

# Community Grants Report

June 2020

Ellis County

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## **O'Loughlin Elementary PTA, One School One Book**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$1,400, Awarded 12/4/2019**

**Project Summary:** We are requesting funds to cover half of the cost of an educational program that will benefit every child enrolled at O'Loughlin Elementary School. This grant will help offset the cost of materials and books needed for every child.

**Use of Funds:** We used the money to purchase one copy of the Lemonade War book for each kid enrolled at O'Loughlin. We also purchased a Spanish copy for families that speak Spanish in the home.

**Impact & Results:** Because we received this grant, our entire school was able to read the book together. We had daily reading assignments, weekly trivia games, and our Literacy Night revolves around the book. They were able to do peer readings and fun games all while enhancing their vocabulary and math skills. We were so grateful to be able to provide each kid with a copy of this book. Without this grant the PTA would have depleted funds to be used on other educational materials to help our teachers. This reading program has helped our school tremendously.

Ellis County

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## **Jana's Campaign, Inc., Leading to Prevent: Teen Dating Violence Prevention Education**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund for Ellis County, \$5,000, Awarded 06/05/2019**

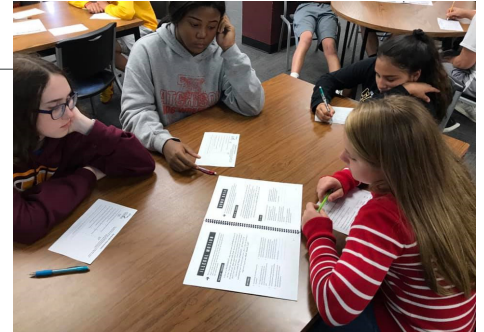
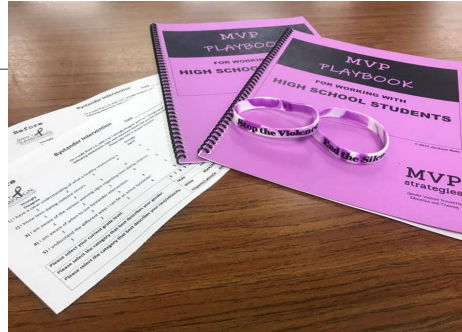
**Project Summary:** This project includes leadership development trainings utilizing the Bystander Intervention Model, which seeks to empower those who might otherwise silently observe situations where bullying and gender violence unfolds.

**Use of Funds:** These funds were used to develop and implement the "MVP Strategies" bystander intervention trainings and prevention education programs with students in Ellis County. Training materials were provided to students for bystander intervention trainings.

**Impact & Results:** Our project, Leading to Prevent, was a success! Jana's Campaign utilized the "Mentors in Violence Prevention" (MVP) program, which is a peer leadership model that emphasizes, not only potential perpetrators of violence and associated behaviors, but also the role of the "bystander." Through this training, we worked to educate students on healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors and how to intervene if they see situations of abuse and/or violence. The trainings consist of role-playing, allowing students to practice viable options to respond to incidents of violence before, during, or after they occur.

Our goal to incorporate leadership development strategies into our programming has shown to be effective. The quantitative data from our assessment of bystander intervention trainings at Hays High showed an 87% increase of knowledge about the issues of dating violence and how to be an active bystander after the training was complete. This training was also implemented at Ellis High and showed a 152% increase in knowledge when comparing the same components.

Jana's Campaign provided several other prevention education programs at both the secondary and higher education levels; including 10 classroom presentations, two mini-grants for student service projects, and two awareness events. 427 students at the secondary education level were directly impacted by the project and hundreds more were indirectly impacted. For higher education, the project directly impacted 175 students.



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### **Learning Cross Preschool, The Drive to Develop and Deepen Healthy Relationships**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund,  
\$5,000, Awarded 06/05/2019**

**Project Summary:** Regaining the opportunity to drive, the freedom of adventure, the gift to offer others through the simple tools of 2 Berg E-Grantours. We will empower the residents to exercise and get outside while developing deeper relationships with TLC students.

**Use of Funds:** We used the grant funds to purchase the Berg E-Grantour 4 person pedal cart and Shade Roof. The funds were also used to purchase story boards for placement of pictures and cues for conversation or picture stories.

**Impact & Results:** We have used the Berg Cart a lot with residents and had seen a significant increase in use as the weather was nice. Residents were going out with staff for 20-30 minute drives with and without children. At times, we had residents waiting for rides. In total, 14 different residents had utilized actually riding the Berg Cart. What we learned is that the daily conversations and overall mood for being outside changed. Residents would sit outside to wave and watch other residents riding. Not many of the residents felt comfortable steering, but were happy to just pedal and ride. We did learn that even though the sitting position is easier to pedal than a bicycle, it still has a range of motion limit for some of the residents. We also purchased some foot holds for the pedals, so residents could relax with their feet in the pedals and still ride without having to pedal. We have been in contact with the designer and had some input into a new adaptive vehicle for residents to allow exercise at whatever mobility level. This cart, big and bright orange, has delivered a lot of smiles and memories, and will continue to once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted for the residents. We have learned a lot but still are learning how to be most effective with the cart. One resident, was able to drive out and tell the staff and kids about her time raising her family in the area and pointed out some of the trees that her and her husband helped plant in the neighborhood. Amazing!

