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2025

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file photos

“

When we experienced sudden and catastrophic loss of our 911 communications during the flood, we were unable to access the state radio system because we did not have the equipment.

”

- SPENCER FIRE CHIEF JESSE COULSON

MEETING UNMET NEEDS

■ Spencer among fire departments receiving equipment funding

Randy M. Cauthron
Managing Editor

Spencer’s fire department was one of five in the county to ask for, and receive, \$10,000 grants from the Clay County Community Foundation to cover unmet equipment needs outside budgeted community funding.

Spencer Fire Chief Jesse Coulson, who oversees the community’s fire and EMS services in-and-around the city, explained, “When we experienced sudden and catastrophic loss of our 911 communications during the flood, we were unable

to access the state radio system because we did not have the equipment.”

One portable radio is more than \$6,000, prompting the department to seek a \$10,000 grant from the foundation.

“We used the money to purchase two Motorola APX 8000xe portable radios that can be used on our current radio frequencies and now we can access the state system that Dickinson County installed,” Coulson said.

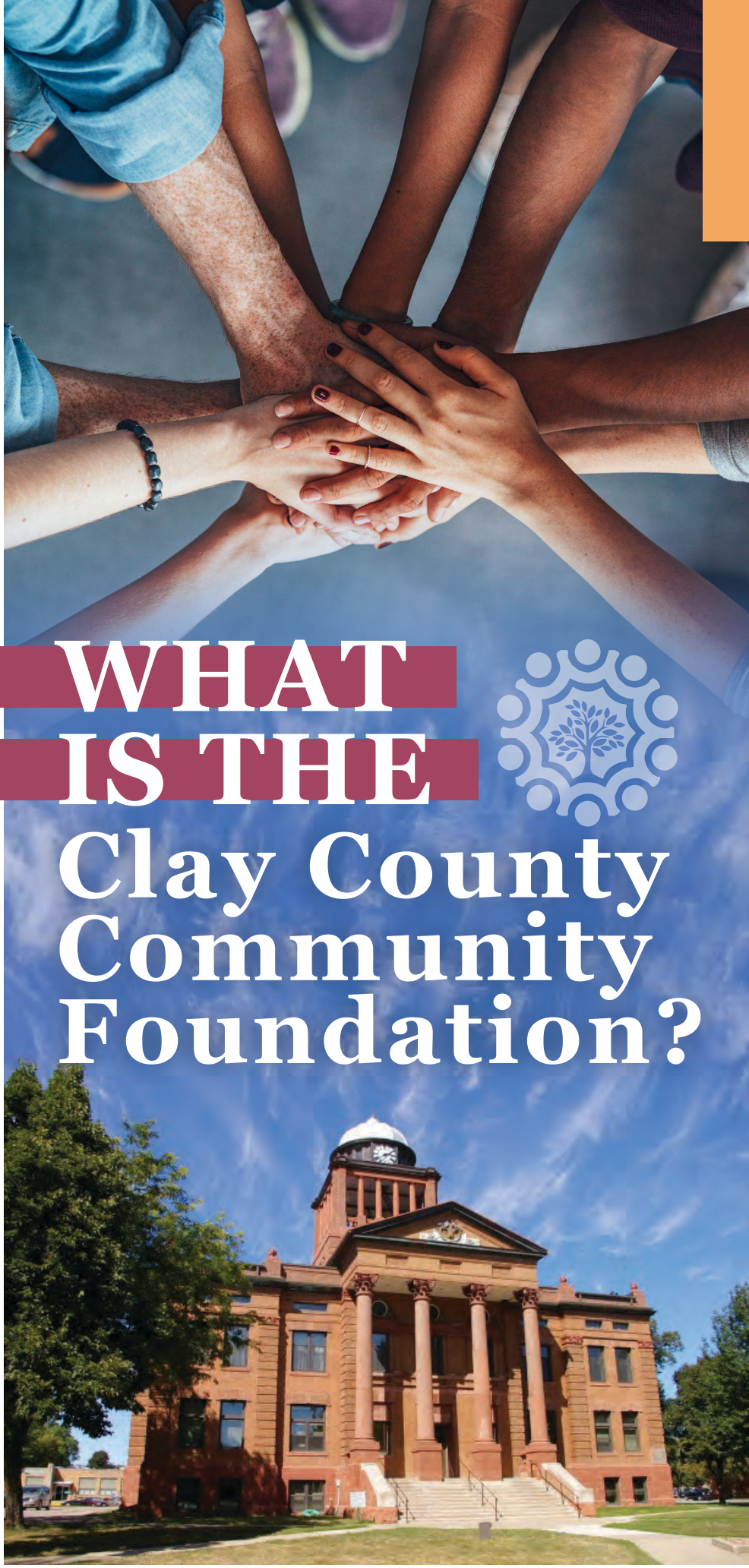
He continued, “Our two radios are now in service and will help us build redundancy in our emergency communications if our current radio system fails again.”

