

Okoboji Foundation Awards Over \$316,000 in 2020 Grants to Lakes Community

On May 27th representatives of the Okoboji Foundation and nonprofit recipients celebrated awards of over \$316,000 to make a lasting positive impact in our Lakes Community. (Pictured: Ali Schmitz, Okoboji Foundation; Holly Skopec, Okoboji Foundation; Susan Reiser, Dickinson County Fair Board; Steve Anderson, City of Milford; Clay Norris, Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association; Michael Meyers, City of Okoboji; Jeff Vierkant, Historic Arnolds Park; Erin Reed, Dickinson County Trails Board; and Brooke Lowin, Hope Haven.)

In 2020 the Okoboji Foundation received grant requests totalling \$878,000. Proceeds from Okoboji Foundation endowments provided \$250,000 for awards. The Youth in Philanthropy initiative raised an additional \$66,072 in annual funds for grants steered by student decision.

These resources will help many nonprofits with their vital capital projects. Speier Park Pickleball Complex by City of Okoboji: *"On behalf of the City of Okoboji and the Okoboji Pickleball Association I want to sincerely thank the Okoboji Foundation for their generous support of the new pickleball complex located within Speier Park. This project has truly been a communitywide effort and will have a lasting positive impact for generations to come. With the support of the Okoboji Foundation it will allow this facility to truly become a world-class complex that*

the City of Okoboji and the Lakes Area can be proud of. Thank you again to the Okoboji Foundation for their support of this project and their continued partnerships throughout the Lakes Area."

Michael Meyers, City Administrator, City of Okoboji



Big Spirit Lake Water Quality Buoy by Iowa Lakeside Laboratory: *"Lakeside is very grateful for the support of the Okoboji Foundation and the amazing Youth in Philanthropy students on the Big Spirit Lake buoy project. We are very lucky to have such tremendous support for nonprofits in the Iowa Great Lakes Community."*

Dr. Mary Skopec, Director of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory

The 2020 Okoboji Foundation Grant Awards:

- \$75,000 to Dickinson County Trails Board for Rail Trail Phase III
- \$75,000 to Spirit Lake Community School District for Spirit Lake Community Park
- \$50,000 to City of Okoboji for Pickleball Complex
- \$25,000 to Historic Arnolds Park Inc. for a Midway Refresh
- \$25,000 to Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Assn. for an Interactive Digital Hall of Fame System

The 2020 Youth in Philanthropy Grants steered by student decision:

- \$24,483 to Iowa Lakeside Laboratory for Big Spirit water quality buoy
- \$10,000 to City of Milford for Florence Park enclosed shelter addition
- \$10,000 to OF Disaster Recovery Fund to assist those affected by COVID-19
- \$9,089 to Hope Haven for Spirit Lake building renovation
- \$7,500 to Lutheran Lakeside Camp for trail improvements
- \$5,000 to Dickinson County Fair Board for a new cattle shed

The Okoboji Foundation is the community foundation for the Iowa Great Lakes Region. Started in 1988, the Okoboji Foundation serves as the Center Point of Community Giving for Vital Capital Projects with approximately \$4.1 million in grants from our endowments.

Gifts of any size make the impact happen. Okoboji Foundation Board and Youth in Philanthropy thank all donors who join us to send their *Ripple of Good* throughout the Lakes Community. Our Grant Committee and Youth in Philanthropy's due diligence verifies that grant awards are reviewed and prioritized to make a vital difference.

In addition to our community grant program, the Okoboji Foundation will again host the \$5,000 July Nonprofit Challenge. The nonprofit fund with the highest amount received totaling more than \$5,000 in July, wins an additional \$5,000 in their fund from the Okoboji Foundation! As an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, the Okoboji Foundation is also able to offer the Endow Iowa Tax Credit. *GiveOkoboji.com* is a one-click site for secure giving to Youth in Philanthropy, Okoboji Foundation, and other local Nonprofit Partner Funds.

For more information call 712.332.7177, email info@okobojifoundation.org or visit www.okobojifoundation.org

