

News release announcing Grow Greene County's 2017 grant awards

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Grow Greene County Gaming Corporation, the local nonprofit corporation that holds the state gaming license in Greene County, distributed over \$1.4 million worth of grants at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Night, held Tuesday evening April 4, at Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson.

The evening attendees included Grow Greene County board members, representatives from the contiguous counties, communities, schools and organizations receiving the awards. Light refreshments preceded the ceremony where Grow Greene President Norm Fandel served as master of ceremonies.

Under agreement with Wild Rose Entertainment Inc., Grow Greene receives five percent of the local casino's adjusted gross gaming revenues to distribute to nonprofit, governmental and charitable organizations. Of that total 4.1 percent went to projects in Greene County and 0.9 percent was shared equally by the community foundations in the six counties contiguous to Greene County.

Last year Grow Greene awarded less than a year's worth of activity from the casino. The awards given out on April 4<sup>th</sup> represent a full 12 months of adjusted gross gaming revenue at Wild Rose Jefferson. Grow Greene Board members commented "Wild Rose Jefferson is a gift to west central Iowa that keeps on giving. A glance at the list of recipients of this year's grants, and their dollar amounts, makes clear that Greene County residents made a wise decision in their strong approval of the county's gaming referendum a few years ago. We're in a unique position among Iowa's counties, funding nearly \$1 1/2 million worth of grants for Greene and surrounding counties this year, including a sharply increased funding pool for the Greene County Community Foundation's grants. We're anticipating many beneficial project opportunities in the years to come."

The Grow Greene County board of directors includes President Norm Fandel, Vice President Craig Marquardt, Secretary Peg Raney, Treasurer Bob Allen and board members Lori Mannel, Brenda Muir, Kate Neese and Rick Morain. Board attorney is Mike Mumma. In November, the board hired Cindy Duhrkopf as part time administrative assistant.

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