Likewise, four other county agencies, sought

similar funding for different reasons. Everly Fire & Rescue received the grant for a fire heating system; the volunteers in Dickens used the money updating their bunker gear; the team in Petersen sought funding for the department’s airbag and stabilization rescue equipment; and Fostoria - like Spencer - purchased all-band portable radios.

The city of Spencer, through the council budget, as well as organization fundraising, support the immediate needs of the 27 person department, most of which are volunteers.

Coulson suggested the budget covers the day-to-day operations, but the money does not cover the extra needs designed to make the volunteers more efficient and safe.



LEGACY

WHAT IS THE Clay County Community Foundation?

through a competitive process, funded by State of Iowa Gaming profits, the CCCF held endowment earnings and donor support.

The structure is:

- Simple Grants: less than \$3,000
- Standard Grants: \$3,001–\$10,000
- Impact Grants: \$10,001–\$25,000, and requiring a Letter of Intent.

Grants are awarded for one-time projects – new or expansion initiatives – not general operating budgets.

CCCF prioritizes projects in areas like economic development, recreation, health, education, and arts and culture.

The grant cycle is open from November 15 through January 15 each year, with the grants awarded in March.

Since its founding in 2005, CCCF has awarded over \$1.4 million through community betterment grants.

Clay County Community Foundation’s purpose is to connect donors who care with causes that matter and to serve as a trusted resource for improving the quality of life in Clay County.

The goal of CCCF is to support a wide range of issues – including community betterment, education, health, human services, arts and culture, and the environment. A 10-member, all-volunteer board oversees the operation of the foundation.

CCCF is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

CCCF serves as a “philanthropic hub” for Clay County in the following ways:

DISASTER RESPONSE

In response to the catastrophic June 2024 flooding:

- A Disaster Recovery Fund (DRF) was quickly established.
- Raised over \$575,000 from 325+ donors and major local corporations.
- CCCF awarded \$466,635 in grants to 24 nonprofits and 2 public entities (as of June 2025).
- Projects included housing aid, infrastructure repairs, supplies for schools, mental health support, pet care, and more.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

CCCF establishes and manages permanent endowment funds, which preserve the donated principal in perpetuity; only the generated income is used for grants claycofoundation.com.

- **These funds can be:**
 - Unrestricted, allowing flexibility for emerging needs.
 - Field-of-interest, focused on specific areas like youth, health, arts.
 - Designated-agency, supporting specific organizations.
 - Nonprofit endowment funds, for local nonprofits to build sustainable resources.
 - Donor-advised funds, giving donors advisory power over distribution.

CCCF MATTERS

- 1. Perpetual impact** – Endowments fund lasting support based solely on investment income.
- 2. Local responsiveness** – Flexible grants aligned to evolving community needs.
- 3. Emergency readiness** – An established system for disaster recovery and immediate relief.
- 4. Donor-friendly** – Offers diverse giving vehicles and tax advantages.
- 5. Community-building** – Encourages local collaboration and involvement.

CCCF also leverages the Endow Iowa Tax Credit, offering a 25% state credit for qualified gifts.

Example: Imagine a donor sets up a \$1 million endowment for early childhood education. If the foundation spends 5% annually, that’s \$50,000 per year for local preschools—forever. Over decades, that same endowment may grow to \$2–3 million, increasing its annual impact.

For more information, please contact Executive Director Terri Batschelet at 712-330-8952 or infocccf@gmail.com. Please visit our website at claycofoundation.com and Facebook at www.facebook.com/ClayCoCommunityFoundation.

COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANTS

CCCF distributes grants annually

BEYOND THE LOCAL TEAM

How Clay County benefits from the CCCF’s affiliation with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines

When people work with the Clay County Community Foundation, their support structure goes well beyond the local team.

That’s because the Clay County Community Foundation (CCCF) is officially an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (CFGD).

retains a local board of directors composed of Clay County community leaders who make decisions on where to grant funds.

- **Funding & Grant Programs:** CCCF administers its own grant cycles (Simple, Standard, Impact grants ranging from \$0–\$25,000), with funds raised and managed locally in Clay County. The grants are disbursed based on CCCF’s mission and community needs.

BROADER CONTEXT IN IOWA

CCCF is part of a statewide structure where many county community foundations operate as affiliates. Specifically, CFGD supports affiliated programs across for 45 other Iowa counties, ensuring local foundations benefit from greater capacity, oversight, and investment expertise.

WHY IT MATTERS

This affiliation is critical because it offers support that otherwise would not be available. See the chart for examples.

WHAT THIS AFFILIATION MEANS

How does that affiliation impact local efforts to build endowments and generate more charitable giving in our county? Here are some answers:

- **Organizational Support:** CFGD provides CCCF with administrative and technical assistance—this includes things like fund management, investment services, legal compliance, and donor relations.
- **Local Governance, Regional Backbone:** While CFGD offers the structural and operational backbone, CCCF

BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION	DESCRIPTION
Local Impact	CCCF governance stays close to Clay County’s real needs
Professional Management	CFGD handles investment, legal, tax, and admin duties
Donor Confidence	Backed by CFGD’s accreditation and expertise

Thus, CCCF offers local connections and community-tailored philanthropy, while CFGD provides the institutional muscle needed to operate efficiently and securely.

foundation that manages funds raised in Clay County, but operates under CFGD’s umbrella for key administrative and technical functions – an affiliation that empowers local giving while maintaining professional standards.

