

Community Grants Report

April 2020



Jewell County Burn Association, Safer Burns Through the Right Equipment

Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$4,494, Awarded 11/26/2019

Project Summary: We are wanting to equip trucks and tanks with pumps/plumbing so that we can more effectively keep fires under control.

Use of Funds: The money was used to equip trucks and tanks with pumps/plumbing so that we can more effectively keep fires under control.

Impact & Results: What a blessing to receive grant money for our fire related needs. As a rural burn association, we operate on a very small or non-existent budget and these grants help us to fulfill our mission and keep our volunteers safe. We were able to buy a gas engine with diaphragm pump, transfer pump, and leg tank with the grant money. **Thank you for the grant!**



Formoso Public Library, Books for Kids

Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$1,000,

Awarded 11/28/2018

Project Summary: To replace book favorites as well as bring in new stories for kids. A list has been generated, by the librarian, of quality children's books to be added to the collection. Sources that were used to create the list are book reviews, the Central Kansas Library System's Youth Services Consultant, and recommendations from librarians, patrons, and teachers.

Use of Funds: The library purchased 149 books with the \$1,000.00 grant.

Impact & Results: The library had a small float in the Formoso Fun Day parade. A wagon full of Dane G. Hansen Foundation Grant books, with a sign board, that was pulled by the library director, Barb Langston, gave the public their first look at many of the books the grant provided. This simple display that reached 130-150 people spurred new life into the library. The library has visitors that have not been in the library in the last 16 years. Library cards are being issued to residents of the Formoso community that never had a library card. Friday morning coffee at the library flourishes. Best of all, the kids in the community have found books that they want to read in the new collection. The impact of the books in the library will reach the children of Jewell County and Kansas today, but will continue for years to come as well.



City of Burr Oak, City Welcome Mural

Jewell County Community Fund, Dane G. Hansen Community

Grant Fund, \$5,638, Awarded 05/29/2019

Project Summary: A bold and colorful welcome mural will be painted on the side of a large, blank building on KS Highway 128 to greet visitors and proclaim the town's identity.

Use of Funds: Artist's commission and painting supplies.



Impact & Results: Our new, beautiful, welcome mural is a huge success! No longer are travelers put off by a large, dilapidated wall as they drive through Burr Oak. Now the colorful mural catches their eye and greets them with an object of beauty. Complimentary comments have been constant since its completion. It has been observed that motorists now stop to take photos of the new mural. Artist Callum McNichols has completed the main body of the mural, and has left the voluntary involvement of the community to paint accompanying barn quilts under the supervision of the Burr Oak Community Club. In addition to boosting the morale of the town's residents, hundreds of people annually drive by and can't help but have a more positive attitude about the state of our small town. **This project would not have been possible or accomplished at all without the generous support of this grant.**

City of Mankato, Mankato Volunteer Fire Department Safety Equipment Request

Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$3,000, Awarded 11/26/2019

Project Summary: The Mankato Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) is asking for funds to purchase 25 fire-rated Nightstick Intrinsically Safe Dual Angle Flashlights for each fireman.

Use of Funds: The funds were used to buy 25 intrinsically safe fire-related flashlights for our firemen.

Impact & Results: The addition of these flashlights adds a significant positive impact in terms of safety for out fireman. We haven't dispersed individual flashlights to our fireman since 2003, and those flashlights were handheld only. These new flashlights will allow our guys to have 2 hands available for firefighting. Additionally, the enhanced illumination that LED bulbs create makes more a much safer working environment. These flashlights are also powered by a rechargeable Lithium Ion battery pack, with extended battery life. This will save on cost over time versus using alkaline battery flashlights.



Jewell County Wellness, City of Formoso Park Playground

Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund,
\$7,286, Awarded 11/28/2018

Project Summary: Currently the equipment we have in our existing park is obsolete and unsafe. Our slide is missing a top step and is unable to be fixed. Our swings are broken and unsafe. Very few in the community allow their children to play in the park for fear of injuries. We are requesting money to purchase new play equipment that will be safe, fun and utilized by all.

Use of Funds: The funds were used to purchase the new playground equipment for the Formoso City Park.

Impact & Results: This money was so impactful to the citizens of Formoso because the playground equipment at the Formoso City park has not been updated in over fifty years. The playground equipment was unsafe for children to play on and was in serious need of an update. The Formoso community put together a Formoso Fun Day, partly to finish raising the money for the playground, and it was the first time the community pulled off a Fun Day in the last forty years! The Community

rallied behind the effort and put on a great event! It was very encouraging, exciting, and the group was able to fund the remainder of the playground equipment. This, with the grant from the Foundation, and our Project WeKan Fundraiser allowed for the playground equipment to be purchased. **Thank you for your support of our efforts! The equipment is here and now that the spring weather is here, we will be scheduling a volunteer day to erect the new play system. Thanks again!**



The Burr Oak Library is hosting a winter music series at the library using funds obtained by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. Musicians featured at the concerts have been the Knew Rider Band, Steve Sasman, Melvin Litton and Alexa Dawson (not pictured). There are two concerts remaining in the series. Savannah Chevrolet will perform on February 16 and Taylor Kline will perform on March 1.

Music in Burr Oak **Mankato Chamber plans sesquicentennial**

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Nine members of the Mankato Chamber of Commerce and one guest were present for the February meeting. The chamber's budget for 2020 was approved. The organization adapted the same budget that was used last year.

