

# Community Grants Report

March 2020

## Ellis County



### **USD 432, Family and Consumer Science Lab Remodel** **Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$1,000, Awarded 12/4/2019**

**Project Summary:** Family and Consumer Science lab is looking for funds for equipment upgrades in which appliances have not been purchased in the last 30 years.

**Use of Funds:** The grant funds were used to purchase a brand new refrigerator for our Family and Consumer Science Lab.

**Impact & Results:** Mrs. Connie Braun and her students have benefitted the most from the purchase of the equipment. She is able to hold more food for different projects and allows her to make less trips to the local grocery store, which is 15 minutes away. The attitude of the building is more positive because they see equipment is being purchased to help update our school. Instead of having the mentality of waiting until it breaks, we are updating appliances to help our school in the future. With the purchase of this appliance, students will be better served for the next 10 to 15 years which would result in helping hundreds of students.

## Rooks County



### **Plainville Community Foundation, Wreaths of Honor** **Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund for Rooks County, \$2,500, Awarded 06/05/2019**

**Project Summary:** The Wreaths of Honor program honoring local veterans was put into place in 2018. Evergreen wreaths were placed at nearly 350 veterans graves laid-to-rest in the Plainville and Sacred Heart Cemeteries. This is done on December 7, Remembrance Day.

**Use of Funds:** All funds were used in the purchase of 285 fresh 20" evergreen wreaths for the Plainville City Wreaths of Honor project.

**Impact & Results:** Our Plainville youth and their church youth group sponsors attached 385 bows to fresh evergreen wreaths. Adult volunteers and Plainville High School students placed 385 wreaths on veterans graves at Plainville ▶

and Sacred Heart Cemeteries. As students placed the wreaths, they said the veterans name, hence that veteran was remembered. The V.F.W. Post #8871 treated all students, faculty and staff in our school district to pizza, roses applesauce, carrots, and milk as a “thank you” to for their support of veterans in our community.

I believe the change that has happened is in the youth of this community. Along with hosting Remembering Our Fallen the students were more than willing to volunteer for a veteran event where we placed evergreen wreaths in their memory. The whole community was in need of a positive event to bring the community together and be proud of what Plainville can and could do after several area businesses took bankruptcy this year. Both of these events instilled pride and patriotism in the community and students as a whole.

Letters were sent to PHS alumni, advertising was done on Facebook and in the area newspaper. I believe thousands were reached by the event and at least 385 families were impacted when a wreath was placed at their relative's grave site. **Without this grant funding, fund raisers would have needed done. The grant helped with almost half of the cost. Thank you to the committee for considering & granting our request for funds.**

Rooks County

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### **USD 271, Tiger Enterprises**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, Stockton Community Fund, \$10,995, Awarded 06/05/2019**

**Project Summary:** Stockton High School is seeking to provide entrepreneurial opportunities for students through a Skilled Mechanical Crafts/Entrepreneurship class. Dave Ramsey's Foundations of Entrepreneurship curriculum will provide the framework for this class.

**Use of Funds:** USD #271 purchased screenprinting equipment through Ryonet. The equipment includes a 6 color 4 station base, flash dryer, exposure unit, a variety of plastisol inks, a washout base, and an Epson printer.



**Impact & Results:** Being able to start the Entrepreneurship class through the use of the screenprinting equipment and the Dave Ramsey Entrepreneurship curriculum has had a major impact on the students in our school and is starting to have an impact on the community at large. We have been contacted by a local business who wants us to supply shirts to sell in their retail business on Main Street. Our students have also designed and created T-shirts for our local FCA Fields of Faith and towels

for our basketball and wrestling teams. Shirts have been designed to be sold at our home basketball games as well. One of our students who has been interested in starting his own business for about four years felt confident enough after starting the curriculum and talking about copyright and Creative Commons licenses to get his business up and running last fall. Our students have had the opportunity to speak to teachers from across the state about our business, including Kansas Teachers of the Year. It is fun to see how excited our students are about what we are doing, and the growth and confidence they have gained is amazing. We are having conversations with other teachers about cross-curricular possibilities. Entrepreneurial prospects are an important piece of preserving small town viability. It is exciting to have those conversations with our students and to get them to think about possibly starting a business in Stockton. Rural community preservation is vital in order to retain our way of life.