FINAL TAKEAWAY

CCCF is a locally governed

When did the County Endowment Grant Fund Program Begin?

The County Endowment Fund Program was established in 2004 by the Iowa State Legislature in HF 2302 and implementation began in 2005.

The County Endowment Fund Program is separate from the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program. Through the County Endowment Fund Program, a percentage of the state’s gaming tax revenue is distributed to community foundations in the 84 counties that do not hold a state-issued gaming license. The community foundation organizations then grant 75 percent of those funds to charitable projects within their counties and place the remaining 25 percent in a permanent endowment fund, which is intended to attract other donations and provide a source of permanent funding for charitable projects within the county. Fifteen (15) counties are not eligible for the funding because state-licensed gaming facilities are located in those counties.

The Program is administered by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). From 2004 to June 2025, when the State of Iowa awarded a Lead Philanthropic Entity contract to the Iowa Council of Foundations, the ICoF worked closely with IEDA to coordinate the program and determine the community foundation recipients of the funding. For more information on the County Endowment Fund Program please view one of the annual publications below which were produced by the Iowa Council of Foundations in partnership with the Iowa Gaming Association.

How Many Iowa Community Foundations are There?

Iowa currently has more than 130 community foundations and a well-respected, effective network which continues to propel the state as a national leader in the community foundation field.

The majority of Iowa-based community foundations are operated by active volunteers in local communities (referred to as affiliate community foundations) that work with one of 17 qualified or host community foundations that serves as the legal and administrative hub for the local organization. Qualified community foundations are confirmed by the National Council on Foundations as being in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

Are you someone who loves your community and values giving back? Learn more about ways to give, or contact your local community foundation to explore opportunities to make a difference in your region.

If you are a professional advisor (attorney, accountant, tax or financial advisor), learn more about the benefits of getting to know your local community foundation.

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sara.taylor@spencerhospital.org

By Nick Lowrey
Staff Writer

ONEOTA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

■ Nurturing Conservation and Community in Clay County



By far, the Oneota Conservation Foundation’s largest project to date is the new environmental learning center at Oneota Park in Spencer; however, the organization has been quietly inspiring local children for decades.

Youth education—teaching children about conservation and the importance of sustaining natural resources is at the heart of nearly everything the OCF does, said Luana Nair, the foundation board’s president.

“Our main purpose is to educate our youth,” she said, “and most of that is done in supporting our naturalist, Bri, and her efforts.”

Bri’s engaging lessons have become a beloved fixture for students and parents alike all over Clay County. Nair said her first exposure to the Clay County Conservation Board’s naturalist/environmental education coordinator, Brianne (Bri) Blom, was a few days before starting her first school year as Johnson Elementary’s school counselor. Nair said she’d just been informed that she was

going to be teaching “structured recess” and didn’t have a feel for how to approach the assignment. Blom, as it turned out, was looking for new ways to bring conservation into area classrooms, and “structured recess” proved to be a great fit. Nair said she worked with Blom to teach mini-conservation lessons and play nature-themed games.

“She always brought really cool stuff, visuals for the kids,” Nair said.

Nair said the hands-on experiences fostered a love of nature among the students and helped grow participation in Blom’s outside-of-school programs. Not only that, but spending time outdoors has also contributed to improved behavior and mental health among students.

“Whenever we could get the kids outside, it really helped their behavior, it helped their moods,” Nair said.

Right now, the OCF is primarily focused on completing the environmental learning center at Oneota Park. Nair said the project was only made possible by overwhelming community support.

“I can’t even believe how many donors there were,” Nair said.

The Oneota Environmental Learning Center was granted \$50,000 by Clay County Community Foundation. Once completed, the center will host field trips, family events, and adult education programs, all with an eye toward educating and inspiring all ages to respect the natural world. The center will also house office space for the Conservation Board.

Still, the OCF is looking beyond the Learning Center’s completion as well. Nair said the foundation will continue to raise money to meet Blom’s programming and continuing education needs. Another potential project is building a housing option for seasonal conservation interns.

Nair said she is grateful for the community’s dedication to the OCF’s mission.

“We are so blessed to live in a place that cares that much about conservation and our youth,” she said.

HORSING AROUND

■ ‘Reigns of Hope’ offers program focused on assisting special needs youth



“

We had one little child who was told when they were born, they would never walk again. We see the little kid who’s scared to death of other people or scared of horses, and almost always by the end of the session, they’re crying, not because they’re scared, they’re crying because it’s over. It’s just great to see that advancement...

- RONDA SHERBON, REIGNS OF HOPE VOLUNTEER

”



provided by volunteers. The weekly event draws in participants and volunteers from multiple counties across northwest Iowa. Each rider requires a minimum of three volunteers to help them on the horse.

