

Iowa Area Development Group  
Community Foundation

“A Partner in Progress”  
2016 Annual Report





## **A MESSAGE TO OUR *Friends AND Partners***

Over a dozen 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.

### **2016 in Review**

In 2016, 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. Iowa C.A.N. engaged Don Macke with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship for education, training, and inspiration. The Center has also made available to affiliates its rich library of resources and case studies.

Working with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines and Iowa C.A.N., our foundation has now helped over 31 counties establish 471 funds and grow their community foundation assets to nearly \$60M.

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 2016 IADG Community Foundation assets grew from \$1,105,915 to \$1,250,365. The IADGCF Endowment Fund is valued at \$37,079.

While the IADG Community Foundation endowment has not matured to a point where aggressive grantmaking is possible, the Foundation authorized 16 grants totaling \$57,200 in 2016. IADG Community Foundation made its 150<sup>th</sup> grant in 2015. Total grant making since inception has totaled \$324,790. Our modest grantmaking allowed us to help other foundations and to advance entrepreneurship, community beautification, leadership training and economic development.



Following the 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.