

# The Catalog for Giving



As of October, 2024

CLAUDE W. & DOLLY  
 AHRENS FOUNDATION  
 Leave It Better Than You Found It

The mission of the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for the Grinnell community and Poweshiek County. We deeply appreciate your support for our various programs and funds. Your generosity and dedication are vital in helping to improve our local area. Thank you for helping us to leave it better!

FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW, JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024



\$252,332

Total dollars raised for partner programs



432

Total number of donors for partner programs



\$890,592

Total dollars provided through grants, programs, sponsorships, and scholarships

PARTNER PROGRAMS



**P.O.W.E.R. KIDS**  
 Positive Opportunities for  
 Wellness, Exercise & Reading



**POWESHIEK HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND**



Grinnell Area  
 Mental Health  
 CONSORTIUM



**VOSBURG MUSIC FUND**



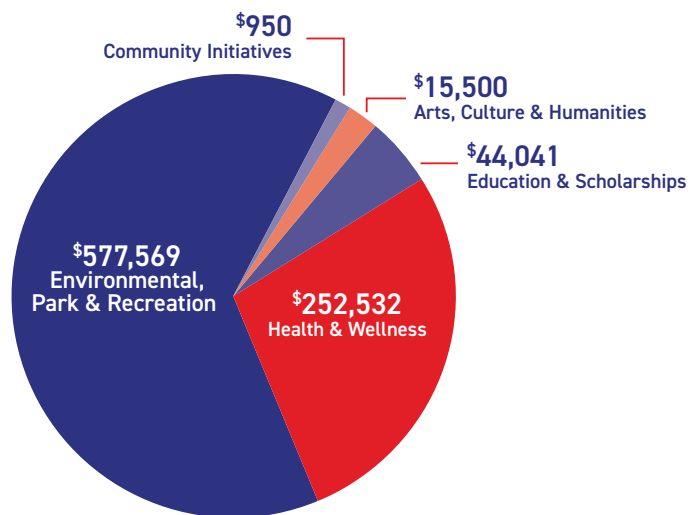
# YEAR IN REVIEW JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