"We have a side walker on each side of the horse, and we have a leader who's leading the horse," Sherbon said. "Then we also have a leader for the whole group, and a few walking around. It's pretty cool to think something with total volunteers has been going on for so many years."

Reins of Hope celebrates its participants with a graduation ceremony on the last night of each season where participants receive

a trophy and certificate. Sherbon said the organization has seen participants who graduated from the program and have come back to fundraising events and to volunteer.

"Encourage anybody who knows any kids, and it just takes a medical disability of any kind - we don't put a limit on it," Sherbon said. "There's still a need and there's still volunteers, and to think a group of kids thought it up and it is still going all these years later."

The organization, supported with donations and fundraising, spends all of its dollars on the program for kids. Dollars are used to cover expenses such as equipment, insurance, gear for games and activities, and other supplies. Two fundraising bingo events were conducted earlier this spring, and organizers hope to turn those into an annual event. They've also received fundraising from the annual Gillett Grove Golf Classic.

"We wouldn't survive if it wasn't for the community support, both monetary and volunteers," Sherbon said.

To volunteer, participate, or donate, go to reinsofhopespencer.org.

"We're just giving an opportunity for kids to ride a horse who maybe wouldn't have that chance otherwise," Reins of Hope volunteer Ronda Sherbon said, "We've had parents report how much better kids have done with core strength in this."

Reins of Hope, a Spencer-based nonprofit, fulfills its mission of providing riding and equine-based activities to youth with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities the opportunity to connect with a horse, ride horseback and play games. Adaptive horseback riding provides participants with emotional, physical, and mental benefits. Equine-assisted activity can improve flexibility, balance and coordination.

Seasonally, two seasons are hosted from May to June and Aug. to Sept., consisting of six sessions. The sessions every week are conducted Tuesdays, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the Clay County Fairgrounds or the Northwest Iowa Equine Center. Participation is open to individuals with a diagnosed impairment from 2-18 years old. Participants can sign up for as many seasons as they'd like. Riding is free for participants.

The Clay County Conquistadors 4-H group started the program as a community service project in 1989. 4-H kids with horses ran the program with

their parents and leaders. Once the 4-H members had graduated, the group stopped for a few years but was started up again in 1991 by a group of volunteers as a nonprofit organization.

Sherbon talked about instances where she witnessed children's progress in the time that they're with the program.

"We had one little child who was told when they were born, they would never walk again," she said. "We see the little kid who's scared to death of other people or scared of horses, and almost always by the end of the session, they're crying, not because they're scared, they're crying because it's over. It's just great to see that advancement."

Sherbon continued, "And when they first started, we would pick them up on the wheelchair and carry them to the horse, and now they're running up the ramp."

Reins of Hope continues to be a completely volunteer-run group.

"It's really fun to meet other people who like kids and like horses," Sherbon said. "I've gotten to know some really great people by doing this."

Despite last year's season being impacted by the floods, Reins of Hope held 18 sessions with 25 child participants, 40-plus volunteers and 13 horses

DISASTER RECOVERY

■ CCCF disburses more than \$460,000-plus in Disaster Recovery Grants



The Clay County Community Foundation - CCCF - is thrilled to share it has granted \$466,635 in Disaster Recovery Grants to 24 nonprofit organizations and two public entities since June 28, 2024.

"It has been one year since the catastrophic flooding hit Clay County and the city of Spencer. The response from those in the community and around the country to help those in need has been heartwarming", said Terri Batschelet, CCCF executive director.

Since the historic flooding in June, 325 donors have contributed more than \$575,000 to the CCCF Disaster Recovery Fund. The CCCF DRF committee has worked diligently to review grant applications and award donated funds to deserving nonprofit organizations and public entities in Clay County.

Organizations awarded Disaster Recovery Grants as of June 22, 2025, include:

- **Upper Des Moines Opportunity** - Grant supports providing housing assistance, baby and children supplies, transportation, dehumidifiers

and sump pumps, medication and the food pantry.

- **Community Housing, Access & Resource Team** - Grant supports providing housing assistance, car repair, essential supplies and operating expenses.

- **Kiwanis After 5** - Grant supports "Sweet Dreams" program which supplies bedding and comfort items for children

- **Arts on Grand** - Grant supports clean up and recovery efforts to restore use of the facility's basement for children and adult classes.

- **Spencer Community Schools Foundation: 3 grants** - Grant supports replacing the personal educational supplies that teachers lost in the flood. Grant supports new white boards and cork boards for Lincoln School in Spencer, the school was heavily damaged by the flood and has remained closed for school year 2024-25. Grant supports purchase of 6 interactive whiteboard w/carts for Lincoln school classrooms. Plans to reopen in 2025-26 school year.

- **Shayla Bee Fund** - Grant supports repairing flood damage to the Shayla Bee Fund building.

- **Clay County Heritage** - Grant supports restoration of historic documents damaged in the flood and supports repairing display cases damaged in flooding adding wheels for easy mobility for future weather events

- **Trinity Preschool and Daycare** - Grant supports repairing flood damage to the facility's kitchen and supports replacement of curriculum and storage lost in the flood, allowing the center to open for business.

