



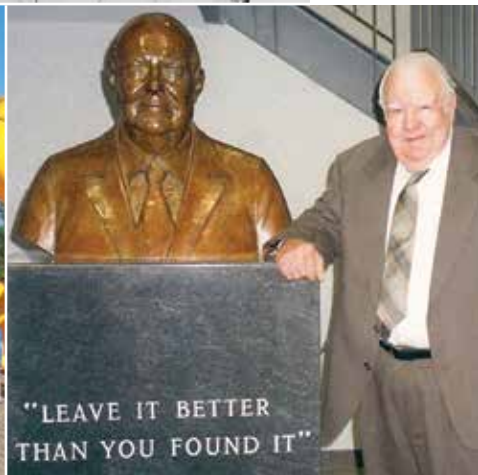
1993-2013

Celebrating 20 Years of  
Community Support



## WHO WE ARE

The Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation (CDAF) is a unique family foundation striving to help meet the needs of Grinnell and its neighboring communities through ongoing support and resources by maintaining and perpetuating an endowment. Our purpose is to provide improved and enhanced quality of life for present and future generations with interest in the areas of parks and recreation, education, and health with our collaborative partners.



# WHAT WE DO

Giving back is central to all activities and funded projects of the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation. Below are brief examples of ongoing programs and services funded by the Foundation. Full descriptions can be found on the website at [www.ahrensfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.ahrensfamilyfoundation.org).

**The Ahrens Park Foundation**, a private operating foundation, owns and operates the Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park, a sports complex that includes eight youth softball and baseball fields, two outdoor basketball courts, two tennis courts, a sand volleyball court, several playground areas and shelters, three soccer fields, a golf driving range, a sledding hill, an outdoor walking path, and indoor facilities in the Grinnell Athletic and Recreation Center.

**The Ahrens Family Center** houses the Grinnell Community Day Care and Preschool and Mid-Iowa Community Action's Head Start program. The center features an indoor youth gymnasium and swimming pool, where young children are taught to swim and enjoy leisure activities.

**Community Support Services Program** helps to build capacity and create efficiencies for 25 area non-profit partner organizations and community campaigns. Examples of support services provided to partner organizations by CDAF include general accounting and financial services; donor management services; marketing and website assistance; mailing and fundraising event management services; human resource practices and administrative support; and meeting space.

**The Dolly Ahrens Scholarship Program** rewards Grinnell High School graduating seniors of character with one-time scholarships to colleges or universities of their choice. The program seeks nominees who are self-directed, responsible

contributors to the community. Over \$500,000 in scholarships has been awarded to date.

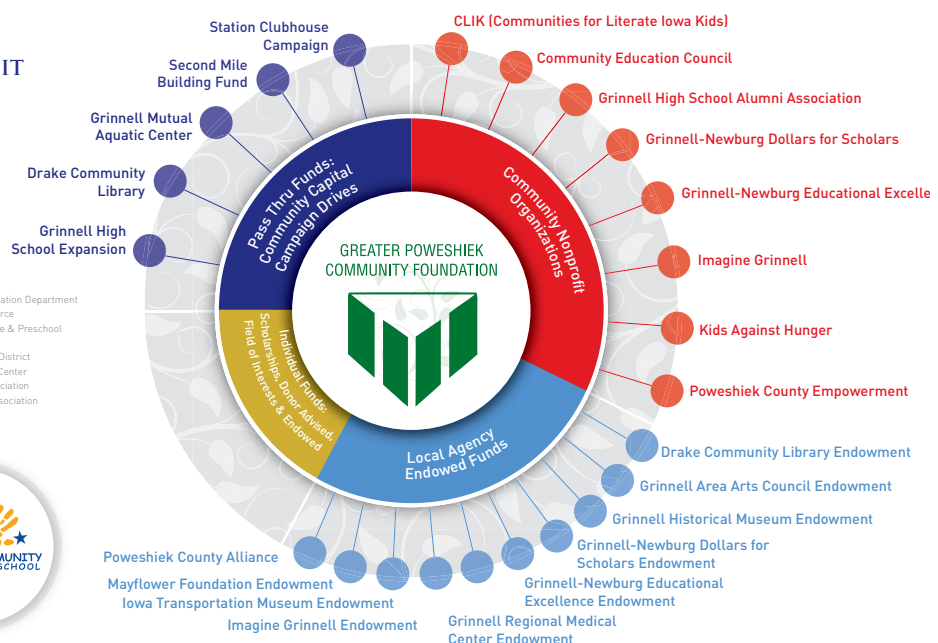
**The "Leave It Better Than You Found It" Award** recognizes local non-profit organizations that have left a mark on the Grinnell community. To date, the annual program has honored more than 300 area individuals, groups and organizations. The award was initiated in 1994 at the dedication of the Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park and commemorates the birthday of the late Claude Ahrens.

**The Lend a Hand Program** was created in 2010 as an opportunity for the boards, staffs and family members of the Foundations and their partner organizations to participate in community service activities on a monthly basis.

## COMMUNITY NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

AS OF MAY 1ST, 2013

### Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park Community Partners



## WHY WE DO IT

- Leaving it better is the legacy that guides us and the mission that motivates us.
- Our vision is to enhance the quality of life for future generations in the Grinnell community and its neighboring communities.
- Claude Ahrens' entrepreneurial spirit drove his highly successful business ventures in hybrid seed corn, playground and recreation equipment and livestock watering systems. This spirit also carried his vision to "leave it better than you found it" as he began to give back to his home community through the Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park, the Claude W. Ahrens Charitable Trust and his foundations. The third generation of Ahrens family members champions his legacy through numerous community programs and services described in this brochure and on the website.

