

JCCF grants 'help a lot of people'

Bryce Mayer

The money will go for playground equipment, educational programs and helping victims of domestic violence, among others.

The Jennings County Community Foundation awarded \$10,000 to 14 organizations at its seventh annual competitive community grant program breakfast recently.

"This program has helped a lot of people in Jennings County since we started it in 2009," said Barb Shaw, **JCCF** director. "We want to keep doing that."

Organizations receiving grants from the program this year were Jennings County Bicentennial Committee, Friends of Historic Vernon, Geneva Township Recreation Center, Jennings County Council on Domestic Violence, House of Hope, Jennings County Historical Society, Senior Resources, Jennings County Veterans Service, Wayside Inn, Jennings County Youth Foundation, Salvation Army, Jennings County Purdue University Extension and Women's Giving Circle.

At the Council on Domestic Violence (CDV), the grant will be used to purchase new phones for the staff.

"We have old phones with batteries that quickly run out of power and sometimes go dead when someone is calling us for help," said Sally Wood, CDV director. "We are left not knowing what to do, fearing if we call back that the victim might be in danger from the spouse returning or something else."

"Also, the victim may have worked up the nerve to reach out for help and then thinks we hung up on them because we didn't believe them. So this grant will provide a much safer way to reach out to domestic violence victims and more consistently do our job," Wood added.

Colleen Malone of the Wayside Inn homeless shelter was thankful, too.

"This helps us keep going forward," she said. "We are very pleased and touched by the grant."

It wasn't easy, according to Shaw, to decide which groups would receive grants, as is the case every year.

"We had 18 applications from organizations requesting \$58,000 in all," Shaw said. "It was a tough job for our board to pare those down."

The **JCCF** director and the board have hopes that more money can be given through the grant program in the future.

"Hopefully, that grant program will grow because of the drive now underway for our nondesignated fund," Shaw said. "The Lilly Endowment is matching those contributions. We have already gotten a good response to that and we are optimistic that more people will give, so we can assist these community organizations in their good work in helping the people of Jennings County."

Wood said the CDV and other organizations welcome the funds.



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Individuals representing the Jennings County Community Foundation and organizations receiving funding from the community grant program attended the 2015 awards breakfast. They include: row 1: Barb Shaw, Debbie Jackson, Atina Rozhon, Kelly Hatton, Sally Wood, Colleen Malone, Louise Showman, Sandy Vance; row 2: Brad Bender, Mike Eastman, Dusty Williams, Beth Steiner, Amber Fields, Myra Fishvogt, Charlinda Evans, Sunshine Galliher, Leslie Money, Ruth Bosch, Ginger Miller, Barb Fox, Jo Riley.—Submitted Photo

"We have gotten these grants from the Foundation over the years and they have helped us greatly to get our shelter up and operational," she said. "We receive state grants and funding from the United Way, too, or we couldn't operate. Local money such as the Foundation grant have really helped us in protecting and keeping safe victims of domestic abuse."