2018 Fund for Hutchinson grant recipients announced

Hutchinson Community Foundation announced the 2018 Fund for Hutchinson grant awards on Nov. 15 at the Cosmosphere. Established in 1990 by the foundation’s founding board of directors as a permanent resource for the changing needs of Reno County, $3.5 million have been awarded to more than 170 area organizations and agencies from this fund. This year, 27 organizations providing a wide variety of services and programs in Reno County are collectively receiving more than $213,000. Additionally, this year, Fund for Hutchinson Community Leadership grants totaling more than $41,000 were celebrated.

Grant recipient organizations are:

**Arts & Culture - $23,044**

**Family Community Theatre, $10,240**
**Let There Be Light:** Update lighting equipment and accompanying software, allowing improved theater experience for audience members, development of new productions featuring lighting set to music, and increased opportunities for community members to access mentoring in lighting design using industry-standard equipment.

**Hutchinson Symphony Association, $2,804**
**Can You Hear Us Now?:** Purchase, implement and train association members on a ticketing, marketing, and patron management system, which will streamline the symphony’s interactions with existing and potential patrons and increase their ability to collaborate with local arts organizations using the same system.

**Hutchinson Theatre Guild (Stage 9), $10,000 x 3 years**
**Producing the Producer:** Final 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.

**Civic Improvement - $50,799**

**City of Arlington, $3,299**
**Securing Our Shared Spaces:** Ensure the security and safety of shared space at Arlington Community Center by expanding the keyless entry system to include the cafeteria and gym.

**Hutch Rec, $15,000 x 3 years**
**Neighborhood Development:** Second year of a three-year grant to support collaborative work with residents and community partners, including the City of Hutchinson and the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, on innovative neighborhood development strategies with the overarching goal of ensuring Hutchinson has safe neighborhoods and is an attractive place to live, work, play and raise an active family.
Interfaith Housing and Community Services, Inc., $15,000 x 3 years
Projects Coordinator: Final 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.

Interfaith Housing and Community Services, Inc., $10,000 x 2 years
Keeping Homes Healthy and Safe: Final year of a two-year grant to make necessary home repairs for very low-income households, persons with disabilities and the elderly, so they can continue living with dignity in their affordable homes.

Reno County Veterans Association, $7,500
Operation Etched in Stone: Support for completion of the Reno County Veterans’ Memorial, honoring over 15,000 local veterans dating back to the Civil War whose names will be etched on seven granite panels.

Health & Human Services - $46,256

Poverty Collaborative Task Force, $2,000
Collaborative Coaching Ecumenical Training Group: Equip an ecumenical group of church contacts to develop collaborative coaching relationships with people in poverty to support progress toward financial sufficiency, as well as building trusting, ongoing relationships among church contacts.

Prairie Independent Living Resource Center (PILR), $7,070
ChoreBusters: Begin a new service called ChoreBusters, which community members can access to complete chores and errands, and which, over time, will generate income as unrestricted funds and allow PILR to become more self-sufficient and less reliant on grants.

Reno County Communities That Care, $12,911
VISTA Member Support: Reno County Communities That Care, Reno County Drug-Free Alliance (Drug Court), Interfaith Housing & Community Services and United Way of Reno County collaboratively applied for and received an AmeriCorps grant placing three full-time Volunteers In Service to America (VISTA) members at their agencies for one year in support of work to alleviate poverty, with an emphasis on opioid prevention. This funding covers the organizations’ costs to provide a fourth volunteer for the year.

Reno County Health Department, $9,500
Leadership to a Healthy Hutch: Engage Reno County Health Department staff in a series of leadership training and coaching sessions to better equip them for internal department decision-making processes while also preparing them for service on community boards and committees.

United Way of Reno County, $12,275
Technology into the 21st Century: Build organizational capacity through up-to-date, compatible technology equipment, allowing the organization’s good work to continue in a more efficient manner.

Visions of Hope, Inc., $2,500
Outreach and Awareness: Work closely with a marketing firm to explore means of increasing awareness of Reno County Court Appointed Special Advocates’ (CASA) need for volunteer advocates for children in crisis.
Early Childhood & Youth Development - $54,196

Abundant Life Daycare, $6,000
2020 Vision: Continue the flooring update project in classrooms to ensure a clean, safe and healthy environment for the children cared for in the center each day as an extension of The Father’s House church.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Hutchinson, Inc., $12,000 x 3 years
Hawk Huddle: Second year of a three-year grant for an after-school program providing seventh- and eighth-grade students at Hutchinson Middle School with homework help and opportunities to become involved in school events, allowing for continuous academic assistance while a sustainable funding source is built.

Circles of Hope Reno County, $3,696 x 2 years
Hutchinson High School Project – Building Capacity of Youth Who Are Living in Poverty: Increase the resilience of Hutchinson High School students from unstable homes by building their capacity to stabilize their lives and create their future stories.