## CLAUDE W. & DOLLY AHRENS FOUNDATION

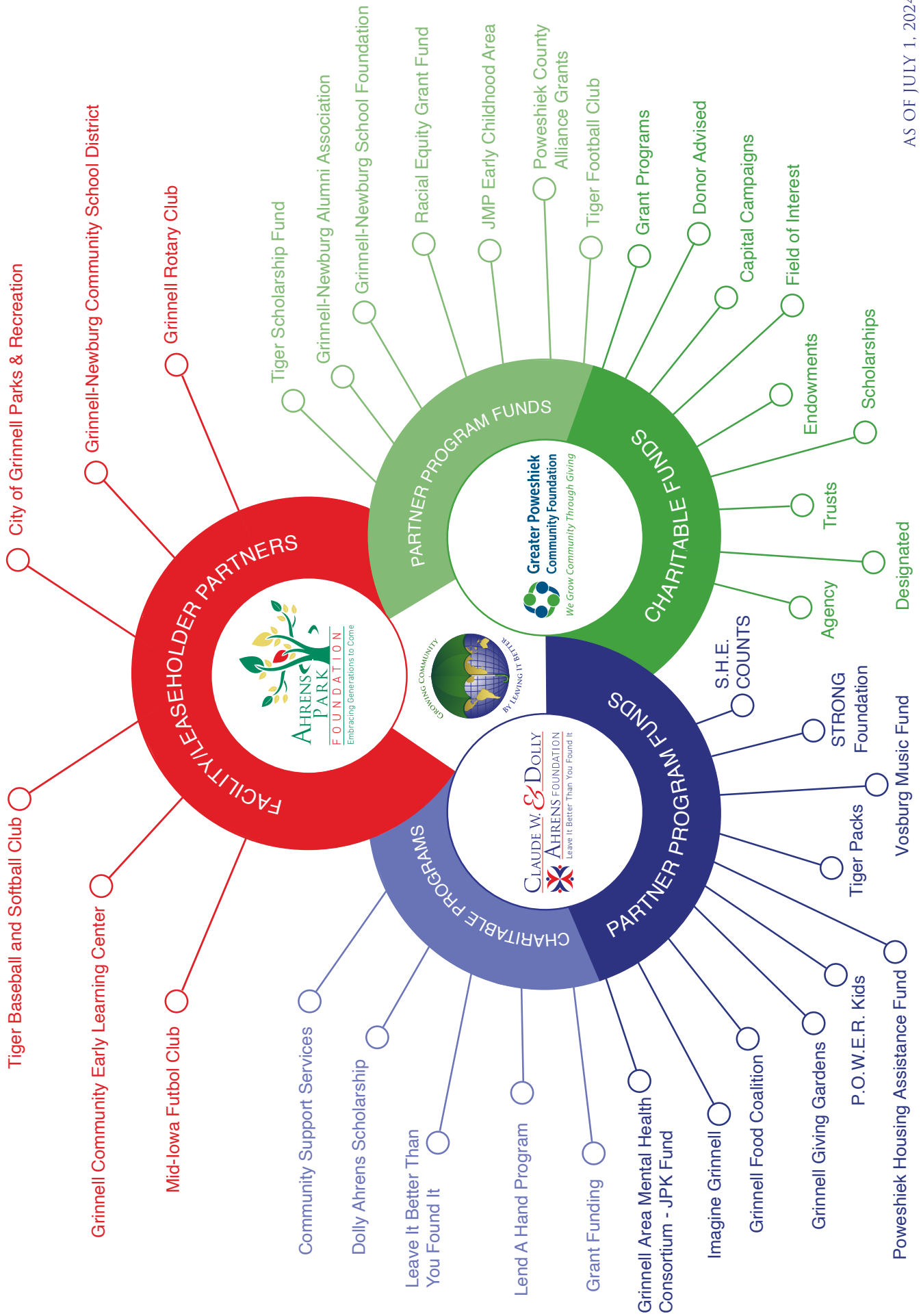
The Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation is a unique and innovative family foundation striving to help meet the needs of the greater Grinnell community through ongoing support services and resources by maintaining and perpetuating an endowment. Our purpose is to provide improved and enhanced quality of life for present and future generations with interest in the areas of parks & recreation, education, and health with our collaborative partners. We also serve our community through our charitable programs: Ahrens Park Foundation, Community Support Services, Dolly Ahrens Scholarship, Leave It Better Award and Lend A Hand.

## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT
Ahrens Park Foundation	Operations and Capital Improvements	\$544,169.00
City of Grinnell Parks & Recreation Dept.	Senior Walkers program at GARC	\$3,300.00
Dolly Ahrens Achievement Scholarship	14 Scholarships for GHS Graduating Seniors	\$35,000.00
Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation	Central Park Inclusive Playground – 1st payment	\$5,000.00
Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation	Central Park Inclusive Playground – Imagine Grinnell support for 100 People Who Care	\$100.00
Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation	Grinnell Education Partnership – Snacks for SLIK Summer program provided by Grinnell Food Coalition	\$566.00
Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation	STRIPES Shoes for the Soles program – Imagine Grinnell support for 100 People Who Care	\$100.00
Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation	TT Cranny Renovation/Tiger Football Club – 2nd payment	\$25,000.00
Grinnell Historical Museum	Capital Campaign – 1st payment	\$10,000.00
Grinnell Lions Club	Ag Appreciation Day	\$250.00
Grinnell-Newburg Community School District	Fluency and Fitness for Kindergarten Students/P.O.W.E.R. Kids program	\$575.00
Grinnell Rotary Club	Annual Chicken Dinner to support Kites Over Grinnell event	\$450.00
Grinnell School of Music	Imagine Grinnell support for 100 People Who Care	\$100.00
Grinnell School of Music	Capital Campaign – Teacher Workspace – 1st payment	\$5,000.00
LINK, Inc.	Mentoring program/Annual Bowl A Thon	\$400.00
LINK, Inc.	Snacks for LINK Summer program	\$2,500.00
Partner Programs	Support for Individuals and Families	\$252,332.00
Poweshiek County Fair Association	Poweshiek County Fair Extreme Bull Riding	\$400.00
Poweshiek Housing Assistance Fund	Imagine Grinnell support for 100 People Who Care	\$100.00
Read 2 Lead	"Leave It Better Than You Found It" Award	\$5,000.00
We Care	GHS After Prom Party	\$250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$890,592.00</b>