- **Hy-Noon Kiwanis** - Grant supports providing backpacks for all students in the Spencer Community Schools and CC-E Elementary.

- **Upper Des Moines Opportunity** - Grant supports the purchase of groceries to resupply food pantry items lost in the flood, and continue to supply food as need has increased.



2025 Clay County Community Foundation disaster recovery fund recipients

Northwest Iowa Mental Health Center dba Seasons Center

Grant supports repairing flood damage at the Autumn Center in Spencer and supports replacing furniture and complete flood repairs to Autumn Center allowing this center to reopen to serve children in our community.

Spencer Mainstreet - Grant supports Flood Relief Micro-Grants for affected downtown businesses.

American Red Cross - Grant supports providing financial assistance to flood-impacted individuals.

Spencer DayBreakers Kiwanis - Grant supports the organization's partnership with the Northwest Iowa Counseling Adopt a Family Program.

Everly Library - Grant supports providing gift cards to assist Everly residents affected by flooding.

Lutheran Services - Grant supports purchasing office supplies and therapy recovery lost in flooding and supports free and reduced therapy for residents who have additional therapy needs due to their circumstances post flood.

Center Against Abuse Sexual Assault - Grant supports repairing flood damage to the organization's building. Grant supports completion of electrical repairs to ensure operations may resume in the CAASA building.

Elderbridge - Grant supports providing funds to clients to purchase essential needs due to losses incurred during the flood.

Catholic Charities - Grant supports providing funds to aid with free and reduced counseling services to Clay County residents affected by flooding.

People for Pets - Grant supports efforts to provide increased housing, feed and care for pets displaced due to flooding, as well as stocking the pet food bank.

Fresh Start Market & Boutique - Grant supports the launch of a new second hand store for the community.

Grand Avenue Free Clinic - Grant supports restoring clinic operations.

City of Spencer - Grant supports partnership on the Right of Way grant program for Spencer residents needing Right of Way restored.

Spencer Chamber Foundation - Grant supports funds to award individual and business grants to those affected by the flooding.

Peterson Ballfields - Grant supports restoring surface of ballfield, fencing, scoreboard and concession stand.

Long Term Recovery Group - Grant supports assisting the open cases within the LTRG with housing deposits and first month's rent enabling families to move back to Spencer from temporary housing.

Clay County EMS - Grant supports 8 lifesaving vets and 8 throw bags to ensure proper emergency service for rescues.

Funds remain for disaster recovery needs. Nonprofit and public entities seeking to apply for grants, please contact Batschelet at infocccf@gmail.com, or call 712-330-8952. To donate to the CCCF, please visit claycofoundation.com. Please visit the CCCF Facebook page at facebook.com/ClayCoCommunityFoundation.

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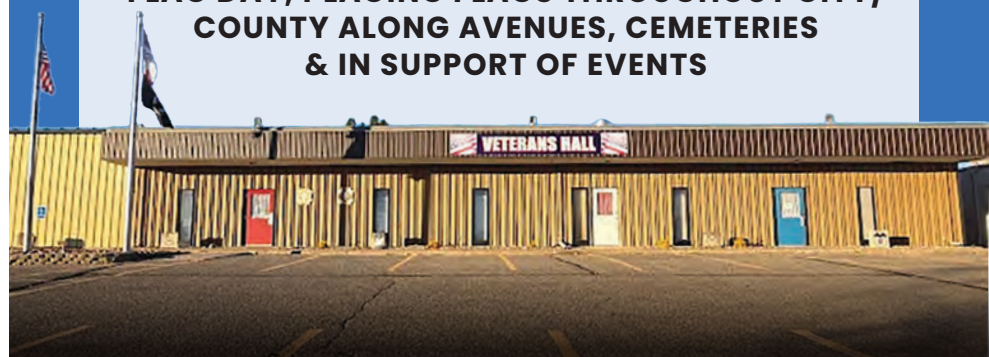
BOY SCOUT TROOP #123

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Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club member Tim Hibert shows a crowd of young anglers how to fillet a walleye during the IGLFC's youth fishing clinic held at Spencer's Stolley Park on May 7.

LEGACY

By Nick Lowrey
Staff Writer

Fishing for **LEGACY**

■ How the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club is leaving a lasting mark on Northwest Iowa

Some of the greatest rewards a person can receive are found at the intersection of passion and public service.

Need proof?
Just ask members of the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club.



John Wittkamp of Arnold's Park shows a crowd of kids how to butcher a blue gill fish as part of the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club's annual Kids Fishing Clinic held May 1, 2024 at Stolley Park.

The organization began in the late 1960s as a club for the peculiar breed of angling diehard who dedicate their time on the water to chasing muskies. Over the decades, as membership expanded, it became a gathering place for die-hard anglers of all stripes. Over the last decade or so, though, the IGLFC has evolved into a powerhouse of public service and conservation outreach.

Today, the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club's mission is as much about giving back to the region as it is about catching the next big fish. Nowhere is this more evident than in its work with children, a focus that has not only grown the club's membership but also its impact across the region.

