

**Editorial - Celebrate National Philanthropy Month Carol C. Gilbert, Chair HCCEF 515-855-4170**

Many of us are philanthropic in one way or another every day: perhaps you donate annually to local organizations in support of environmental protection, performing arts, or those in need; maybe you give your knowledge of finance by serving on a social-profit board, your skill as a nurse as a local health clinic; or your abilities as a coach to assist your child's school; or possibly you give your time stuffing envelopes for a fundraising or visiting with an elderly friend.

Many of our neighbors, colleagues, and friends are making a difference in these ways and more. In fact, eighty-nine percent of American households give philanthropically - donating over 300 billion dollars and eight billion hours of volunteer time to a wide variety of charitable causes every year. Closer to home, Iowa citizens donate millions of dollars to charitable projects and programs annually and, in addition, are recognized as having the fifth highest volunteer rate in the country.

Remember there is no end to the good that comes from charitable giving! The Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation was established in 2005 to improve the quality of life for Hardin County residents by connecting generous donors with community needs, building a permanent source of charitable funds to serve our county, addressing a broad range of community issues through innovative grantmaking, and championing philanthropy and active citizenship.

Since then, thanks to the support of people who value our communities, we have been able to grant over \$372,400 back into Hardin County. From art centers, to education programs, to human and social services and beyond, charitable giving is the reason for Hardin County and Iowa's great communities. It deserves our attention.

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