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES



## CHARITABLE PROGRAMS

### Ahrens Park Foundation

The Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park is celebrating its 30 year anniversary, which is owned and operated by the Ahrens Park Foundation. Ahrens Park has always served as the primary program of the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation and is heavily funded by the Foundation. The Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park provides eighty acres of recreational, athletic, educational and wellness facilities. Millions of dollars have been contributed by the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation over the past thirty years to support the ongoing operations and capital improvements of Ahrens Park but needs assistance from the public for its ongoing sustainability and future projects.



### Community Support Services Program

In 2006, the Community Support Services (CSS) program was launched in partnership with the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation. The goal of the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation's CSS program is to build organizational capacity and promote collaboration among the local nonprofit community by optimizing back-office support operations and creating efficiencies through shared staff and administrative functions, thus strengthening the missions of the local nonprofit sector to help improve the quality of life for the local area.

Today the program serves over 20 partner organizations and 160 charitable funds. In addition, we have provided consulting services for a wide range of local organizations. Nonprofit organizations continue to need creative collaborative solutions to help them overcome financially challenging times.



### Dolly Ahrens Achievement Scholarship

In 1994, Claude W. Ahrens established the Dolly Ahrens Achievement Scholarship Award. This scholarship, in memory of the late Dolly Ahrens, has typically been made available each year for a minimum of ten graduating seniors of Grinnell High School.

Since 1994, the Dolly Ahrens Scholarship Achievement Award has awarded over 300 scholarships to local Grinnell-Newburg High school seniors. Over \$775,000 has been awarded to date. Dolly Ahrens Achievement Award recipients have attended a variety of top universities, colleges and technical schools throughout Iowa and the United States.

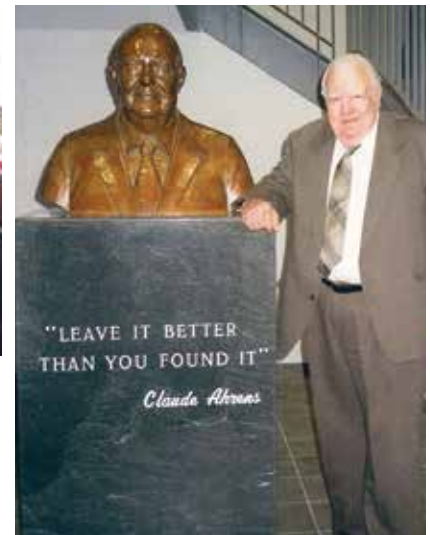
### Leave It Better Than You Found It

The "Leave It Better Than You Found It" award commemorates the August 18 birthday of the late benefactor Claude W. Ahrens. The program was initiated in August 1994 at the dedication of the Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park. In a 1993 speech to the National Recreation and Parks Association, Ahrens challenged those in attendance to follow the advice of his father John "to leave the world a better place than you found it." Colleagues of Ahrens decided to encourage area residents to do the same and the effort was founded.

The "Leave It Better Than You Found It" award recognizes individuals and/or local nonprofit organizations that have left a mark on the Grinnell community. To date, the annual program has honored more than 325 area individuals, groups and organizations.

**2023 Winner – Read 2 Lead**

**2024 Winner – William "Bill" Mason (Bill was a valued and dedicated employee of the Ahrens Park Foundation for fifteen years. Bill passed away on December 7, 2023 and we honor his memory with this award.)**



# PARTNER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



We facilitate community driven food solutions in the Grinnell community.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- Supported the GHS food pantry, Food Recovery Network and Grinnell Community Meal. Total Dollars: \$6,047
- Supported the Drake Community Library food cupboard. Total Dollars: \$8,446
- Grocery and Egg Vouchers to MICA and community members. Total Dollars: \$4,143
- Watch for new and exciting updates coming this year!



