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Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs receives \$140,000 grant from the Iowa West Foundation to fund general operating support.

Thanks to the Iowa West Foundation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs has received a \$140,000 grant to fund general operating support, specifically in the areas of staff development, board engagement, and building community profile and support.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs is a nonprofit organization that partners with parents and schools in the Council Bluffs area to provide young people ages 6-18 with life-changing programs emphasizing healthy lifestyles, academic success, and character and citizenship. The Iowa West Foundation has been a vital part of this collaboration from the beginning and the Clubs' success would not have been possible without this support. The funding received from the Iowa West Foundation will allow the Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs to reach or surpass important member-based outcomes.

The Iowa West grant will be used to assist the Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs to pursue positive change for a group of young people who face tremendous obstacles. Through programs which target academic achievement, financial literacy, and career and college preparedness and by providing computer access, the Clubs help to address the academic needs of youth. They work in partnership with the Council Bluffs School district to address member's specific educational needs. Meals and healthy eating programs not only help kids who would otherwise go hungry, they teach kids to make smart nutritional choices. Through programs in character and citizenship, the Clubs help kids develop skills and confidence to avoid risky behaviors.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs will continue to work tirelessly to engage community members, businesses, social service groups and other foundations. The Iowa West Foundation's gift of operating support will help us grow our organization and provide us the flexibility to use these funds in building our capacity," said Ivan Gilreath, Boys & Girls Clubs of Council Bluffs CEO/President.

"The Boys & Girls Club of Council Bluffs is a key component of our human services campus here," said Pete Tulipana, President & CEO of the Iowa West Foundation. "It provides a variety of youth programs, some of which our local youngsters might otherwise not be able to access. Our Foundation believes in supporting core community organizations, such as the Boys & Girls Club."

About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands have played an integral role in the Metro Community for over 50 years, providing daily programs and services to over 4,700 members each year. Club facilities in North Omaha, South Omaha, Westside, Morton Mount View, King Science in Omaha, and Carter Lake and Council Bluffs, IA are open every day after school and evenings with programs that emphasize character and leadership development, the arts, health and life skills, education and career enhancement and sports, fitness and recreation. College graduates, many from the communities served, are trained by the Clubs as youth development professionals and charged with carrying out the mission of *"inspiring all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, healthy and caring citizens."* On the web at www.bgcomaha.org.

About Iowa West Foundation

The mission of the Iowa West Foundation is to improve lives and strengthen communities for current and future generations. It does this by providing leadership, creating partnerships, leveraging resources and serving as a catalyst in identifying and supporting community needs.

The Iowa West Foundation is funded by investment income and through the Iowa West Racing Association (IWRA), which receives contracted fees paid by local casino operators — Ameristar and Harrah's. The Foundation is an independent nonprofit recipient, as described in the 501(c)3 section of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation began its grant program in 1996, which awards funds for various community projects of non-profit organizations or government entities. The Iowa West Foundation is headquartered in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The Iowa West Foundation has awarded more than \$300 million in funding to nonprofit organizations and governmental entities, enhancing the lives of thousands of area citizens. For more information on the Iowa West Foundation, visit www.iowawestfoundation.org.

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