Girls on the Run Heart of Kansas, $7,500 over 3 years
Program Expansion to New Sites & New Program Scholarships: Ensure that girls who would not typically have access to quality youth programming have the opportunity to participate in Girls on the Run (third- through fifth-graders) or Heart & Sole (sixth- through eighth-graders) programs that inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident through experienced-based curriculum that creatively integrates running.

Hutchinson Public Schools, $5,000 x 3 years
Making the IB More Accessible and Successful: Final 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.

Kansas Children’s Service League, $10,000
Healthy Families – Reno County: Continue to provide primary child abuse and neglect prevention services to Reno County’s Hispanic population through a bilingual home visitor who is well-trained in the Hispanic culture. Matched 1:1 by Medicaid.

Salthawk Community Support, $10,000 x 3 years
Removing Barriers to Education: Second year of a three-year grant providing students in need at Hutchinson High School with basic necessities and access to academic tutoring, financial education and self-esteem building activities coordinated by emotionally encouraging staff and volunteers.
Helen Adams Hamilton Children and Education Fund – $24,800
To foster the growth, education, and development of young people who are 18 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, $4,000
A Little Time for Big Futures: Support a campaign of diverse outreach efforts to recruit professionals throughout Reno County as mentors for 15 youth over the age of 12 who are currently on the organization’s waiting list.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Hutchinson, $5,800
EPIC Skillz Phase III: Explore ways to expand the EPIC Skillz program so a higher number of students can be introduced to career pathways through hands-on learning, soft skills and connections with local businesses.

South Hutchinson After School Kids & Preschool, $15,000
Project Safe Play: Purchase playground equipment that will provide opportunities to climb, slide, play games and interact creatively with other children while also meeting safety standards.

Kansas Health Foundation Public Health Endowment Fund - $14,870
Supporting health and well-being through healthy lifestyles, behaviors and environments.

Kansas Food Bank Warehouse, $5,000
Food 4 Kids Weekend Backpack Program: Provide volunteer-assembled, weekend food packets to children in Reno County who are experiencing food insecurity, allowing them to return to school on Monday mornings feeling less anxious, healthier, and better prepared to learn.

Reno County Department of Aging, $5,200
Grocery Delivery Service: Support Reno County citizens over the age of 60 living in rural areas lacking a grocery store by providing access to grocery ordering, shopping and delivery.

Early Education Center, $4,670
Hearing Screening: Purchase updated, portable equipment to complete mandatory hearing screenings for children 6 months to 5 years old who participate in any home- or center-based program through the Early Education Center and for children throughout Reno County who access developmental screenings through the center.

Fund for Hutchinson – Community Leadership - $41,916
Strategic grants supporting Hutchinson Community Foundation’s leadership priorities, timely community needs or catalytic opportunities to strengthen our communities through collaboration and innovative leadership.

Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation - Kansas Mission of Mercy
Support for the February 2018 event at the Kansas State Fairgrounds, when volunteer dental professionals provided 1,150 patients with a total of $1,396,068 in donated services – including 3,345 tooth extractions and 1,175 fillings – for an average of $1,200 per patient in free dental work.
Capacity Building for the Poverty Collaborative Task Force
Group coaching to strengthen collaborative relationships among people, churches and organizations concerned about poverty and costs associated with Frontline Trainings for church staff to better understand the emergency referral system and consider potential interventions for increased efficiency and empathy.

Community Education and Capacity Building for Resilience Reno County
Support for a community book study to build a common understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and visits from nationally recognized trauma consultants to help members of Resilience Reno County move their organizations and the community at large toward trauma-informed practices, policies and environments.

Horizons Mental Health Center’s ABC Program
As a funding partnership with the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, this is the second year of a three-year grant to support the establishment of the evidence-based ABC (Attachment and Behavioral Catch-Up) Program in Reno County. The program provides a 10-week coaching experience to families with children 6 to 24 months who have experienced early adverse environments, with the goal to improve parent-child attachment and the child’s ability to cope and respond to continued stressful situations, as well as buffer against the long-term effects of toxic stress.

Strong Towns “Curbside Chat” and Conversations
In partnership with the City of Hutchinson, Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, Hutch Rec and Young Professionals of Reno County, we invited the president and founder of Strong Towns, Charles Marohn, to present a “Curbside Chat” in October to educate the community on how so many American cities have found themselves in decline after decades of “growth” and introduce alternate considerations for how cities can change their approach for a future with more productive growth. The event and conversations with Marohn were meant to inspire a different set of questions and generative dialogue when we consider where and how our Reno County communities target investments going forward.

Building Quality Relationships to Inspire Collaboration
In an effort to better understand how to inspire meaningful and change-making collaboration, the Community Foundation has been experimenting with investing in the process of inter- and cross-sector relationship building. We believe in the Core Theory of Success used in Systems Thinking, which says that as the quality of relationships rises, the quality of collective thinking improves, leading to an increase in the quality of collective actions and results.