## **REDBUD VILLAGE, Enhancing Quality of Life**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$7,995, Awarded 12/4/2019**

**Project Summary:** We are planning to update/upgrade our dining room furniture to help improve health, encourage socialization and overall quality of life of our residents here at Redbud Village.

**Use of Funds:** The grant money was used on 13 round dining room tables, 3 rectangle dining room tables and 30 new dining chairs. This furniture has improved the overall look and feel to the dining room and has enhanced the overall dining experience.

**Impact & Results:** This new furniture has improved the overall dining experience for all our residents and employees. The atmosphere is warmer and inviting. Our residents look forward to inviting their family to see the new furniture and enjoy a meal. Without the help of the foundation our residents would still be using the old restaurant style tables, that were loose, chipped and unsightly. We finished the project goal right on time and have a new look and plan on utilizing grant projects in the future to continue to improve our residents home and environment for better quality of life.

## **USD 271, Leadership Service in Action through Quilts**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$1,449, Awarded 12/5/2018**

**Project Summary:** USD #271 will utilize grant funds to purchase quilting templates for the Handi-Quilter machine that will more easily facilitate the completion of quilts. "Leadership Service in Action through Quilts" will give tactile, fabric hugs in the community.

**Use of Funds:** The funds were spent on rear handlebars, stylus and laser pointer for the Handi-Quilter machine and 15 groovy board designs for students to use when quilting their quilts.

**Impact & Results:** This grant provided the tools necessary for students to be able to finish a quality quilt with much more ease and less frustration! Most students are not able to afford a professional quilter to finish their quilts, so quilting the quilt themselves will add a sense of pride to their projects, as well. Seeing the quilt machine and accessories in the Family and Consumer Sciences room has spurred conversation and interest in the class. I currently have 11 students in this class and at least one Quilt of Valor in progress. Thank you again for this opportunity to reach students and benefit our community!



## **USD 271 - Grade School, Tiger Ready Regulation Room**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$6,505, Awarded 12/4/2019**

**Project Summary:** The money used from this grant would provide our school with a sensory/calming room. With the need for safe places for students to de-escalate on the rise, this room would greatly impact our school's ability to meet student needs.

**Use of Funds:** The funds were spent on furniture and tools to help our students learn to regulate their emotions in a healthy way. This has helped relieve pressure from our teachers and taught students the skills to regulate.

**Impact & Results:** As a result of creating a regulation room in our school, there have been many benefits. One of the biggest is allowing a place for students to ▶





go when they are feeling big emotions and don't know how to deal with them. The regulation room has also allowed our students a place to gather themselves without other students looking at them which has helped the autonomy of our students and their issues. Students love coming to the room and have shifted their learning and use of regulation from co-regulating (me helping them regulate) to self-regulation (they can walk themselves through the tools that work for them). I believe that conditions for teachers and students is better because sometimes teachers and students need a break away from each other and a new environment to relax in to gather their thoughts. Having a separate space where I can service multiple students at once has been a huge help because I can be helping multiple teachers and students at one time. This grant helped effectiveness and impact because it allowed us to purchase regulation furniture, tools, and create a space that students feel safe to be themselves in. When learning how to deal with emotions, it can be messy so having a calm space to learn in is so crucial.



**Housing Authority of Plainville/Country Lane Apartments,  
Country Lane Apartments Improvement/Upgrade  
Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund for Rooks County,  
\$10,000, Awarded 06/05/2019**

**Project Summary:** We have low-income housing with 24 units completed in August of 1978, financed with a 50 year loan from the USDA, with no former upgrades. This upgrade is for energy conservation, money savings, appearance, and to comply with ADA.

**Use of Funds:** This grant was to replace storm doors for each of the 24 resident apartments with a total cost.

**Impact & Results:** The storm doors were the first step of our upgrade. ABC contacted the door manufacturer Columbia Industries, Inc in Lindsborg KS and placed the order. It was the summer of heavy rains in SE KS and the manufacturer was having difficulties due to flooding. We had also specified we needed the doors have no locks because we need access to the apartments in an emergency. A standard key for all was not acceptable or multiple keys for management was not acceptable. We were told "no problem".

