



Douglas
County
Community
Foundation

Newsletter

Spring 2016

Foundation announces community grants

24 local nonprofits recently received \$133,000 in Community Grants to improve lives in Douglas County.

Community Grants support a wide range of projects in the areas of arts and culture, children and youth, community development, education, health, housing and human services. This was the first of two 2016 grant opportunities. Nonprofits that did not apply this round may do so by September 1.

Cottonwood, Inc. and **Family Promise of Lawrence** received the largest grants, \$15,000 each. Cottonwood, which serves people with disabilities, will use the funds to purchase a van to transport clients. Family Promise, which serves children and parents experiencing homelessness, will use the grant to expand its successful program to accommodate more families.

The Willow Domestic Violence Center and **Headquarters Counseling Center** are working to put parts of their extensive volunteer training programs online. The two organizations will share a set of tablet devices that volunteers will use for role playing and other training exercises.

Douglas County Historical Society received funds to develop an interactive exhibit on the local civil rights movement. The **Lecompton Historical Society** will use a grant to purchase a platform lift that will ensure that people with mobility limitations can access all floors of its museum.

Other grants will support organizations that provide mental health services, job training, senior services, quality preschool education, arts programs for youth and human services.

In addition to our Community Grants, we make grants year-round from many donor-advised, organization, field of interest and scholarship funds. We also hold separate grant competitions each year to fund environmental projects and efforts that support LiveWell Lawrence's community health goals.



Family Promise will use its grant to expand services.



In 2015, the foundation made 520 grants totaling \$2.8 million. Visit www.dccfoundation.org for a complete list of March 2016 Community Grants.

New therapeutic classroom to serve kids

Ballard Community Services is expanding to provide a new therapeutic classroom for 8–10 children with high social, emotional and behavioral needs.

Butterfly Room teachers will use play therapy to work with kids who have experienced high stress.

Children will work on expressing emotions, problem solving, and cultivating empathy and respect for others. They will also learn ways to relate to family and develop confidence in their abilities.

Thanks to you, a \$10,000 grant will help Ballard adapt existing space so that it can serve more children while also maintaining services such as a food pantry for families.



Students now need access to a computer and internet to do homework.

Student thankful for computer and Wi-Fi access

Here are excerpts from a thank-you letter we received from a Free State High School student after we made a grant to provide laptops for check-out in USD 497 high school libraries.

Dear DCCF:

As the use of technology for classes and homework increases each year, keeping up in school and being able to work on assignments after hours can be extremely challenging for students without computer or internet access.

Computer homework gets assigned more often than not. Having my after school schedule taken up with homework, I had no time for extracurricular activities, so I never bothered with them.

You have lifted a great burden off my shoulders. I am now able to do more with my time and it feels so great to know that there is Wi-Fi and a laptop sitting on my desk at home. Many thanks to those involved.

Sincerely,
An impacted student

Creating a charitable legacy is simple

If you would like to make an estate gift to one or more charities, a donor-advised fund makes it easy and flexible. Simply set up a fund at DCCF during your lifetime and name it as a beneficiary in your will, trust, IRA, retirement or investment account. Then let us know what organization(s) you want to support. You can easily change or add recipients at any time without changing your beneficiary designations.



Call us or visit
dccfoundation.org
to find out more.



Ryan Gray Playground for All Children in need of renewal

Since 1993, the Ryan Gray Playground for All Children, located on the grounds of Hillcrest Elementary School, has been well-loved by thousands of children.

Today it is in need of renewal.

The playground is named after Ryan Gray, a student with disabilities, who became the 1988 national champion KU men's basketball team's mascot. It has special design elements and features that make it accessible and fun for all children, including those with disabilities.

The Hillcrest Elementary School PTO and community partners are working to raise at least \$130,000 for the renewal by June 2016 so that the rebuild may occur this summer. To date, they have raised \$67,200, including a \$12,600 grant from DCCF's LiveWell Community Wellness Endowment Fund.

In keeping with Ryan's love of the Jayhawks, the new playground surface will feature a huge basketball.

To make a donation to support this project, contact the Lawrence Schools Foundation.



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*Connecting the diverse
citizens and communities
of Douglas County through
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