## **Ellis County , Ellis County Drug Court - Request for Program Incentive Funding**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$600, Awarded 06/05/2019**

**Project Summary:** The Ellis County Drug Court is requesting funding for incentives for the participants of the Ellis County Drug Court. Funds will be used to purchase \$5 and \$30 gift cards from local businesses to be awarded to participants in drug court.

**Use of Funds:** The \$600 awarded to us was spent on Phase Advancement incentives for our drug court participants. We purchased twenty \$30 gift cards from Walmart for our drug court participants who achieved phase advancement in the Ellis County Drug Court program.

**Impact & Results:** The participants of Ellis County Drug Court do an incredible amount of work for the court in order to establish their sobriety and transition from offenders and addicts to productive members of society. This award rewarded them for their hard work and motivated them to continue the journey through our drug court program. To us, a small gift card incentive does not seem like much but to our participants it is very helpful, and these are members of our society who often do not receive praise and accolades. The participants are very appreciative of this token, and the drug court team is honored to provide these incentives to the participants with the help of grant programs such as yours. There are approximately thirty participants in our drug court at any given time and this grant allowed us to provide phase advancement cards to twenty of them. There are five phases of drug court, a minimum of ninety days in each phase, with a lot of milestones reached before the participant can move to the next phase. At the time of this grant award we were providing \$30 Walmart gift cards for phase advancements. We've since reduced this to \$20 in an effort to extend our resources a little further.

## **USD 489, STEM Pals: An Intergenerational Learning Partnership**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$1,000, Awarded 12/5/2018**

**Project Summary:** Funds will be utilized to purchase materials for engineering challenges, STEM activities, as well as games to foster communication between 5th grade students and the residents of an assisted living facility, or facilities, on a monthly basis.

**Use of Funds:** Items specifically purchased included: Gears, Gears Gears Build a Bloom Set, Legos, Goobi Construction Packs, Kinetic Sand, Marble Maze Kits, Shoot the Moon, Shut the Box, I Got This!, Bunchems, Magnatiles, and PlayShire Brain Flakes.

**Impact & Results:** Approximately 25 5th grade students and 35 assisted living residents were participants each year. Many of our students are from single-parent homes and establishing relationships with supportive adults is critical. Assisted living residents also gained companionship. The assisted living residents were provided with mental stimulation, fine motor skill practice, and opportunities for authentic communication. Students learned to value elderly community members and learned that volunteering can be a very simple, but important, activity. The intergenerational partnership increased student excitement about STEM activities while learning the importance of respect and empathy. Students witnessed their intergenerational pals' willingness to engage in life-long learning. The assisted living residents now have a greater awareness of what is occurring in public schools. The director of the assisted living facility reported that residents that do not typically come out of their rooms for activities were excited to engage in the STEM Pals activities. The students frequently commented that they did not want to leave the assisted living facility because they were having so much fun getting to know the residents and completing the activities. Due to the assisted living facility's policy on confidentiality, I was not able to take photos. The memories that the students and residents made together are truly priceless. Thank you for supporting this project!

### **USD 489, Early Head Start Curriculum**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$2,050, Awarded 12/5/2018**

**Project Summary:** This grant will purchase the Frog Street Early Childhood Curriculum to be used by Early Head Start Child Care Providers with at-risk children in their care.

**Use of Funds:** 100% of funds were used to purchase the Frog Street Curriculum for the Early Head Start providers.

**Impact & Results:** The implementation of the Frog Street Early Head Start curriculum has made it easier to transition children from home-based Early Head Start to Head Start services. Previously the two programs were using different curriculum. By using the same curriculum, children are already aware of core competencies and enter preschool with no lag time spent re-teaching fundamentals. In addition, the new curriculum mirrors the concepts being taught in the center-based Early Head Start services. When everyone is on the same page, children benefit.

### **USD 489, Preschool Hearing Screening Equipment**

**Ellis County Legacy Fund, Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$3,562, Awarded 12/5/2018**

**Project Summary:** This grant will provide funds to purchase a Gordon Stowe Tympanometer/Audiometer combination instrument. The instrument will be used to provide hearing screenings to all USD 489 Early Childhood Connections preschool students.

**Use of Funds:** 100% of funds were used to purchase a GSI 39 Auto Tym V.4 Tympanometer/Audiometer combination instrument (OAE) and carrying case. The OAE was purchased in February 2019 and has been used since then.

**Impact & Results:** Since 2019 the new OAE has been used to provide hearing screening for over 200 children entering or transitioning to the USD 489 Early Childhood Connections Preschool program. In that time 21 children were re-screened to rule out hearing loss. Of those 21 children, 10 were referred on to medical professionals for further treatment. Treatment ranged from medication for ongoing ear infections, placement of tubes or more intensive interventions such as hearing aids. The majority of parents had no suspicion of hearing loss in their child, prior to the screening. An additional benefit is the length of time needed to perform the hearing screening was greatly reduced with the new OAE. The old OAE was prone to malfunctions and breakdowns that meant repeated attempts were necessary on very young children.