The membership drive was reported on. So far there are 20 members who have turned in forms. Membership forms will be mailed to the members who have not turned in submission forms. The deadline for form members to remain on the website is March 1.

Barry Parson, the new city administrator, shared with the chamber about the work the city is currently doing with adapting a seal for Mankato. The seal will be the backside of the coin from the centennial celebration.

Scholarship applications have been sent to the Rock Hills High School seniors. The deadline for the applications is April 1. Members will select the winners at the April monthly meeting.

The City Wide Clean Up and Community Garden were both briefly discussed.

Burr Oak Community Library, Library Programming
Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund for Jewell County,
\$1,000, Awarded 05/29/2019

Project Summary: We would like to offer a variety of special programming at the library throughout the year for people of all ages. Programming at the library is a good way for community to stay connected and have quality entertainment on a local level.

Use of Funds: All funds were used to pay for performers for special programs at the library. We had a kids magician perform for the summer program and several adult and family friendly programs through the fall and winter. All of the programs were well attended.

Impact & Results: The Burr Oak Library is the only place in town that offers any type of programs for kids or adults. We held a Winter Concert Series that

was a huge hit this year! We had an average of 30-40 people attending the music programs. The library became a meeting place for people to gather and share in fellowship. We had musicians come and share their stories, songs, and poems to those who attended.

The kids programs this summer were also well attended. The theme of the program was "Universe of Stories". We used some of the grant to increase the funds we had available for summer programming. We were able to hire a magician this year as a special treat thanks to the Dane G. Hansen grant funds. Our town has benefited greatly from the grant funds made available to us for programming.



City of Jewell, Jewell Fire Department
Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund,
\$6,499, Awarded 11/26/2019

Project Summary: The Jewell City and Rural Fire Department service the City of Jewell, Kansas and the surrounding rural areas. The department is in need of a new pump on the 2001 fire truck to reinstate the fleet to full capacity.

Use of Funds: Grant funds were specifically used for the purchase of a Hale Attack Firefighting pump and associated supplies necessary for installation by the Jewell Volunteer Fire Department.

Impact & Results: The Jewell County Community Foundation and Dane G. Hansen Foundation funding has made it possible to reinstate the 2001 International 4700 fire truck to full working order through the installation of a new pump. This truck was critical to the fire department as it also provides a generator for when power is needed and carries a majority of the firemen's gear and supplies. During the March fireman's meeting, the volunteer firemen extended their normal meeting to include a work session to install the new pump. As a result the 2001 International fire truck is once again operating at peak performance and ready for future fire emergencies.



**Jewell County Fair Board,
Jewell County Fairgrounds Refurbish Exhibit Building
Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$9,000, Awarded 11/28/2018**

Project Summary: The only indoor exhibit building at the Jewell County Fairgrounds is a 70+ year old half-moon metal quonset building. Price quotes to replace this building with a new building of similar size are cost prohibitive. Each year the quonset building houses woodworking, food, clothing, fiber arts, photography, arts & crafts, horticulture, a variety of other project exhibits, displays, in addition to a few commercial exhibits, for the Jewell County Fair. Furnishings to display the projects are also stored in the building year-round.

Use of Funds: The funds were used to insulate the 70+ year old quonset building at the fairgrounds where all non-animal exhibits are housed. The purpose was to make the building more air-tight so not as much dust gets into it and keep it cooler during the fair.

Impact & Results: There was a huge difference at the fair in July 2019 as compared to other years in terms of how cool the quonset stayed during the fair because of the foam insulation. This resulted in people staying longer to view exhibits in the quonset. Phase 1 was definitely successful. The quonset is actually huge in terms of square footage (both on the ground and in the air); without the grant, the Fair Board would not have had enough money to complete the project. Now, the Fair Board knows the next stage is to work on lighting (upgrade) and paint the entire inside of the quonset and possibly the outside. The one estimate received to date for the painting is over \$15,000 because it is so very large (and tall). An amazing building considering it was put up in the 1940s.



**City of Jewell, Downtown Delaware Street Beautification
Jewell County Community Fund, Dane G. Hansen Community Grant
Fund, \$5,215, Awarded 05/29/2019**

Project Summary: The City of Jewell seeks to create a more vibrant downtown area through repainting street lights and adorning them by hanging custom banners.

Use of Funds: Grant funds were specifically used to pay for the community center awnings and street light banners.

Impact & Results: This year Jewell celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary of incorporation as a community. As a result, a dedicated group of community members formed to plan a series of celebratory events throughout 2020 to commemorate this important 150 year milestone. A few of the events include a historic home tour, Memorial Day services, talking tombstones, 4th of July fireworks with downtown street dance, and Corn Show events. With all of the activities planned there could not have been a better year to focus on updating and creating a more vibrant, welcoming downtown area. The repainted street lights, new custom light pole banners and new awnings on the community center all create a more attractive downtown area for residents, businesses, and visitors of our community. Unknown at the time of this grant award, the theme of this year's Corn Show in conjunction with the year long sesquicentennial events is "We Have a Story to Tell". The new custom designed banners each have a different community based picture on them representing our story and the people and places of Jewell that make it unique. **We are thankful to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and Jewell County Community Foundation that have made it possible for us to continue to tell our story in this new way for year's to come.**