

**News Release
For Immediate Release
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Audubon County Community Foundation
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More than \$100,000 Granted to Audubon County Nonprofit Agencies
Nearly \$1 Million Invested in Nonprofits by the Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa

While there may not be an over abundance of good investment news lately, Brett Irlmeier, Chair of the Audubon County Community Foundation (formerly the Audubon County Endowment Fund) is pleased to announce today the investment of \$102,280.21 in grants in Audubon County nonprofit agencies.

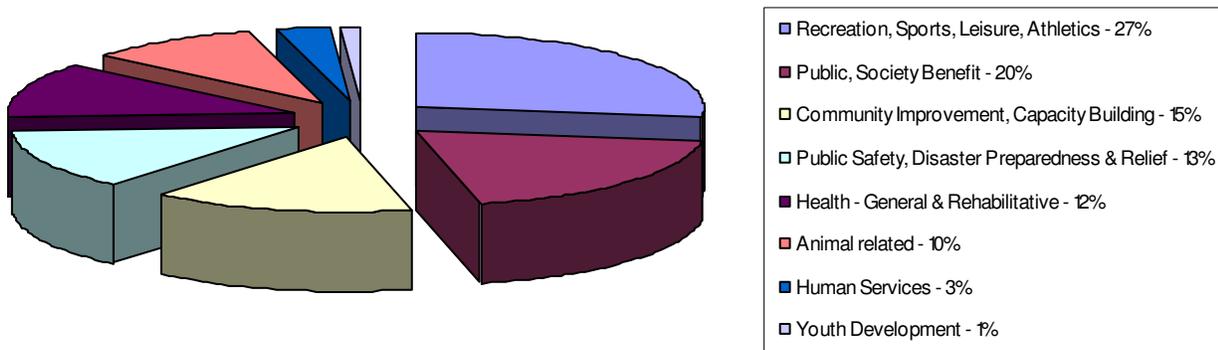
"This is timely economic news for our County because research has shown that \$1 of investment in a nonprofit organization can lead to \$8 in economic benefit to the public," said Irlmeier. "I do not know where else today you can find that kind of return on a dollar. It is our hope that the grants announced today can pay dividends to Audubon County of an approximate \$800,000 value. And the greatest news is that's value we all share in our communities."

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

Organization	Project	Award
Troop 103	Updating and Replacing Equipment	\$1,000
Gray Community Betterment Corporation	Handicap Accessible Restrooms	\$3,300
Exira Public Library	Upgrade Server	\$5,000
Kimballton Public Library	Public Library Renovation	\$5,000
All Sports Booster Club	Concession Stand Renovation	\$7,500
Audubon County Ag Society	Improvement of the Cattle Barns	\$10,000
Downtown Revitalization Committee	Bird Walk Signage	\$10,000
Audubon County Hospital Foundation	ACHF Video Colonoscopes Project	\$12,000
Exira Fire Department	Overhead Doors	\$13,380.21
AMVC Cares, Inc.	Salvage Yard Reclamation Project	\$15,000
Nishna Valley Trails, Inc.	T-Bone Trail Final Phase	\$20,000

Of those awards, the top three areas represented were Recreation, Public Society Benefit, and Community Improvement, with 27%, 20%, and 15% respectively. 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.

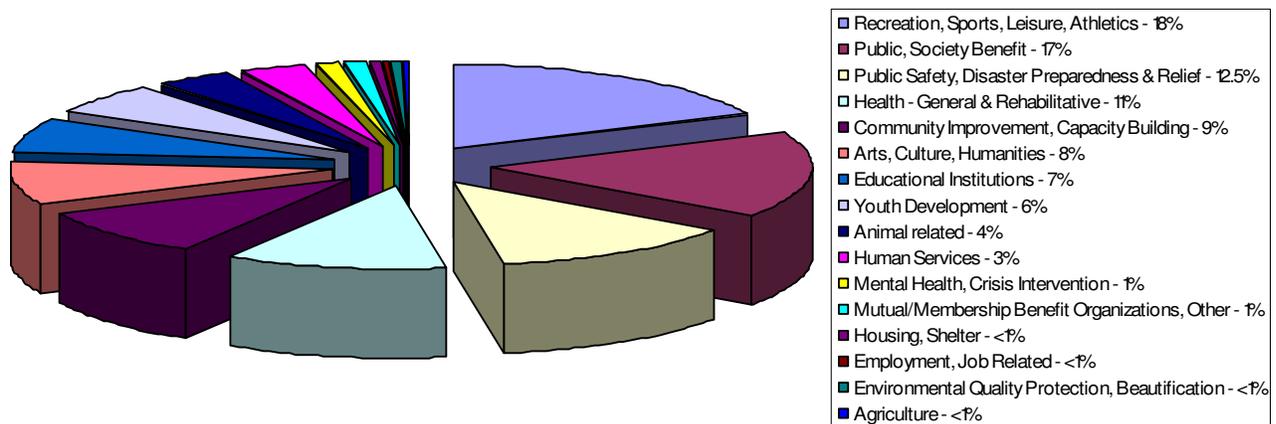
2009 Audubon Spring Grants by Area



Audubon County agency representatives received their checks this week. 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.

Our Advisory Board is pleased to direct \$102,280.21 in grants to these important community efforts in Audubon County.” Irlmeier explained, “The Audubon County Community Foundation is one of nine counties united as the Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa, which collectively meet or exceed the Standards for Community Foundations as established by the Council on Foundations in Washington DC.” Together, the Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa will invest nearly \$1 million this spring in nonprofits in our area.

2009 Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa Spring Grants



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. Contributions large and small come in the form of cash, appreciated stock, real estate and end of life bequests that leave a lasting legacy. The Audubon County Community Foundation invests and administers these funds and distributes funds each year to deserving, qualified nonprofit organizations. “This is an annual granting process,” said Irlmeier, “to-date the Audubon County Community Foundation has distributed approximately \$343,000 in grants in Audubon County.”

Board members of the Audubon County Community Foundation are: Chair, Brett Irlmeier of Audubon; Vice Chair Larry Beckendorf of Exira; Secretary/Treasurer Janell Hansen of Kimballton; Thomas Nielsen of Audubon; Daryl Olsen of Audubon; Bruce Hoegh of Brayton; and Jonnie Meislahn of Gray.



Nonprofit representatives receiving grant awards 1st row from left to right: Yvonne Jensen, Tina Andersen, Julie Olson; 2nd row: Sandy Bauer, Gene Karstens, Dianne Petersen, 3rd row: ACCF board member Brett Irlmeier, Kevin Petty, Karen Nelson, and Chris Anderson.