The Giving Gardens is a collaborative effort by local organizations aiming to improve the health of Poweshiek County by providing free access to fresh, local produce and encouraging healthier choices.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- Over 18 different vegetables are grown in 9 different gardens
- 1000's of pounds of produce grown and enjoyed by community members
- Children's book drive filling the Little Libraries



## P.O.W.E.R. KIDS

Positive Opportunities for  
Wellness, Exercise & Reading

Positive Opportunities for Wellness, Exercise and Reading. This partner program established in 2022 is for K-4th grade students and aims to empower students to make healthy choices inside and outside the classroom. Learning revolves around healthy snacks, forming positive habits and other wellness opportunities.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- Recognized by Harkin Center as a Harkin on Wellness Designee
- Empowering 500+ K-4th graders with Blender bike activities, Mini Farmers Market and taste testing healthy foods
- Providing prizes for all K-4th grade Mileage Club participants



Imagine Grinnell is a community improvement organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life of area residents. Imagine Grinnell works with local coalitions to build sustainable community improvement projects.

## MOST RECENT PROJECTS

- Prairie Burn 100 Gravel bike ride and 5K fun run welcomed 299 riders and runners and had its first male and female 100 mile race winners
- Grinnell Bike Share launched its Free all-road bikes available for anyone in the community to borrow
- Trail team established and new soft trails at Arbor Lake are being built for biking, walking, and running
- Tree Corps continues to replant trees after the 1000th tree was planted



Grinnell Area  
Mental Health  
CONSORTIUM

The purpose of the Grinnell Area Mental Health Consortium is to serve those in the Poweshiek County area with mental health needs by providing financial assistance support, convening groups around mental health needs and advocating for those in need.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- Number of patients helped: 201
- Dollars spent on mental health care: \$91,008
- Total dollars to date: \$410,762

# YEAR IN REVIEW JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024



Supporting, Helping and Empowering women and girls in Poweshiek County since 2014.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- Donating period products to GHS and GMS, MICA, and the Drake Community Library Food Cupboard. Over 6,700 items collected
- Supporting over 35 Davis elementary girls in Math Club
- Providing an annual scholarship of \$500 to a graduating GHS female student who is 1st generation to receive a post HS education



Tiger Packs is a local initiative to combat hunger in the Grinnell-Newburg School District. Students preK-8th grade receive a kid-friendly, nutritious bag of food to take home over the weekend. High school students are invited to use the food pantry located in the Food Market.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- Number of students helped by Tiger Packs 2023-2024: 400+
- Fresh fruit available to every middle and high school student for a healthy snack. Average cost per week: \$65
- Partnered with the Northeast Iowa Food Bank for the high school pantry and twice a week packaging for K-8th grade
- Twice a week packaging costs for 400 students: \$4.90/student



STRONG Foundation is a solution based program that provides immediate financial resources for married couples needing professional and confidential guidance. STRONG Foundation offers a voucher system to reimburse providers who are providing marriage counseling services.

### LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnering with providers for marriage counseling
- Partnering with area churches



The Poweshiek County Housing Assistance Fund was started in 2020 after a housing coalition was formed in 2019 over the growing concerns of homelessness in Poweshiek County. This fund is available to assist those who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless with the support of rental deposits, utilities, legal documents needed to rent or to reimburse landlords for related expenses. The Poweshiek Housing Assistance Fund offers a voucher system to reimburse landlords, utility companies, and/or local public entities who are owed housing related dollars for those in need.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- Total number of individuals helped housing related expenses and hotel vouchers: 109
- Total dollars spent on rent and utilities: \$23,293
- Total dollars spent on hotel vouchers: \$6,700
- Number of Poweshiek County homeless at "Point in Time" Survey July 2024: 10



**VOSBURG  
MUSIC FUND**

The Vosburg Music Fund was created in 2018 by an anonymous donor to help youth in the Grinnell area with music funding assistance who are unable to afford music lessons, instruments, and other items or therapy services associated with learning music. The Vosburg Music Fund offers a voucher system to reimburse providers who are providing music services.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- Number of students helped: 84
- Dollars spent: \$5,581
- Provided artist in residency program for GHS