"We anticipate around 900 kids that we'll help at various events this year," said Paul Daniels, a longtime club member who sits on its board of directors. "Some of the events we run, like our one in Spencer and another at Isthmus Park, have just exploded. But it's not just our own events — other groups are constantly asking us to help out."

The club's children's programs are as diverse as the lakes they fish. From the annual kids' fishing clinic at Stolley Park to camps for people with special needs, the club's volunteers are a constant presence. Their efforts are bolstered by strong partnerships with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, local schools, and business sponsors, all working together to provide children — regardless of background or ability — with opportunities to experience the joy of fishing.

One of the club's signature initiatives is its tackle box program. Thanks to generous sponsors,

every child who participates in a club event receives a tackle box filled with fishing gear worth up to \$100. The club is able to provide tackle boxes thanks, in part, to a partnership with the Fisherman's Factory Outlet in Spirit Lake.

"Without our sponsors, all the 900 kids that we're going to be in front of this year wouldn't get a free tackle box," said Dean Jacobsen, a member of the IGLFC's board of directors. "It's a huge part of what we do."

The IGLFC isn't just helping get kids interested in fishing. Two years ago, Jacobsen led the creation of a set of seminars and hands-on learning opportunities specifically for adults.

"I had a parent come to me and say, 'I have a problem with the fishing club. You got my kids hooked on fishing, and I don't know how to fish. What are you gonna do about it?' So, that's where the idea came from," Jacobsen said.

But the club's work goes beyond equipment and events. For Daniels, the motivation is deeply personal.

"Fishing is beyond catching. It's the whole experience of being out in nature and the bonds you form with the people you fish with. We want to give back to those kids and adults who didn't have that opportunity, or maybe help them reconnect with it," Daniels said.

Another board member, Nathan Albrecht, echoed the sentiment, recalling the pure joy on children's faces during club events.

"Even if they're not catching anything, they just have so much fun being out there on the lake," he said. "Some of us take that for granted, but there

are so many who don't have those opportunities. To be able to give that to kids in this area is incredible."

The club's impact is felt far beyond the water's edge. Their events have helped inspire other organizations to launch their own fishing programs, and the club's advocacy for public access ensures that everyone — regardless of their means — can find a place to fish. For example, the IGLFC has worked with local organizations and the DNR to create and distribute a comprehensive public access map for the Iowa Great Lakes. The maps are distributed at tackle shops around the Iowa Great Lakes region and show the locations of 50 public fishing access points. The club has also contributed money and volunteer labor to projects, such as installing new bumper rails on the docks at public boat ramps, and has supported facilities like the fish barrier in Milford, which helps keep invasive species out of the Iowa Great Lakes.

"Access is so important," Daniels said. "Not everyone has a \$100,000 boat, but with the public access map we helped create, anyone can find a spot to fish."

As the club's reputation for public service has grown, so too has the need for its volunteers.

"We get five to ten new requests every year for help with area fishing events," Albrecht said. "We need more volunteers to be able to keep saying yes to helping with these events."

The IGLFC now boasts more than 450 members and has an all-volunteer 18-member board of directors. Daniels said the club welcomes anyone interested in joining or lending a hand.

For the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club, the reward is in the smiles of the children they serve — and in knowing that, with every cast, they're helping to shape the next generation of anglers and conservationists. As Jacobson put it, "If we can get parents and kids hooked on fishing, they're going to want to protect the resource that provides that fishing. That's what it's all about."

"If we can get parents and kids hooked on fishing, they're going to want to protect the resource that provides that fishing. That's what it's all about."

DEAN JACOBSEN, MEMBER
IGLFC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

■ Clay County
Community Foundation
Manages Sub-Funds for
Local Organizations,
Businesses and Families

SUPPORTING CHARITABLE INTERESTS



1. What do you see as the advantage of being a sub-fund with the Clay County Community Foundation?

One of the biggest advantages is the flexibility it gives donors to support multiple causes while enjoying potential tax benefits. Donors can contribute to healthcare, education, local projects, and more – all through one trusted foundation. It’s truly a win-win: donors make a meaningful difference, and local organizations like ours receive essential support to fulfill our missions.

2. What is your experience with the ease of managing your fund with the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation?

Our experience working with the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, which administers the Clay County Community Foundation funds, has been outstanding. They are transparent, responsive, and easy to work with. We appreciate their commitment to educating donors and community members on the various ways they can give back. Whether it’s through planned giving, donor-advised funds, or endowments, they help us – and our donors – navigate the options with confidence and ease.

3. How does having the fund with the Clay County Community Foundation help our community?

The ripple effect of having a fund with CCCF is powerful. Not only does it support our organization – Spencer Regional Healthcare Foundation – in enhancing local healthcare services, but it also contributes to a broader range of community projects throughout the year. This type of giving structure helps sustain long-term growth. With annual distributions, funds continue to grow over time while still supporting immediate needs. It’s a practical, forward-thinking way to ensure healthcare and other community services remain strong for future generations.

