

Contact:

Andi Merfeld
amerfeld@watertownhealthfoundation.com
(920)390-4000

Health Foundation Announces Grant Awards

The Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation (GWCHF) this week announced awards for its inaugural grant cycle totaling nearly \$831,000. The 55 grant awards support investments in Healthy Living and Healthy Child Development.

“In today’s hectic world, all too often healthy choices are not convenient,” said Tina Crave, President and CEO of GWCHF. “Our Healthy Living grants provide funding to create school, work and community environments that make it easy to make healthy choices.”

“Healthy Living grants also provide funding to improve access to physical activity through walking and biking paths and outdoor recreation opportunities,” added Crave. “Research shows that we are twice as likely to be active when we live and work in close proximity to safe places to be active, and we are happy to support efforts to make these opportunities more accessible for all.”

GWCHF Board Chair Carol Quest is pleased that the foundation is able to support collaboration between community partners to enhance access to child development resources across the region. “The foundation for lifelong health is laid in the earliest year of life,” said Quest. “Our grants will increase availability to services that are known to improve child outcomes, including home visitation, parenting education and early learning opportunities for children.”

The foundation’s inaugural grant cycle offered two grant opportunities: Changemaker Health Grants for awards up to \$100,000 to fund programs that produce measurable improvement in health status, and Spark! Health Grants for awards up to \$5,000 to fund initiatives that spark excitement for health transformation.

The GWCHF has awarded 12 Changemaker Health Grants. Awarded grants include:

- 4-C, \$68,000 for child development groups, screening and parent education in Dodge County
- City of Watertown, \$100,000 for Carriage Hill Drive Shared-Use Path
- Fort Healthcare/Lake Mills Wellness Coalition, \$37,129 for the Lake Mills Schools and Community Garden Project
- Hustisford School District, \$50,000.00 for Mental health Framework Implementation
- Jefferson County Head Start/CESA #2, \$84,829 for Family and Community Connections parenting education
- Jefferson County Health Department, \$16,578 for Parents as Teachers Home Visitation Program
- Jefferson County Human Services, \$9,438 for Incredible Years School Age Parenting Program
- Jefferson County Parks, \$100,000 for Jefferson County Interurban Trail
- Recovery Support Center, Inc., \$16,000 for Building the Recovery Community
- The Gathering Source, Inc., \$40,000 for Rural Healthy Lifestyles feasibility study
- Watertown Unified School District Elementary Schools, \$94,155 for Active Recess



- Watertown Area YMCA, \$50,000 for active recess and after school programming at Ixonia Elementary School

The foundation has awarded 43 Spark! Health Grants. Grant awards by category include:

Active Classroom

- Dodgeland Elementary School, Fantastic Flexible Seating Options
- Lebanon Lutheran School, Stand-Up Classroom Desks
- School District of Jefferson, Flexible Learning Classroom/4th Grade
- School District of Jefferson, Sullivan Elementary School, Flexible Seating Classroom
- School District of Jefferson, Sullivan Elementary School, Third Grade Flexible Classroom Seating
- School District of Jefferson, West Elementary School, Active Classrooms
- School District of Jefferson, East Elementary School, Heart Rate Monitoring Fitness Technology
- Watertown Unified School District, Webster Elementary School, Let's Get Moving in the Classrooms
- Watertown Unified School District, Webster Elementary School, Movin' and Groovin' in Music Class
- Watertown Unified School District, Douglas Elementary School, Building Core with Flexible Seating
- Watertown Unified School District, Lincoln Elementary School, Active Classroom

Active Living

- City of Lake Mills, Multi-Use Community Facility feasibility study
- City of Watertown/Dorothy Steinhorst Micro-Park Initiative, Dorothy Steinhorst Micro-Park Initiative
- Hustisford School District, Kayaks
- Reeseville Public Library, Storybook and Community Yoga
- DJHCP/Get Healthy Watertown, Walking and Bicycling Maps
- Waterloo School District, Snowshoes
- Watertown Park and Recreation Department, Scholarship Fund
- Watertown Share The Road, Bicycle Re-Cycle program
- Watertown Family Center, Inc., Summer Parent And Child Enrichment Playgroups in the Park

Emotional Wellbeing in Schools

- Lake Mills Area School District, Trauma Informed Practices
- Lake Mills Area School District, Mindfulness at Lake Mills Elementary School
- School District of Jefferson, Suicide Prevention
- School District of Jefferson, Trauma Sensitive Schools
- Watertown Unified School District, Riverside Middle School, Panther Pause

Healthy Choices: Nutrition

- Bread & Roses, Equipment and Dietician Services
- Hustisford School District, Birdseed Backpacks
- Johnson Creek Healthy Initiative Coalition, Water Bottle Refill Station
- The Interact Club of Lake Mills High School, The Mill - Lake Mills HS Food Bank.



- School District of Jefferson, Making A Rainbow of My School Lunch Served From A New Salad Bar
- School District of Jefferson, West Elementary School Garden Enhancement
- The Gathering Source, Inc., Bridging the Rural Food Gap
- Watertown Family Center, Inc., Cooking/Baking Workshops
- Watertown Unified School District, Douglas Elementary School, Water is Life
- Watertown Unified School District, Riverside Middle School, Try it Tuesday
- Watertown Unified School District, Watertown High School, The Gosling Nest
- Watertown Unified School District, Webster School Water Bottle Filling Station
- Willows Christian Child Care Center, Healthy Eating with Power Foods

Other grants awarded include:

- Reeseville Public Library, Dodgeland Collaborative Summer Reading Program
- School District of Jefferson, Books on the Bus
- Watertown Department of Public Health, Child Passenger Safety Seat Distribution Program
- Watertown Area YMCA, Great Escape
- Watertown Area YMCA, Teen Nights

In total the foundation received 72 applications requesting over \$1.1 million.

Quest said the foundation was thrilled with the amount of grant requests it received.

“Because this was our first grant cycle, we were unsure how many applications we’d receive. Not only did the number of grant requests exceed our expectations, but we were pleased to see all grant requests fell in line with our mission,” she said. “We were truly impressed with all applications and the hard work among organizations to create health in our community.”

The GWCHF serves the residents of Dodge and Jefferson Counties with priority given to projects impacting the communities served by the school districts of Dodgeland, Hustisford, Ixonia, Jefferson, Johnson Creek, Lake Mills, Waterloo and Watertown.

Formed out of the 2015 joint venture between Watertown Regional Medical Center and LifePoint Health, the foundation is an independent non-profit that invests in creating health in the community. The mission of the foundation is to inspire collaboration, mobilize resources and encourage innovation that measurably contributes to the wellbeing of our communities.

To learn more about the foundation and supported initiatives, visit www.watertownhealthfoundation.com or Facebook at Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation.

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