



Members of the Hillsboro Community Foundation board of directors hand Hillsboro Impact Fund and Kansas Community Health Fund checks to the following community representatives beginning top row, (from left) Randy Whisenhunt to Mike Moran of USD 410 After School Program; SaRae Roberts of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marion County from Cynthia Fleming; K-12 Chess Guild from Kathy Decker, left to right: Charlie Major; Leah Rose, adviser, Kalen Moss; Kayla Gunn; Matthew Denholm; and Jacob Denholm. Second row; Mark Rogers of Circles of Marion County from Randy Wiens; FFA members left to right: Lisa Geis, SaRae Roberts, Kyle Unruh, Hannah Bartel, Valerie Klassen and Student Teacher Sarah Lewis, from Kathy Decker; Deanne Duerksen of Main Street Ministries from Bryce Wichert; third row; Steve Noble to Gretchen Wagner and Marci Heidebrecht of Parkside Homes; Coleen Koop to Doug Sisk and Sandy Arnold of Hillsboro Recreation Commission; Willie Ensz of Hillsboro Senior Center from Bonnie Funk; and bottom right; Deb Ewert to Jesse Todd, Tabor College Signature Campaign for the Fine Arts Center. Not pictured: Jack Rice representing Marion County Big Brothers and Sisters. Eleven area entities received checks totaling \$16,900.

PHOTOS BY DON RATZLAFF / FREE PRESS

PLAYGROUND—Cont'd from Front Page

their own," she added. "So this was huge for us."

Beavers said the KDHE grant would double whatever the committee has raised through the end of the calendar year, so private gifts are welcomed.

HES Principal Evan Yoder said he hopes the grant will spur additional gifts and grants. He said the school board has made the project a priority but has not yet decided how much funding the district can designate toward the project.

"I think things will move quickly," he said. "Kids that are in the upper grades now will get to use a new playground before they're out of here—that's what I'm hoping and sensing now."

GRANTS—Cont'd from Front Page

wear at chapter banquets, leadership activities, career development events, state and national conventions.

■ **Main Street Ministries, Inc.:** \$2,500. The funds will go toward the food bank that serves people less fortunate in the community and surrounding area. Food is provided by donations and purchased at our local grocery store. Records are kept on the families who receive food and recipients are allowed to receive food once every four weeks.

■ **Parkside Homes, Inc.:** \$2,500. The grant will fund implementation of an interactive, adaptive computer system that provides person-centered experiences and enhances quality of life utilizing an "It's Never 2 Late" computer. Residents will use technology that

increases social activities, improves staff interaction, stimulates memory recall, and shares information with caregivers. iN2L is designed to inject joy, fun, adventure, challenge and learning into activities and therapy.

■ **Tabor College, Signature Campaign for The Arts Center:** \$1,500. The funds for the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts will meet the needs of the college and community as a place of learning, a worship center and enhance the liberal arts education for students.

KHF Fund

■ **USD 410 After School Program:** \$1,000. This program is available for first through sixth grade. It provides healthy, enriching and emotionally developing activities for at-risk students who may be without adult supervision.

■ **City of Hillsboro Recreation Commission:** \$500. Funds will be used to upgrade summer volleyball camp by purchasing volleyballs that are 25 percent lighter. This will make it easier for beginning volleyball campers.

■ **Hillsboro Senior Center:** \$2,000. The funds will be used to replace the heating and air conditioner for the main part of building. The Senior Center serves meals five days a week, averaging 1,823 meals a month.



News from...



An affiliate of Central Kansas Community Foundation



HCF awards \$16,900 in service grants to 11 groups

■ Eleven non-profit causes receive funds.

BY DON RATZLAFF
The Free Press

Hillsboro Community Foundation board members presented grant checks totaling a record \$16,900 Feb. 20 to 11 area organizations and programs serving Marion County children and families.

The presentation occurred during halftime of the Hillsboro High School boys' basketball game with Hesston.

Of the total, \$13,400 came through the Hillsboro Area Impact Fund and was distributed among eight recipient groups; \$3,500 came through the Kansas Health Foundation Fund and was awarded to three groups.

Through the eight years HCF has provided grants, \$96,200 has been distributed. This was the third year grants were awarded through KHF, which was established about five years ago.

Following are the recipients of this year's grants, with an explanation on how the money will be used.

Impact Fund

■ **Big Brothers Big Sisters** serving Marion County: \$1,500. "Bigs in Schools" is a program matching children kindergarten through eighth grade who face adversity in their daily lives with carefully screened volunteer mentors. They meet weekly.

