

Community Grants Report

July 2019

**North Central Regional Planning Commission,
Washington County Community Outreach to
Support a Regional Food System Assessment
Buckshot & Christine Buchanan Donor Advised Fund, \$400,
Awarded 4/23/2018**

Project Summary: The North Central Kansas Food Council is completing a Regional Food System Assessment. The ability to complete comprehensive data collection in Washington County through community surveying and local focus groups will greatly support this effort.

Use of Funds: The funds were used to cover the overhead of our summer intern to travel to Washington County and meet with local groups and attend local events. Funding also covered refreshments and space rental for the focus group. The Hansen dollars also covered consultant fees for NCRPC, Kolia Souza and ARPI to facilitate focus groups and generate surveys. Fees include survey/focus group development and overhead, data analysis and a comprehensive data report for Washington County.

Impact & Results: The comprehensive summary reports for each county and the region are complete. As soon as a final draft is available for sharing out to the public, I will happily share with anyone with interest. Now that the food system assessment is complete, we will begin working on projects in each county and the region to address the weaknesses and opportunities within the food system. One of the biggest lessons learned was how hard it is to try and reach people of all ages and backgrounds to gather survey responses and input on the food system. You can attend every event, publicize through multiple avenues and talk to people one on one and still only reach 10% of county residents. We also learned that problems revolving around food access, growing local foods and using them within the community and healthy living are extremely complex. While on the surface solutions to these problems seem like they should be simpler to solve, the issues are deeply rooted in how people are raised and more.

Photo caption: Intern Emily Reno, at the Washington County Rodeo promoting the food system assessment and survey efforts.





Haddam Community Club, Inc., Haddam City Hall Improvement Project
Washington County Opportunity Fund, \$1,500, Awarded 4/23/2018

Project Summary: The Haddam City Hall interior has not been painted or repaired for approximately 30 years. This 1912 building needs painted, including scraping peeling paint on walls, paned windows and high ceiling beams.

Use of Funds: The specific use of funds was for labor and paint.

Impact & Results: Many members of the community have donated time, money, and skills to this project. Examples, computer time for pictures with paint colors to be chosen, mirrors donated to be placed in the entryway, where old ticket windows were. At some point, one of the windows was removed and the other window was enclosed. Volunteers reconstructed a ticket window and exposed the other window. This gives a purpose to these spaces that are no longer used for purchasing tickets. This part of the project will restore that historic nostalgia. Hinges on doors have been cleaned and clear coated, large doors stripped of old paint and repainted. Several generations of the community were involved in donations of time, money, and skills to have a community center to enjoy our communities events. First photo was before the painting and the second photo was the finished painted walls.

Washington County, AED For The Public
Washington County Opportunity Fund, \$985, Awarded 4/24/2019

Project Summary: The money requested would be used to purchase an AED for our County courthouse as we do not currently have one.

Use of Funds: The funds were used to purchase a Zoll AED Plus defibrillator.

Impact & Results: The Zoll AED was purchased to increase the chances of survival for people who have heart-related emergencies within or near our building. With an AED, a properly trained person will be better prepared to save the life of a coworker, or customer. With a good implementation plan and proper training, we can hopefully help save lives. The goal of having an AED is to deliver defibrillation to a victim immediately after collapse, hopefully increasing their chance of survival.



USD 108, Snack Smart from the Start
Kansas Health Foundation Fund, \$795, Awarded 10/18/2018

Project Summary: We would like to purchase a mini refrigerator and healthy fruits, vegetables and dairy items from our local grocery store to encourage healthy and smart snacking in our preschool classroom.

Use of Funds: \$119 was spent on a small refrigerator to keep in the classroom. The remaining funds were spent at the local grocery store on healthy snacks (and some paper goods such as napkins and spoons.)

Impact & Results: As the result of my project, 20 preschool students received more nutrient-dense snacks while at school. They also learned about food groups and where their food comes from. We talked about seeds and how and where food grows. The kids were able to experience seeing and tasting new foods. We talked about how sometimes it takes many tastes to like something, so we should try it each time! In the weekly newsletter I shared with parents different foods we were trying, to foster conversation and home and ideas for new snacks! For instance, we had hummus and pita chips, which only 2 out of 20 kids had tried before. Six of those kids reported liking it. While that's not a huge number, that's six kids that now have a new healthy snack option to tell mom and dad! Another example would be kiwi fruit. Only four children had reported ever trying it - and nine of them liked it! Some other things we tried were: raw green beans, mushrooms, pears, mixed nuts, celery, avocado, tomato, cabbage, prunes, tuna, yams, radishes, zucchini, blackberries and cucumbers! **Without this grant, I would not have been able to provide all these tasting and learning experiences. While I do buy some things from my own pocket for my classroom, I could have never offered them such an experience without this money! Also, the refrigerator allowed for parents to bring healthy snacks in for the parent provided snack.**

Washington County Fair Association, Fairground Chairs

**Washington County Opportunity Fund, \$1,538,
Awarded 4/24/2019**

Project Summary: The tables and benches at the Washington County Fairgrounds were built by an FFA class several decades ago. The benches are uncomfortable and slope backwards making it difficult to get out of. This grant would fund 50 blow-molded chairs to replace them.

Use of Funds: To purchase new chairs for the Washington County Fairgrounds

Impact & Results: The fair superintendents appreciate having more comfortable chairs to sit on while working at the fair. During the fair, the chairs were used during judging, at the kids games and the concert. These chairs replace the very uncomfortable, hard to get out of benches that were made by FFA members several decades ago. The project would not have happened without the funding from this grant.

All the judges and contestants, as well as fair superintendents and vendors, were able to have more comfortable chairs. This amounts to over 100 people throughout all the days of the fair. Many more people will use and appreciate the chairs during upcoming weddings, receptions, and other activities held at the fair.



USD 223, Stay Fit, Stay Healthy

**Washington County Opportunity Fund & Kansas Health
Foundation Fund, \$509, Awarded 4/24/2019**

Project Summary: The USD 223 Barnes TLEC Preschool is requesting grant monies for outdoor play equipment to promote the physical well being of young children.

Use of Funds: The grant funds were spent on outdoor play equipment.

Impact & Results: The outdoor play equipment is being used to increase students' interest in engaging in physical activity. We were able to use the balls and blow up bouncers during ESY to increase large motor functioning for children with special needs. This equipment will be used during the school year, both in and outdoors to improve motor functioning, enhance motor and brain development and to have fun. The children thoroughly enjoyed the new equipment this summer, and we know the children will continue enjoy it for many years.

