

Foundation gives service groups \$104,000

By Ryan Trares

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Local agencies will be able to feed needy schoolchildren on the weekends with a grant from the community foundation.

Other grants will help establish a mobile food pantry and build ramps for senior citizens and the disabled.

The Johnson County Community Foundation awarded more than \$104,000 in grant money to service organizations this year for these and other projects. The funds will go to 21 groups focusing in areas such as arts and culture, education, health and human services.

The 2011 grants were awarded based on the community need and how many people it would affect, grants director Kim Minton said. Consideration also was given to the project's sustainability and the finances of the organization applying.

Money for the grants comes from the earnings from more than 250 funds that the foundation manages. Close to 50 groups applied for the grants, an increase from about 40 that applied last year, she said.

"The need in general is so great. With the economy, all of our organizations are in need of help with their services," she said.

The amount awarded remained the same as in years past, but foundation leaders decided to expand into different areas of need this year.

Since 2008, much of the focus had been on health services, Minton said. But the foundation decided to widen the scope to include more arts programs, educational initiatives and emergency services.

Gleaners Food Bank received \$9,000 to create a mobile food program, taking its services throughout the county to needy people who don't have transportation.

Youth Connections received the same amount to support its Jumpstart Mentoring program, which provides adult role models for local children.

Other recipients included:

accessABILITY Center for Independent Living, \$2,500

Christian Help, \$5,000

Boys & Girls Club of Franklin, \$4,000

Creekside Elementary School, \$5,000

Franklin Community Schools Education Foundation, \$2,000

Franklin Development Corp., \$7,500

Franklin Community School Corp. Feed & Read program, \$8,000

Friends of the Greenwood Public Library, \$2,000

Girls Inc. of Franklin/Johnson County, \$5,000

Greater Greenwood Arts Council, \$2,500

Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County, \$5,000

Johnson County Historical Society, \$756

Little Red Door Cancer Agency, \$5,000

Reach for Youth, \$7,000

Servants At Work, \$2,500

Southside Art League, \$1,000

Trafalgar Police Department, \$7,650

United Way of Johnson County, \$8,000

Windrose Health Network, \$6,058

Youth Connections, \$9,000

Photo Caption: Local agencies will be able to feed needy schoolchildren on the weekends with a grant from the community foundation. Other grants will help establish a mobile food pantry and build ramps for senior citizens and the disabled.