

2016 Fund for Hutchinson Grant Recipients Announced

Hutchinson Community Foundation announced the 2016 **Fund for Hutchinson** grant awards on Thursday, November 17 at the Cosmosphere. Established in 1990 by the founding Board of Directors as a permanent resource for the changing needs of Reno County, more than \$3.1 million has been awarded to more than 150 area organizations and agencies from this fund. This year, 29 organizations providing a wide variety of services and programs in Reno County are collectively receiving more than \$207,000. Additionally this year, Fund for Hutchinson Community Leadership grants totaling more than \$45,000 were celebrated.

Grant recipient organizations are:

ARTS & CULTURE

Family Community Theatre, \$1,200

FCT Rewired: Upgrade the electrical system for lights and sound at the Flag Theatre to improve quality and safety.

Hutchinson Symphony Association, \$2,500

Young Peoples' Concert at the Fox: Help students to experience the excitement of a full orchestra performance and learn about the historical contexts of the works to enhance their listening experience while also learning about concert etiquette.

Hutchinson Theatre Guild DBA Stage 9, \$10,000 x 3 years

Producing the Producer: First year of a three-year grant to support capacity building toward a new strategic vision at Stage 9 that will strengthen and sustain the performing arts in Reno County.

TECH, Inc., \$967

End the Echo for Endless Inspiration: Install acoustical panels to absorb sound and help all art-interested clients enjoy the TECH art studio without sensory overload.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

City of Arlington, \$3,320

Providing Access to the Community Center: Install an entry system to the Community Center to provide better access for the community for rentals, events, and the Wellness Center.

City of Hutchinson, \$1,500

Housing Education Pilot Seminars: Inform residents of the City's feature and historic neighborhoods about home maintenance and home ownership through educational seminars.

Hutch Rec, \$18,000

Quality of Life in Reno County: Final year of a three-year grant to support the sustainability of community and neighborhood development efforts to create an attractive place to live, work, and play by developing a more vibrant, active community.

Interfaith Housing Services, Inc., \$7,500

Executive Transition: Support toward the search for a new Executive Director and a successful transition of leadership.

Interfaith Housing Services, Inc., \$15,000 x 3 years

Projects Coordinator: First year of a three-year grant to support a central Projects Coordinator position that coordinates community efforts in addressing Hutchinson's housing needs, including critical repair and rehabilitation, by connecting organizations, programs, volunteers, and funding.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Circles of Hope Reno County, \$6,700

Capacity Building for Circles of Hope: Increase the capacity of Circles of Hope staff and volunteers to provide Bridges Out of Poverty training to businesses, educational entities, and others interested in reducing poverty in our community.

Hutchinson Meals on Wheels, \$1,627

One Call Now: Implement One Call Now, an electronic alert system that notifies clients of emergencies or changes in service.

Prairie Independent Living Resource Center (PILR), \$7,500

Social Enterprise PILR: Develop a business plan to increase self-sufficiency by bringing in unrestricted funds to cover operating and advocacy costs.

Reno County Health Department, \$5,000

Water Wise 4 Reno: Educating and engaging Rural Reno County residents to ensure a safe water supply for children and young families by offering water testing, treatment, and well repair to clients in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) and Maternal & Child Health (MCH) programs.

RSVP / The Volunteer Center, \$7,224

Computer Upgrade for VITA: Update outdated laptop computers used in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to increase speed and efficiency in the preparation of tax returns.

EARLY CHILDHOOD & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Abundant Life Child Care & Preschool, \$15,000

2020 Vision: Update indoor and outdoor facilities to insure a high-quality environment for the approximately 85 children who are cared for in the center on a daily basis as an extension of The Father's House church.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Hutchinson, Inc., \$6,480

Hawkin' It Up After Hours: Provide at-risk 7th grade students at Hutchinson Middle School with on-site after-school homework help, transportation to after-school sport events, and opportunities to attend Boys & Girls Club teen night activities, insuring that students have the support and relationships they need to be successful.

Central Christian School, \$4,000

Reading and Succeeding: Improve reading skills, particularly for those with dyslexia, via technology tools so that every child in Reno County has the chance for Reading and Succeeding.