4. Would you recommend other agencies consider creating a charitable fund with the Clay County Community Foundation?

Absolutely! Every donor is unique – and their giving goals vary. Partnering with CCCF allows agencies to offer options that match donor passions while still serving the larger good of the community. When donor intent aligns with the mission of a local organization, everyone wins. Whether you’re just starting a fund or looking to grow an existing one, CCCF is an excellent partner to help guide that process.

5. Any other notes you would like to add?

We’re proud of the relationship we’ve built with the Clay County Community Foundation. It’s truly a partnership – we support their efforts, and they, in turn, support ours. Together, we are working to meet the diverse needs of Clay County residents by strengthening organizations, enhancing local services, and ensuring a more sustainable future. We’re grateful for their collaboration and would encourage others to explore how CCCF can support their charitable goals as well.

The Clay County Community Foundation provides an opportunity for an individual, family, business, or non-profit group to fund their charitable interests.

Funds may be established as endowed or non-endowed depending on the donor’s wishes.

Donors may maintain the use of their personal financial advisor when establishing and maintaining the fund.

- First Congregational Church Endowment
- Grand Avenue Community Outreach Endowment
- Hoepfner Trust Fund
- Ruth Miller Endowment
- St. Luke Homes & Services Charitable Gift Fund
- Clay County Fair Endow Iowa Fund
- Love Takes Root
- Hassman Family Fund
- Faster Horses Flood Relief Fund

CURRENTLY THE CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HAS THE FOLLOWING FUNDS ESTABLISHED:

- Lillian Swanson Memorial Arts Fund
- Spencer Regional Healthcare Foundation Endow Iowa Fund
- Arts on Grand Endow Iowa Fund
- Dawn Seeley Instrumental Fund

FOUNDATION DIRECTOR SHARES INSIGHTS ON PROCESS

Sara Taylor, Director of the Spencer Regional Healthcare Foundation recently shared her experience working the CCCF.

■ Important to Iowa to Capture the TRANSFER OF WEALTH



The transfer of wealth represents Iowa’s potential. It’s the entirety of assets expected to transfer from one generation to the next in the coming 40 years. There is always a transfer from generation to generation, as one generation passes away and leaves their estates to their heirs. But if those successors no longer live where they grew up, that wealth may leave the state or community where it was generated.

The 2024 Iowa Transfer of Wealth Study estimates more than \$30.4 billion in Iowa wealth will change hands in the next 10 years. Over 40 years, the figure swells to \$128 billion. The wealth may be held in real estate, securities, retirement accounts, and other assets.

The Iowa Community Foundations Initiative is studying it because the future of our communities depends on it! There is so much abundance – enough to change the future of our state. We study the transfer of wealth to help Iowa-based community foundations connect with local donors about investing in Iowa as part of their legacy. We want donors to know they can both secure their family’s future well-being while also enriching the community they call home.

The University of Minnesota Extension developed the 2024 Iowa Transfer of Wealth Study.

Transfer of Wealth (TOW) estimates are scenarios of a “most likely future” based on historical research and reasonable assumptions of the future. Longer range scenarios are subject to greater uncertainty. The 10-Year TOW scenarios include the cumulative intergenerational wealth being transferred by permanent resident households from 2020 through 2030. The 40-Year TOW scenarios include the cumulative intergenerational wealth being transferred from 2020 through

2060. These estimates exclude wealth held by corporations, governments, and nonprofit organizations. TOW scenarios are presented in real, inflation-adjusted dollars meaning that a dollar in 2060 has the same purchasing power as a dollar in 2020.

WHY 5%?

We believe our Iowa hometowns can continue to thrive if just 5% of this wealth transfer is contributed to community endowments through charitable giving. Over the next 10 years, that could be a \$1.5 billion investment in Iowa; in the next 40 years the figure grows to \$6.4 billion. Think of what our communities could achieve with that amount of money!

In no way are we suggesting parents not leave money to their heirs; however, we believe giving back does not need to be a choice between family and charity. When you leave just 5% to a community’s endowment, you can secure your family’s legacy AND help your hometown thrive. There are many options available in charitable estate planning to help you leave a legacy in your hometown.