After the doors were installed there were immediate problems: latches didn't function proper, doors were not square, windows were difficult for the residents to open/would fall out, some broke, some fell on the residents. We had multiple visits from ABC and the manufacturer discussing who was at fault. Residents/installation/manufacturing? We withheld \$5,650 until the manufacturer came in late February of 2020 and did a fix on the doors. We have not had any complaints as of March 9th, so we released the funds and all problems seem to be addressed. The doors are more heavy duty than the old cheaper doors and have bigger windows. This creates a difficulty for some with weak fingers because of the heavier weight. We have also had to instruct the residents "please do not open the windows all the way to the top as that is how to remove them". BUT: What started out as cheering, went to frustration, has ended with 21 residents very happy and a cleaner look to the facility. **Thank you.**



### **Main Street Development, Inc., Covering Rooks County Veterans with Quilts of Valor**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$7,320, Awarded 12/5/2018**

**Project Summary:** The Crossroads Quilt Guild has a goal to award a Quilt of Valor to all Rooks County Veterans and those currently serving.

**Use of Funds:** The Guild used the grant money to cover veterans with Quilts of Valor. The money went for fabric, batting, thread, and machine quilting of the quilts for the 66 veterans living in Rooks County. Quilters donated some of their own supplies and time.

**Impact & Results:** The Crossroad Quilt Guild worked with the quilting community, schools, VFW auxiliary in Plainville and Stockton to cover our veterans with Quilts of Valor. In total, the guild presented 66 quilts to veterans in four public presentations and several private presentations. The veterans were very appreciative of the efforts of the community, guild, school and auxiliary. Many veterans felt undeserving of this recognition. Although we as a guild were presenting the quilts to honor our veterans the feeling of gratitude of the quilt makers was overwhelming. Without the funding, our guild could not have accomplished the task of making so many quilts. Without the grant the monies would have come out of the quilter's pockets and many could not have made as many quilts. Including the school children in our presentations, helped the students gain appreciation for our veterans and what they have

### **WaKeeney Lions Club, Lions Club Food Baskets and Toys for Tots**

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

**Project Summary:** The Wakeeney Lions Club serves the needs of holiday food baskets and Toys for Tots program throughout the Trego County community. The need rises each year for this program, We believe it to be a very worthwhile program.

**Use of Funds:** A total of 87 food baskets were distributed.

**Impact & Results:** There were a great number of families served again in 2018 with the Wakeeney Holiday Food Baskets and Toys for Tots program. **We thank the foundation for helping with this very worthwhile project.**

### **Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, "Timely Tympanometry for Tots" (TTT)**

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$3,378, Awarded 12/5/2018**

**Project Summary:** The Kid-Link program is asking Heartland Community Foundation for a Tympanometry-Audiometry machine, ear tips, and scale to help children and adults with developmental delays have hearing screens and weight checks for the infants and toddlers.

**Use of Funds:** To purchase one Tympanometer and carrying case, six Grason Stadler Ear Tip Kits and two Safer Infant Toddler Scales.

**Impact & Results:** Upon notification and receiving this award the Tympanometer, tips, and scales were ordered arriving in time to hold a spring hearing clinic that was held at Developmental Services. Where 68 individuals were screened with only three who passed the hearing screen. The information for the 65 who did not pass was ▶

documented and follow up needs identified to be referred to a doctor, specialist, or monitored. Upcoming clinics will be held to continue serving the individuals and practicing hearing health.

The equipment is used on a daily bases with the infants and toddlers who receive regular services, evaluations, and/or just need periodic testing. The children who are monitored in-between visits can have the testing done and take the readings with them to the specialist so he/she can see the child's readings between their appointments. These tools are used to identify the children who are in need of being seen by a physician or specialist and that referral can be made by our speech-language pathologists.

The scales are used to weigh the children to record and track their weight. Those we serve who need their weight monitored are checking out the scales to use so they can record their child's weight. This is a convenience for families who have a child with fragile care who do not have access to a scale. This equipment impacts the quality of our program. We are grateful to the Heartland Foundation for the equipment to use with those we serve in the Ellis, Trego, and Rooks County.