Communities in Schools of Mid-America, \$10,000 x 3 years

Never Give Up: Helping Students Succeed & Achieve: First year of a three-year grant to help students at Hutchinson High School succeed in school and achieve in life by removing barriers and connecting students and their families with community resources.

Cosmosphere, \$15,000

Applied STEM Education: Final year of a three-year grant to increase the Cosmosphere's capacity to develop, deliver, and pursue external funding for applied STEM educational programming.

Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland, \$2,000

Girl Scout Community Based Programs: Curriculum and financial assistance for underserved girls in grades K-5 at Avenue A Elementary and the Magnet School at Allen to participate Girl Scout Clubs and get the Girl Scout Leadership Experience at no cost.

Girls on the Run Heart of Kansas, \$2,000

Empowering Girls from Start to Finish: Financial assistance for underserved 3rd-8th grade girls at South Hutchinson Elementary to participate in Girls on the Run, a 10-week program that inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident by using a fun, evidence-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.

Hutchinson Public Schools, \$5,000 x 3 years

Making the IB More Accessible and Successful: First year of a three-year grant to support teacher training and exam scholarships for the International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes (Diploma and Career-related) at Hutchinson High School, providing rigorous college-preparatory courses to make students more college and career ready upon graduation. Matched 1:1 by the Davis Foundation.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, \$15,000

Early Learning Center: Start-up operational funds to help Our Redeemer Early Learning Center meet the critical need for quality, affordable daycare in Hutchinson starting in June 2017, creating a future impact on children and their families by ministering to their specific needs and in turn creating healthy children, healthy families, and a healthy community.

Reno County Communities That Care, \$5,000

MY PALS (Mentoring Youth Partnerships at Lincoln School): Provide high-quality school-based mentoring programs and highly-qualified mentors for students at Lincoln Elementary to foster a stronger connection between students to their school and community.

HELEN ADAMS HAMILTON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION FUND - \$25,220

To foster the growth, education, and development of young people who are eighteen years of age and younger, with a preference for funding activities that result in an early intervention in an at-risk child's life.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Reno County, \$2,700

Recruit Hutch: Marketing materials to raise awareness of the needs of Reno County youth and recruit adult volunteers to serve as Bigs in our community.

Kansas Children's Service League, \$10,000

Healthy Families Reno County: Meet the needs of Reno County's Hispanic population through a part-time bi-lingual home visitor position to provide primary child abuse and neglect prevention services. Matched 1:1 by Medicaid.

Reno County Health Department, \$9,520

Rural Reno County Kid Care Project: Help potential childcare providers in rural Reno County overcome barriers of becoming a licensed childcare provider and equip young families living in the county with quality, affordable childcare close to home.

Union Valley Elementary School, \$3,000

Pre-K Shining Stars: Serving our Smallest Treasures: Equipment to enhance the Pre-K experience for students at Union Valley, a Title 1 building with the highest poverty percentage in the Buhler USD 313 district.

KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION PUBLIC HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND - \$14,300

Supporting health and wellbeing through healthy lifestyles, behaviors, and environments.

Buhler Wellness Center, \$8,000

Strengthening the Buhler Community: Purchase fitness equipment to help the Buhler community reap the benefits of wellness at the new Buhler Wellness Center facility opening in early 2017.

Dillon Nature Center, \$6,300

Foodie Trail: Educate the community and encourage healthier eating habits by introducing fresh foods produced by local farmers at an interactive event at Dillon Nature Center in August 2017.

FUND FOR HUTCHINSON – COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP - \$45,200

Strategic grants supporting Hutchinson Community Foundation's leadership priorities, timely community needs, or catalytic opportunities to strengthen our communities through collaboration and innovative leadership.

Interfaith Housing Services, Inc., \$2,500

Executive Transition: Support toward the search for a new Executive Director and a successful transition of leadership.

Hutchinson Public Library, \$2,700

Pilot Teen Program: Offer a free teen program at the Hutchinson Public Library in summer 2016 to provide opportunities for creativity and community building in a safe, clean environment.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, \$40,000

Early Learning Center: Support the construction of the Our Redeemer Early Learning Center to provide high-quality, affordable childcare in Hutchinson for up to 81 children ages six weeks to six years.