### **City of Stockton, City Park Fencing Project**

**Stockton Community Fund, \$797, Awarded 06/05/2019**

**Project Summary:** The City of Stockton is requesting funding for sandblasted/ powder coated fencing in the city park to go along with the new bridge that was just finished.

**Use of Funds:** The funds was used in purchasing the material for the fencing.

**Impact & Results:** The addition to the new fence has been a huge step in stopping people from driving right up to the shelter house and allows for a cleaner friendly environment.



## **Rooks County Healthcare Foundation, Labor/Delivery Bedside Scanning Safety**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$2,514, Awarded 12/5/2018**

**Project Summary:** RCH Labor/Delivery dept. seeks to enhance medication safety for patients in labor by installing computer scanners at the L/D bedside to increase patient safety, increase medication charting accuracy and decrease time spent on RN administrative tasks

**Use of Funds:** Purchased two of each:

- Kingdel Windows Industrail scanners
- NUC computers
- Dell monitors
- Logitech keyboard mouse

**Impact & Results:** New mothers report Increased comfort/satisfaction with birth experience due to the increased efficiency of the nursing team and reduced crowding in the LDRP room. Nursing staff reports a reduction in the number of calls for other nurses to attend patient while labor nurse exits room to chart/scan. Labor and Delivery nursing staff report a greater confidence that the possibility of inaccurate scanning of type/dosage of medicines administered and of inaccurate charting of vital measurements (duration/intensity of contractions, fetal heart rate etc.) has been substantially reduced.



## **USD 208, Outdoor Learning Area for USD 208**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund for Trego County, \$3,571, Awarded 06/05/2019**

**Project Summary:** The goal of this grant is to provide our K-5 STEM class an outdoor addition to their classroom. It will be complete with a two story wooden chicken coop and a Palram Premium Class 8 ft. x 12 ft. Glory Greenhouse with shelves, and two garden hoses.

**Use of Funds:** To purchase the green house, chicken coop and materials.



**Impact & Results:** This has been a great project for all our elementary students at Trego Grade School. The students started by incubating 30 eggs in science class. We didn't have the best turn out but ended up with four live healthy chickens. We raised them for about 60 days inside the classroom then were able to transfer them outside the classroom to their new coop. We are now getting about three eggs a day. The classes take turns gathering eggs and cleaning the coop. They like feeding and watering the chickens also. It has been a great learning experience for the students, many misconceptions have been cleared up about where eggs come from and how they get from the chicken to our table. When we started getting eggs the 5th grade class started

a profit and loss project. They were selling the eggs and figuring out if it was worth having your own chickens or if it was cheaper to buy eggs from the store. Students even called different businesses to price the grain needed to feed the chickens to make sure we were getting the best price for our grain. This project would not have been possible without the funding from the Heartland Foundation. As far as the green house we have it put together and it is ready. The COVID 19 pandemic set us back a little. We were planning to start growing plants this spring but sadly we didn't have any students to do so. I plan to start with our green house projects in the fall. Thank you so much for your supporting our school, teachers, and students.

## **USD 208, USD 208 Biology**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund for Trego County, \$3,209, Awarded 06/05/2019**

**Project Summary:** The goal of this project is to update the microscope technology available in our Life Science program, and will provide 10 Swift SW350T Compound Lab Microscopes, 10 Microscope Smartphone Camera Adaptors, and various microscope slide sets.

**Use of Funds:** To purchase the microscope technology for the Life Science program.

**Impact & Results:** Students in my Advanced Biology and Biotechnology courses really benefitted by being able to learn to use lab-grade microscopes and the ability to see bacteria and other small structures that were not visible using our previous microscopes. The sophomore biology class also enjoyed the benefits of the scopes and slide sets. The project impacted approximately forty students this past year and nearly all of the equipment purchased will impact these classes for the foreseeable future. My students, a fellow science teacher, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity that this grant has provided.



## **USD 208, Social-Emotional Learning**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund for Trego County, \$6,000, Awarded 06/05/2019**

**Project Summary:** This grant would be used to purchase a ninth through twelfth-grade social-emotional learning curriculum along with a smartboard to assist in delivering lessons, enhancing student and teacher creativity, and the presenting of professional development.

**Use of Funds:** The grant was used to purchase our social-emotional curriculum, School-Connect.

**Impact & Results:** Up to receiving the grant, our high school students did not have a curriculum for social-emotional learning. Our district identified this as a need for all of our students. The curriculum was implemented at the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Students received lessons during seminar time twice a week by their seminar teachers. During Covid-19, our district moved to online learning. Students received lessons online to continue use of the curriculum. In following up with staff, we feel the curriculum is making a difference among our students. Overall, students are applying what they are learning to other areas of their life. This is a positive sign the curriculum is making a difference.