■ **Circles of Marion County:** \$2,000. An initiative to eradicate poverty by building relationships across class lines, Circles defines persons caught in poverty as leaders, and trains them to lead their families out of poverty.

■ **Families and Communities Together (FACT):** \$2,000. The Hillsboro Area Family Financial Assistance Fund serves

families that reside in the USD 410 district. Payments will be provided for utilities, rent, medical services or other critical services.

■ **Chess Guild,** kindergarten through 12th grade: \$500. The Chess Guild provides students with chess lessons from a chess master, and encourages students to grow in their chess skills. The grant will provide the means for students to compete in area tournaments.

■ **Hillsboro FFA:** \$900. The grant will help to fund FFA blue jackets for members. This will allow students access to jackets to

Continued on Last Page

HES playground project awarded \$25,750 grant

■ Hillsboro Community Foundation combines funding sources for health-related projects.

BY DON RATZLAFF
The Free Press

The parent-led effort to renovate the playground at Hillsboro Elementary School took a big step forward with the announcement that Hillsboro Community Foundation will be awarding a grant of \$25,750 toward the project.

The amount of the grant was a surprise for members of the HES site council committee that has set a goal of raising \$150,000 to upgrade the playground surfaces and add new pieces of equipment.

Erin Beavers and members of the playground committee presented the project at a meeting of the HCF board in January.

"Dr. (Steve) Noble (USD 410 superintendent) had told us there was around \$5,000 in the Kansas Health Foundation Fund," Beavers said. "He said if we would come and present that information, maybe we could get that for sure."

"We went in thinking around \$5,000. It was well past our expect-



DON RATZLAFF / FREE PRESS

Hillsboro Community Foundation board member Todd Jost presents a grant award of \$2,000 to Tamara Hinerman (left) and Ashley Gann representing Families and Communities Together, which serves families that reside in USD 410. FACT was one of 11 area organizations and programs serving Marion County to receive grant funding Friday during the foundation's 10th annual distribution.

tations."

Bryce Wichert, HCF board treasurer, said the committee presentation prompted them to go beyond the minimum.

"After hearing her presentation and seeing the efforts that they've already made toward this project, we as a board decided that making a grant to this project would give them a great boost toward their goal and a boost toward increasing the possible matching grant they potentially could receive from (the Kansas Department of Health and Environment).

"The funds are coming from two funds—\$20,000 from the Marga Ebel Health Fund and \$5,000 from the Kansas Health Foundation Fund for Hillsboro, for a total of \$25,000," Wichert said.

"The HES playground needs significant improvement to provide our elementary children with a safe environment to play in," he added. "Both of these funds were established to meet

physical health needs in our community."

The playground committee had managed to raise a little over \$8,000 by sponsoring a soup supper, a fall carnival and a farmers market meal.

The biggest part of the renovation project—estimated to cost around \$80,000—is installing an all-weather play surface to replace the deteriorated dirt grounds that make the current playground unusable when it rains and generates dust when it's dry.

Beavers said the significance of the HCF grant award is more than its face value.

"KDHE does a recycle-tire grant," Beavers said. "If we're going to do rubber chips, or poured-in-place (with a concrete base), which is what we're looking at, they'll do a matching grant based on how much you've raised."

"People who get the grant have to show that they have done some significant fundraising on

Continued on Last Page

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Will you help us reach our \$2 million goal in our 10th year?

5% of the endowment returns to our community each year, providing opportunities, services and a future. All donations are tax deductible.

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HILLSBORO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, DECEMBER 31, 2014 – \$1,611,600

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDS

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

Hillsboro Community Foundation is an affiliate of Central Kansas 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 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 - 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.
- ❑ Hillsboro Senior Center Endowment Fund – earnings will provide for support of ongoing programming and facilities of the local senior center.
- ❑ Hillsboro CF Operating Fund
- ❑ 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 and to enhance school readiness for children from birth to age 5.
- ❑ Marion County 4-H Endowment Fund – Created to provide support for youth and adult leaders in areas of education, citizenship, and leadership development for Marion Count 4-H Clubs.
- ❑ Hillsboro Community Development Funds – Field of interest fund to enrich the well-being of citizens and provide support for community projects that enhance quality of life and create a strong business climate.
- ❑ Earl Wineinger Memorial Scholarship Fund – Scholarship fund honoring the memory of Earl Wineinger a VoAg teacher and FFA advisor in Marion County for nearly 20 years.
- ❑ Hillsboro Youth Center Expendable Fund
- ❑ Jerry Dalke Memorial Youth Award Fund – for HHS
- ❑ 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

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