kansas, I often use the Hillsboro Community Foundation as a great example of what a small community and a dedicated group of volunteers—with a little persistence and patience—can accomplish," Fruit said.

"Their success is due primarily to strong, consistent leadership on their board. Their board has always understood that this is a long-term commitment and that



FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

The chess program in the USD 410 schools is one of the many programs and organizations to receive grants through the Hillsboro Community Foundation Impact Fund. These Hillsboro Elementary School players show the trophies they won at a tournament at Canton-Galva this fall: front row (from left), Zachary Denholm, Tristan Rathbone, Kellan Huebner; back row, Abby Fryhover, Jacob Denholm, Alex Lubbers.

the foundation is about ensuring the future of the community."

Personal touch

HCF has grown to the point where it hired its first part-time employee in 2010. Kathy Decker said her duties as executive director primarily include being a local resource for information and promotion.

"I have made a couple of public presentations and visited with donors," she said. "I've just tried to be out and about to answer questions people might have—and there's been a lot of questions about the foundation and what it does, how it functions and how it's going.

"You never know when those will happen," she added with laugh. "A lot of them aren't really planned, but some of them are."

She said the experience has been a good one.

"It's been a learning and a growing process in so many different ways, plus the excitement that it's generating just within myself for what the foundation is doing and what it can do over the years," Decker said. "It's amazing what an impact it can have for the community."

A tool to be used

While HCF always will welcome general donations to increase the size of its Impact Fund, Harder and Decker said what the foundation really wants to do is be a tool

that people can use to accomplish their charitable objectives.

"What we're really trying to promote is the concept of giving through the foundation, not to the foundation—the whole thing of trying to stimulate people's imaginations about what they could do (for the community) that reflects their passion," Harder said.

"They can give undesignated gifts that will go to the Impact Fund, but I think we're more interested actually to tap into people's interests and concerns, and provide a mechanism for them to fund those concerns long term into the future."

Harder and Decker said a variety of interests have surfaced, some of which may be addressed in 2012. The ideas include funds designated for such things as supporting the arts in the community, FFA and 4-H endeavors, and projects connected with Tabor College.

"It's really a very flexible tool that can be used to reflect and channel resources to a wide variety of projects," Harder said of HCF. "We hope people see it as something they can use to serve their own purposes and tax purposes."

With the end of the year close at hand, Harder and Decker said this is the perfect time to consider making a charitable connection with HCF. Decker can be reached at 620-947-0170.

Endowment created for those passionate for the “Arts”

BY **DON RATZLAFF**
The Free Press

People with a heart for the arts now have a way to promote their passion in the Hillsboro community for generations to come.

The board of directors for the Hillsboro Community Foundation approved the creation of a permanent arts endowment at its March 10 meeting.

“The goal is \$150,000, of which \$50,000 has been pledged,” said Keith Harder, HCF board chair. “It’s not from one source; it’s from a number of people in the community.”

The new endowment is intended to address a perceived need in the community.

“Quality artistic expression requires financial resources,” Harder said. “With reduced funding available from state and federal sources, and uncertain funding for our public schools, additional funding streams are needed to ensure the place of the arts in our community.”

Goals and grants

The board’s goal is to see the endowment fully funded within three years.

“If it’s fully realized, that would mean another \$100,000,” Harder said. “That \$150,000 would fund something like the Impact Fund in terms of organizations making grant applications.”

To process the grant applications and promote the arts in the community, the HCF board will create a five-person Hillsboro Area Arts Council.

“I think we’re envisioning someone from the college, someone from the school system, maybe somebody from city recreation, and a couple of at-large people,” Harder said about the membership.

“Hopefully, this arts council would meet periodically and would be thinking about ways of

enriching our community with artistic expression.”

He said council members would be appointed sooner than later.

“Even after the first of the year, if we had the \$50,000 (in pledges), that’s still \$2,500 that can be given out in grants,” he said.

Types of projects

Projects that could qualify to receive grant funding could cover the arts spectrum, including cultural arts, performing arts and fine arts.

“There are lots of possibilities,” Harder said. “If the college or the local schools had a vision for a children’s theater, or for a traveling music group to come in, those might be examples.”

He said the recent Tabor College production of “To Kill a Mocking Bird,” which included local children in the cast, is an example of a cooperative project that required supplemental funding.

As for the fine arts, Harder said, “I don’t know exactly what exactly that might look like, but if there would be an exhibit, or an exhibit featuring local artists—that kind of thing could easily fit under the broad criteria.”

Harder said the HCF board intends grant money from the new endowment to be above and beyond funds already designated for artistic efforts.

“We want to be careful that we don’t replace existing funding, but that this would be seen as supplementing,” he said. “It’s helping do what otherwise could not be done with available funding.”

With an endowment of \$150,000, about \$7,500 could be available for community projects each year. But the board has not limited the size of the endowment.

“This is the kind of thing people can add to over the years,” Harder said. “It’s not, in that

sense, like a donor-advised fund of any individual—which has its value. The advantage of this is that it’s open-ended.

“The resolution the board passed was for an initial goal of \$150,000, believing that there will be people in the future who will want to contribute to this.”

Added incentives

Beyond a boost for the arts, Harder said another incentive for contributing to the new endowment is that every gift counts toward the \$300,000 challenge grant from the Kansas Health Foundation.

“We still have about \$150,000 to raise to fully realize the \$300,000,” he said. “So every gift is actually a 4-1 match. People are almost doubling their money in terms of multiple benefits.”

Harder described the individuals who made the initial pledges as “people in the community with a strong sense of the importance of the arts in our community, that it makes our community attractive, that it enriches our life together.”

He added, “I personally think the arts help us see things in new ways, or maybe see things that we don’t otherwise see. It often provides a common experience that brings people together.”

With the arts endowment fully funded, and with additional endowments in the pipeline, Harder said the combined assets of the 5-year-old HCF will approach \$1.5 million.

“It’s pretty amazing,” Harder said. “We’re to the point where we’ll be able to give out \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year through the various funds under the Hillsboro Community Foundation umbrella.”

In February, a total of \$14,000 was distributed among 10 area entities.

Anyone wanting more information about the arts endowment can contact Kathy Decker, HCF executive director, at 620-947-0170.

Hillsboro Community Foundation Donors

2011 - 2012

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

IMPACT FUND

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Mike Padgett
Steve Noble
Jared Jost
Robert W. Loewen

Randy Wiens
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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.
- \$ _____ **Marga Ebel Health Fund**—an estate gift designated for the health and welfare of the children in the community.
- \$ _____ **Hillsboro High School Citizenship Award Fund***—established so each year funds from this endowment will be used exclusively for the HHS Citizenship Award Program.
- \$ _____ **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.
- \$ _____ **Arts Endowment Fund***—established to promote and enrich our community thru various expressions of the arts.
- \$ _____ **"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.

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

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

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. 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.

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

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