

**Iowa Area Development Group
Community Foundation**

**“A Partner in Progress”
2017 Annual Report**





A MESSAGE TO OUR *Friends AND Partners*

Over fifteen years ago Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) directors, staff, and rural policy leaders began discussing and assessing the status of foundations and community-based philanthropy in Iowa. Our research uncovered a glaring absence of philanthropic tools and capacity, particularly in small communities and rural areas.

By 2003, the Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation had been formally established. The organization became the first community foundation in Iowa with a statewide geographic commitment. Today the Foundation remains uniquely committed to a philanthropic mission focused on economic development, community betterment, civic leadership, entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

Our work at IADG Community Foundation remains a work in progress. Our philanthropic journey continues to evolve so that we can better meet the needs of communities, counties and the non-profit sector throughout rural Iowa.

2017 in Review

In 2017, the Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation once again dedicated its time and resources largely to helping others. Working with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines through our Iowa Community Affiliate Network (Iowa C.A.N.) the foundation continued to provide philanthropic education, marketing and development services. Our partnership efforts helped make a rich library of resources and case studies available to our affiliated community foundations.

Working with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines and Iowa C.A.N., our foundation has now helped over 31 counties establish 535 funds and grow their community foundation assets to over \$91M.

When the IADG Community Foundation wasn't busy helping Iowa C.A.N. members, it was busy working to grow its own assets and grantmaking. During 2017 IADG Community Foundation assets grew from \$1,250,365 to \$1,368,702.53. The IADGCF Endowment Fund is valued at \$41,040.45.

A noteworthy number of gifts to the IADG Community Foundation have been "Gifts of Honor" and "Gifts of Memory". We are truly appreciative of the many contributions celebrating and honoring those who have given so much to rural Iowa. These people are honored both on our website, and in a memorial book at our headquarters.



While the IADG Community Foundation endowment has not matured to a point where aggressive grantmaking is possible, the Foundation authorized 21 grants totaling \$88,500 in 2017. IADG Community Foundation made its 150th grant in 2015. Total grant making since inception has totaled \$413,290. Our grantmaking has allowed us to help other foundations and to advance entrepreneurship, community beautification, leadership training and economic development.

Following the 25th anniversary celebration of Iowa Area Development Group, IADG Community Foundation joined IADG in establishing a “Silver Shovel” community and economic development leadership recognition program. The Foundation agreed to honor the work of each recipient organization with a \$1,000 grant to strengthen local non-profit activities

We are proud that the Foundation has bestowed over \$25,000 in community grants through the Silver Shovel recognition program. Our grants have provided the seed for leadership development programs, workforce preparedness, community betterment, technology investment and more.

In 2016, a new grant program called “Partners in Progress” was launched at the Iowa Area Development Group “Partners Forum.” This unique grant program is aimed at replicating rural success stories. Three unique initiatives aimed at rural housing, workforce development, and population attraction were awarded \$30,000 in fiscal year 2017. An additional Partners in Progress grant was also awarded in 2017 for \$8,000 for a feasibility study conducted for a school conversion to housing project.

IADG Community Foundation continues its philanthropy efforts without paid staff and with the leadership and support of a volunteer board of directors. The generousness of many people and organizations is allowing IADG Community Foundation to grow its commitment to philanthropy and to be a “Partner in Progress” for Iowa’s rural community.