Grants Make a Difference in Story County

We are very pleased that Story County Community Foundation (SCCF) has awarded grants totaling over $1.1 million to benefit the county since 2005. Grants ranging from $300 to $25,000 have been awarded through our annual competitive grant process. This year alone SCCF has awarded $118,198 to 22 projects.

We would like to do more! In 2017 grant requests exceeded available funds by over $130,000. We are thankful to the Iowa County Endowment Program, which provides the majority of our grant funding. To distribute more grants, we need to increase the SCCF Endowment. Each year, we are able to use 5% of this endowed fund balance to meet philanthropic needs of Story County. The endowment structure ensures that the principal will remain intact to provide grant support for future generations in Story County.

2017 Major Grant Award

Inclusive Playground & Miracle Field—$25,000: Rhapsody music line for all-inclusive playground

2017 Capacity Building Grant Awards

SCCF assisted nonprofit agencies in our family of funds to improve their financial capacity.

Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support (ACCESS)—$2,500: Endowment & organization marketing materials

Emergency Residence Project—$2,175: Strategic planning

Friendship Ark Homes—$1,000: Planned giving program

The Arc of Story County—$2,500: Website upgrade

SCCF Mission

Story County Community Foundation facilitates and promotes private giving through the establishment of endowments, acts as a resource for nonprofit endowment building, and awards grants for the betterment of Story County.
2017 Community Grant Awards

All Aboard for Kids—$2,000
   Expanded summer enrichment program for children with autism spectrum disorder

Ames Alano Society—$6,000
   Interior lighting upgrade

Ames Historical Society—$6,000
   Fly With Banning traveling exhibition

Ballard Sharks Swim Club—$3,788
   Competitive swim starting blocks

Cambridge Memorial Library—$4,072
   Technology upgrade

City of Maxwell—$6,000
   Concrete pad installation for Maxwell Park pavilion

City of Zearing—$6,000
   Veterans Memorial Ballfield concession improvements

Food at First—$6,000
   Kitchen equipment replacement

Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa—$5,742
   GoldieBlox STEM curricula

Healthiest Ames—$4,078
   Home-based exercise program for older adults

Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind & Print Handicapped (IRIS)—$2,843
   Upgraded technology for read aloud services

Lutheran Services in Iowa—$6,000
   New endurance beds for Beloit Center

Overflow Thrift Store—$6,000
   Recycling & giving program setup

Prairie Rivers of Iowa—$2,500
   Road signs for watershed education

Story County Dental Clinic—$6,000
   Ultrasonic dental tools

Westory Fire Agency—$6,000
   Kelley volunteer firefighting gear

YSS—$6,000
   Community-based mentoring for high-risk youth

   Recipient of the Suzan Shierholz Award*

*The Suzan Shierholz Award highlights a grant that supports a better life for children, including grants that provide shelter, education or food for children and their families.

Grade-schoolers Atticus Crisler and Brayden DeVries log on to improve their reading and to link into science and social studies activities as Mary de Baca, SCCF advisory board member looks on. Jennifer Gogerty, Library Director, indicated that sometimes there is a race to use the new AfterSchool Edge Tablet as well as the Early Literacy Station purchased with a $4,998 grant to the Slater Public Library in 2016.

Becky Senti, SCCF advisory board member and Lisa McCarty, Director of All Aboard for Kids, visit with 10-year-old Gabe McCarty about his project. A $3,000 grant from SCCF in 2016 supported a six-week summer enrichment program for students, grade K-7, with emphasis on serving children on the autism spectrum.