## HOW WE DO IT

CDAF actively seeks projects and organizations in the fields of parks and recreation, education and health that it chooses to fund and does not accept solicitations or direct requests.

Since Claude Ahrens established the initial trust, more than \$20 million has been granted to worthwhile organizations and projects throughout Iowa, with emphasis on impact in Claude's home community of Grinnell. Roughly \$12 million in grants has been awarded by the CDAF.

### Examples of past gifts and grants

- \$100,000 to City of Grinnell, Lion's Park playground project
- \$125,000 to Communities for Literate Iowa Kids (CLIK), Grinnell program
- \$505,000 to Drake Community Library capital campaign
- \$30,000 to Grinnell Community Daycare and Preschool campaign, matching grant
- \$1 million to Grinnell High School expansion campaign
- \$100,000 to Grinnell-Newburg Educational Excellence's (GNEE) mini-grant program
- \$800,000 to Grinnell Regional Medical Center Blueprint for Health capital campaign
- \$20,000 to Heart of Iowa Big Brothers Big Sisters, Grinnell mentoring program
- \$100,000 to Iowa Valley Community College, Grinnell capital campaign
- \$10,000 to Poweshiek Animal League Shelters (PALS), matching grant
- \$250,000 to University of Northern Iowa, Ahrens Playground Safety Suite
- \$100,000 to Strand Theater, LLC, Community Investment



*A Fund to Enhance*  
**GNEE**  
*Student Success*

Grinnell-  
Newburg  
Educational  
Excellence



“LEAVING  
IT BETTER  
IS THE LEGACY THAT  
GUIDES US AND  
THE MISSION THAT  
MOTIVATES US.”



## WHERE WE'VE BEEN



**1993:** Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens Foundation established



**1994:** Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park & Ahrens Family Center dedicated



**1997:** Ahrens Institute established by National Parks & Recreation Association in honor of Claude Ahrens



**1998:** Ahrens Park Foundation is established



**2000:** Golf driving range & youth soccer fields added to Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park



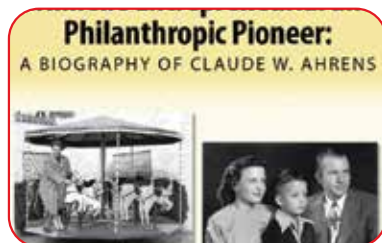
**2003:** CDAF pledges \$1 million to Grinnell High School expansion



**2005:** CDAF named "Outstanding Foundation of the Year"



**2006:** CDAF creates the Community Support Services program



**2009:** Claude W. Ahrens memoir published by CDAF



**2010:** CDAF receives "Critical Impact Award." Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park named "Iowa Sports Complex of the Year"



**2012:** Founder's 100th year birthday celebration



**2013:** CDAF celebrates 20 year anniversary





## WHAT OTHERS SAY

- **2010:** APF named "Iowa Sports Complex of the Year" by Iowa Turfgrass Institute as top Iowa sports facility.
- **2010:** CDAF recognized with the "Critical Impact Award" by the National Council on Foundations for the growth and success of the Community Support Services program. The Council recognized the Foundation for innovative leadership, bold visions and significant impact in advancing the common good and serving as a model for others.
- **2005:** CDAF named "Outstanding Foundation of the Year" by the Central Iowa Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals

## WHERE WE'RE GOING

The many community projects, activities, and accomplishments of the past 20 years represent the wishes and honor the legacy of the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation. We are fully dedicated to this legacy, our roots and our vision to continue to improve the quality of life for Grinnell, Grinnellians and surrounding communities.



## WHERE YOU CAN LEARN MORE

Website: [www.ahrensfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.ahrensfamilyfoundation.org)

Facebook: The Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens Foundation/Ahrens Park Foundation

Twitter: Ahrens Foundation@CDFAFoundation

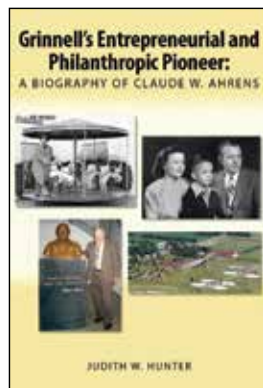
**Publications:** Available for purchase at the Ahrens Foundation offices



### *Nonprofit Collaboration In Grinnell: A Case Study* by Julie Gosselink & Judy Hunter

"The experiences described in this book, and the vision and innovation that come from the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation leadership, must be shared with a broader audience. They provide a blueprint for successful nonprofit and community development management, especially in rural communities. They demonstrate how organizations can collaborate (even if it's not easy!) and coordinate and conspire to do good things in a way that preserves capital for program delivery. At the end of the day, every manager wants to reduce overhead to do more with available funds. And that's what the Community Support Services program in Grinnell, Iowa, has done."

— Bill Menner, State Director, Iowa USDA Rural Development



### *Grinnell's Entrepreneurial and Philanthropic Pioneer:* *A Biography of Claude W. Ahrens* by Judith W. Hunter

"Americans value success: they applaud people who control events, succeed in business, and make lots of money. By this definition of success, Claude Wesley Ahrens achieved it. He was a successful salesman, invented and patented many different products, owned and operated companies, and made a lot of money. But perhaps his greatest success occurred at the end of his life when he established a legacy for his family and community that will benefit people for many generations to come. Claude Wesley Ahrens did indeed leave it better than he found it. And for that, all people living in Grinnell can be grateful."

— Judith Hunter, Author



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Help support our Go Green effort by providing us with your email address.