

# South Central Iowa Community Foundation Community Connection

*Our mission is to contribute to a better life for people of South Central Iowa by helping donors to carry out their charitable intent and by providing responsible stewardship of gifts for community purposes.*

September 2013

## SCICF Grant Helps Purchase Rescue Equipment



Endow Union County-SCICF awarded a grant of \$2,500 to the Creston Fire Department to assist in the purchase of a 6x6 Polaris Rescue Vehicle replete with fire fighting and rescue equipment-- including a radio for communicating with other police and fire fighting personnel, and a stokes basket for hauling victims out of remote areas.

The Polaris has made a number of public appearances, such as at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and at the Union County Fair. It was also used in a mutual aid operation in Ringgold County in a search and rescue for a missing elderly woman.

SCICF was happy to assist the Creston Fire Department with this purchase.

## Clarke County-SCICF Awards \$2,000 to Playground

Clarke County - SCICF awarded a grant of \$2,000 to The Village Early Childhood Center in Osceola. The grant was used to assist in the relocation of The Village's playground. The playground needed to be relocated do to safety concerns arising from its location along a busy street.

The new playground was designed to be environmentally responsible while promoting natural play, child driven exploration, active learning, open ended materials, a textured environment, etc., in accordance with the Village's broader goal of nurturing "the whole child."

SCICF was excited to be a part of this project.



## Meet Our Board



**Barb Stephens**  
Ringgold County

A lifelong resident of Diagonal, SCICF Board Member Barb Stephens enjoys volunteering and contributing to her community. Whether it is creating a parade float, organizing Bible school, raising funds for a new building, directing a dinner theater, or serving as the voice for the Lions' Labor Day parade, everyone in the town of Diagonal knows they can call on Barb! Stephens worked in the adult and continuing education department of Southwestern Community College in Creston for 35 years. She served as director of the department for 10 years. During this time, she received a number of accolades including being elected as the president of the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning, serving as president for the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association, and being honored with the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Founder's Award.

In 2008, she retired from her full-time career at the college, but never slowed her fast-paced schedule. Stephens is active with the United Church of Diagonal, organizes free-will donation meals for the Diagonal community, and serves as president of the Bohemian Cemetery Association.

Stephens lives on her family's Century Farm five miles south of Diagonal with her husband, Jerry, who has a farming operation and land construction business. When it comes time to relax, Barb enjoys spending time with her mom, Bertha Jezek of Diagonal; her daughters, Lesa and Terri, and their spouses, Rob and Matt; and her grandchildren, Cody, Kaci, Kyle, Kirsten, Alyssa, Cole, and Jamie.

## Foundation Supports 4-H Shooting Program in Decatur

Decatur County-SCICF awarded \$3,500 to Decatur County 4-H to assist in the establishment and expansion of their Safety and Education in Shooting Sports (SESS) program which educates youths in grades four through twelve in the disciplines of archery, rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader and wildlife skills.

"Through these grant dollars, this program has allowed us to reach youth that may not otherwise have had the funds to purchase their own equipment and has allowed us to train these youths in the proper safety and handling of the shooting equipment," said Boni Rhum.

Decatur County 4-H is open to all youth in the schools districts of Central Decatur, Lamoni and Mormon Trail. SCICF is pleased to be assisting with this great program!



VISTAs Volunteer for 9/11 Day of Service

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Jill Whitehouse  
(VISTA) with  
Shakira

This month, volunteers all over the country and from all walks of life gave back to their communities in honor of the September 11<sup>th</sup> National Day of Service and Remembrance. Established in 2009, the day is intended to honor those who died in the tragedy, and those who united in its aftermath. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), of which the VISTA program is a branch, is charged with supporting these efforts all over the country. Our VISTA, Jill Whitehouse, marked the day by volunteering at the Lucas County Humane Society where she filled food dishes, helped bathe puppies, scooped cat boxes and provided a little extra attention to the residents. Commenting on her day of service Whitehouse said: "I feel privileged to live in a place where so many people care about their community. I am proud to be involved with SCICF and I so admire the Humane Society for all the love and care they provide for our furry friends. I had so much fun taking care of the animals, and I hope I can continue to be involved with the Society during my year as a VISTA."



SCICF is hosting a **FREE** informational seminar!

**"Seven Secrets to Enhancing  
and Protecting YOUR Wealth"**

Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
1pm - 3pm

**Osceola Country Club**  
Call (641) 217-9105 to RSVP

**SCICF**  
108 N Grand  
Chariton, IA 50049

**641-217-9105**

[www.scicf.org](http://www.scicf.org)

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