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TIPP CITY, OH-

Foundations' Awards will be Highest in 72 Year History

When this year's first quarterly grantmaking session opened on March 11, Tipp City Area Community Foundations trustees found themselves in new territory. Thanks to increased donations from citizens and endowment investment growth, the total amount available for annual discretionary grants in 2015 will be higher than any time since 1943. Paced over four quarters, trustees will be awarding more than \$89,000.

This amount is in addition to grants for scholarships, agency endowments and committee advised funds, which will be awarded through the Foundations. To see a full list of funds and their purposes, the 2014 annual report will be reaching all homes within the 45371 zip code starting the final week of March. Also, a full list is available on line at www.tippfoundation.org.

After reviewing many strong requests for funding, final selections were made. Canal boat rides, mental and physical health growth, downtown building renovation and public speaking skills were among the many projects funded. In the end, ten organizations were chosen to receive 14 awards totaling \$21,300.67.

Though the 2015 grantmaking will be record breaking, community needs still outpace available dollars. More than \$3,000 in grant requests were unawarded during this grant cycle.

The following is a list of the recipients, grant amounts awarded, and the purposes being funded.

Bethel Local Schools, \$450, seeds the funds needed by the elementary library to add books addressing the complex subject of people with special needs. This grant was awarded through the Bethel Community Fund, established by the Bowman Family in 2013.

Community Minded Women, \$250, continues the custom begun in 1944 of a Tippecanoe High School Senior Girls' Traditional Tea, saluting the young women graduating in the Class of 2015.

Downtown Tipp City Partnership, \$500, spruces up Tony's Bada Bing whose owners have worked with the Partnership's Façade Improvement Program to secure matching funds for property improvement. This grant was awarded through the Urban Stewardship Fund, established in 2009 to maintain the City's architectural charm.

Miami County Educational Service Center, \$400, explores the pumpkin patches of Fulton Farms through the eyes of the students of this early intervention program.

Miami County Park District, \$2,000, supports the “No Child Left Inside” outdoor high adventure program. This program re-connects children to the out-of-doors to address mental and physical health growth.

Tipp City Area Arts Council, \$1,500, purchases art materials for youth programs and events, which will be used throughout the year.

Tipp City Enrichment Program, \$2,792, enhances the summer activities offered to the children who attend this extended care program. Children from pre-kindergarten through 6th grade will explore places like Idle-Hour Ranch and Fort Ancient thanks to this program, which offers support to working parents.

Tipp City Exempted Village Schools, \$2,120, energizes grades 2 through 12 with arts-infused performances by the world renowned Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. The theme Step Up: Get To Know Me, Before You Judge Me, promotes change through awareness.

Tipp City Exempted Village Schools, \$2,000, promotes Stagecrafters Summer Theatre Drama Camp, giving children a two-week experience working both on stage and behind the scenes of a play.

Tipp City Exempted Village Schools, \$2,000, hopes to inspire staff system-wide through a professional development presentation by Brian Cain. Cain is a nationally recognized motivational speaker in the areas of goal setting, destroying mental blocks and reaching peak personal performance.

Tipp City Exempted Village Schools, \$1,235, transports 3rd graders back in time with a visit to Johnston Farm to see a working canal, lock and passenger boat. This visit puts into perspective the early days of Tippecanoe’s own history as a canal town founded in 1840. Our early city was a popular stopping-off point for boatmen traveling along the Miami and Erie Canal. Development of the railroads in the 1850s and 1860s made the canals obsolete.

Tipp City Exempted Village Schools, \$657.67, sharpens the skills of critiquing and public speaking for 3rd graders through the Giving Art A Voice project.

Tipp Monroe Community Services, \$3,396, anticipates an increased demand for the summer lunch program called Lunch on Us. The grant also supports the affiliated School Supplies Program, which provides backpacks and associated supplies for students preparing to return to school in the fall.

Tipp City Seniors, Inc., \$2,000, updates the office capacity with the purchase of a photocopier. This grant was awarded, in part, from the August Henke Fund, established in 1950 to provide for the “comfort and support for needy and aged men.”

Since 1943, the Tipp City Area Community Foundations has awarded \$1,832,868 in grants as of December 31, 2014. Members of the Distribution Committee are Jim Ranft, chair, Heather Bailey, Dave Grim, Claire Cain Timmer and Jackie Wahl. Other trustees include Jesse Chamberlain, Joan Creech, Mike Lightle, Jim McKee and Marilyn Richards.

The Tipp City Area Community Foundations is a member fund of The Troy Foundation. If you would like information about how to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation, or how your organization can apply for a grant, please contact Jim Ranft at (937) 667-1270.

For more information about the Foundations' volunteers, donors and funds, visit the web site at www.tippfoundation.org.

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