

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa**  
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### **\$28,700 Granted to Audubon County Nonprofit Agencies**

Brett Irlmeier, Chair of the Audubon County Community Foundation, is pleased to announce today that \$28,700 in grants was awarded to Audubon County nonprofit agencies. With these grants, the Audubon County Community Foundation has distributed \$762,746 over the last eleven years.

The following nonprofit organizations, which submitted applications to the Audubon County Community Foundation by the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, were awarded grants by the Audubon County Board of Directors:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization/Project</b>	<b>Award</b>
Audubon Chamber of Commerce	Light Up Audubon - Lighting to accent architectural design of downtown structures	\$1,000.00
Audubon County Hospital Foundation	Purchase equipment to expand patient care services	\$3,000.00
Audubon Stage Committee	Build a stage for use by numerous community groups, activities & festivals	\$4,400.00
Exira Public Library	New furnishings for the Library expansion/remodel	\$5,000.00
New Opportunities, Inc./ Audubon County Mentoring Program	Purchase new skates for Agri Hall	\$4,800.00
Nishna Valley Trails, Inc.	Erect a sign on the trail-head in Audubon	\$5,500.00
The Little Mermaid Trail Committee	Development of Phase 1 - Trail Construction	\$5,000.00

This total includes \$2,000 from the Leon and Iva Milliman Endowed Fund which went to the Exira Public Library. The Audubon Chamber of Commerce and the Audubon Stage Committee each received \$1,000 from the Charles T. and Kathleen K. Manatt Endowed Fund. \$500 from the Audubon State Bank/Stephen Garst Endowed Fund, \$1,000 from the Audubon Masonic Association Endowed Fund, \$470 from the Merle and Norma Petersen Endowed Fund, and \$470 from the Fred and Evelyn Nissen Endowed Fund for Audubon was also awarded to the Audubon Stage Committee.

All grantees met the criteria as Audubon County nonprofit agencies or organizations with charitable missions in the areas of civic, cultural, health, education and social services. Only organizations providing services in Audubon County were eligible.

Audubon County agency representatives received their checks on November 18th. During brief check distribution activities, Irlmeier commended the nonprofit agencies for their individual efforts to provide a better quality of life for the residents of Audubon County.

The Audubon County Community Foundation works with individuals, families, businesses and organizations to create permanent funds that address the changing, vital community needs and interests. Donating to a permanently endowed fund helps your neighbors today AND you help build a stronger community tomorrow. Not only that, you'll be eligible to receive a 25% Endow Iowa Tax Credit for each donation, in addition to any Federal tax benefits for which you may qualify.

The Audubon County Community Foundation invests and administers these funds and distributes grants to deserving, qualified nonprofit organizations. "This has grown from an annual event to twice a year, with one grant cycle in the spring and another in the fall," said Irlmeier.

Board members of the Audubon County Community Foundation are: Chair, Brett Irlmeier of Audubon; Vice Chair Larry Beckendorf of Exira; Secretary/Treasurer, Thomas R. Nielsen of Audubon; Joanie Heuton of Kimballton; Jonnie Meislahn of Audubon; Jay Nelson of rural Brayton; and Daryl Olsen of Audubon.

For information about donating or establishing an individual foundation/fund, please contact any of the Board Members, or call Dennis Nissen, Iowa Program Officer, at 800-794-3458.



Nonprofit representatives receiving grant awards: 1<sup>st</sup> row from left to right: Gene Karstens, Nishna Valley Trails, Inc.; Juanita Reynard, Audubon Stage Committee; Christi Knudsen, Exira Public Library; Barbara L. Smith, Audubon Chamber of Commerce. 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Jill Madsen, The Little Mermaid Trail; Thomas R. Nielsen, Audubon County Community Foundation Secretary/Treasurer; Julie Olson and Kelli Burgin, Audubon County Hospital Foundation; and Jelli Jensen, Audubon New Opportunities Mentoring Program.

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