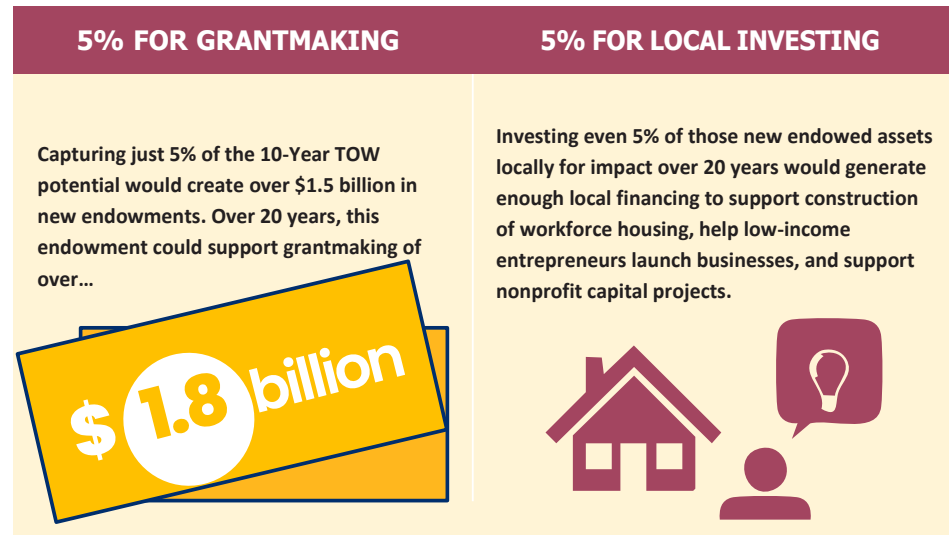
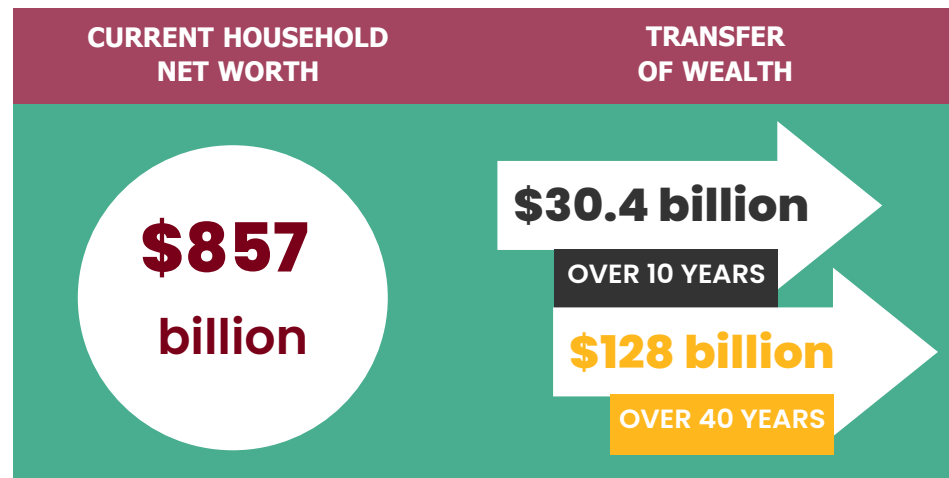
WHAT CAN I DO PERSONALLY TO HARNESS THE TRANSFER OF WEALTH IN MY COMMUNITY?

There are three simple things you can do to ensure some of these critical resources remain in Iowa:

- Talk to your professional advisor about including your community in your estate plans.
- Give to an endowment fund at your local community foundation
- Spread the word! When we all leave five, our hometowns thrive!

SNAPSHOT: STATEWIDE TRANSFER OF WEALTH

The University of Minnesota Extension’s Transfer of Wealth Opportunity Analysis for Iowa provides an estimate of Iowa’s assets – homes, businesses, investments – that will transfer between generations within the next 10 and 40 years. Our forecasts provides a research-based estimate of the household wealth that, with active donor engagement, might be available for charitable giving and philanthropic investing.



Equal Opportunity Statement:
The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, familial status, disability, public assistance status, membership or activity in a local commission created for the purpose of dealing with discrimination, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.



CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CONNECTING DONORS WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER.

You can partner with the Clay County Community Foundation to make a gift that impacts your community today and leaves a legacy for generations to come.



Give

a gift to impact your community forever



Grow

charitable dollars through professionally managed investment.



Grant

to your favorite causes impacting your community

THE CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (CCCF)

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Clay County by fostering local philanthropy and providing strategic grants. Established to serve as a bridge between donors and community needs, the Foundation operates with the mission of addressing both immediate and long-term challenges within the county.



NOTABLE 2025 HIGHLIGHTS:

\$144k+

2025 Community Betterment Grants:

In March of 2025, \$144,244 was granted to 22 nonprofit organizations to support projects that enhance the quality of life for all in Clay County.

\$575k+

Disaster Recovery Fund:

Through the Disaster Recovery Fund CCCF successfully raised more than \$575,000 thanks to the generosity of more than 325 donors. These funds were directly distributed to local initiatives aimed at supporting disaster recovery efforts throughout the county.

\$466k+

Disaster Recovery Fund Grants:

Grants totaling \$466,635 were disbursed to 34 projects in the community since June 2024.

Building relationships in the community:

The Clay County Community Foundation continued its collaboration with local government, business leaders, and other nonprofit organizations to address critical community challenges, such as affordable housing, mental health services, and disaster recovery.



CLAY COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

CCCF 2025-26 BOARD MEMBERS

Betsy Schoelerman, President
Cindy McGranahan, Vice President
Lexanne Clapp, Secretary/Treasurer

Adam Batschelet
Brent Cuttell
Ann Geisinger

Jane Goeken
Chris Gude
Andrew Hasley
Bev Rutter

An affiliate of the
Community Foundation
of Greater Des Moines

For information on creating a charitable giving fund with CCCF please contact Terri Batschelet, Executive Director
712-330-8952 OR INFOCCCF@GMAIL.COM