# AHRENS PARK 30 YEARS IN REVIEW: 1994 – 2024

Claude W. Ahrens donates land to build Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park, Ahrens Family Center and Baseball/Softball complex in Grinnell, IA

1994



The Grinnell Athletic & Recreation Center (GARC) is built, housing three indoor basketball courts, walking track and offices

1998



Addition of the Ahrens Golf Driving Range

2000



First annual Kites Over Grinnell event, still hosted today

2003



Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park is named the Iowa Sports Complex of the Year by the Iowa Turfgrass Institute

2010



1997

The Ahrens Park Foundation (APF) is created, taking on the ownership and management of the Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park

1999

APF donates an historic house to the Iowa Parks & Recreation Association for its state headquarters at Ahrens Park



2001

Addition of three youth soccer fields, concessions, restrooms and north parking lot

2006



Addition of Foundation offices, housing APF, the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation and the Greater Poweshiek County Foundation



# AHRENS PARK 30 YEARS IN REVIEW: 1994 – 2024



Expansion of Foundation offices building and renovation of Dolly's Flower Garden

2011



2012

Expansion of Ahrens Family Center with the addition of two additional learning rooms and restrooms for the Grinnell Community Early Learning Center



Facility upgrade to the GARC, including LED lighting for all basketball courts

2014



2018

Complete renovation of both large playground areas including all new equipment, surfacing and surrounding walkways. Also, addition of the Ahrens Giving Garden.



Complete renovation of outdoor basketball courts and hoops, tennis courts and addition of pickleball courts

2019



2020

Resurfacing of main parking lot, redesign of main entrance and added exit. Also, addition of native landscape areas and Gaga Ball pit.



Park restroom facility upgrades, addition of an outdoor ice skating rink, and replacement of trees (post derecho)

2021



2022

Park history signage addition along walking trail

Sand volleyball renovation, exterior LED lighting upgrades, and purchase of land with the City of Grinnell, Grinnell College and Mayflower Community for a partnered solar project

2023

2024

Addition of outdoor learning environment and Dolly's Dog Park

Giving to the causes you care about through the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation is rewarding. Use this catalog to learn more about the giving opportunities available through the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation and give a gift that lasts a lifetime.

## WHY YOU SHOULD GIVE

- To keep children from going hungry over the weekend.
- To help a female high school senior be the first in her family to attend college.
- To help children have access to music in their lives.
- To make sure patients with mental illness have a place to seek treatment.
- To help support sustainable living and green initiatives.
- To help provide counseling support to build stronger marriages.

## A GIFT CAN BE MADE:

- In any dollar amount.
- To any of the many funds listed in this catalog.
- In memory or in honor of a special person.\*

This catalog contains giving ideas to suit any person or occasion. Anniversaries, birthdays, and other holidays are great opportunities to make charitable gifts year round.

*\*Honored recipient will receive a special letter announcing from whom the gift was made and the fund to which it will go. The amount of the gift will not be disclosed.*

## HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

1. Browse the catalog.
2. Find a fund (or funds) to support.
3. Complete and return donation form by mail or go to [www.ahrensfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.ahrensfamilyfoundation.org) to donate online.
4. We will send you a tax receipt and any honored recipient will get a special note on your behalf.
5. Tell a friend about giving a gift that lasts a lifetime.



# DONATION FORM

I wish to support the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation and/or Ahrens Park Foundation

Name of Fund	\$ Amount
Ahrens Park Foundation Administrative Operating Fund	
Ahrens Park Foundation Capital Improvement Fund	
Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation Administrative Operating Fund	
Giving Gardens	
Grinnell Area Mental Health Consortium – JPK Fund	
Grinnell Food Coalition	
Imagine Grinnell	
P.O.W.E.R. Kids	
Poweshiek Housing Assistance Fund	
S.H.E. COUNTS	
STRONG Foundation	
Tiger Packs	
Vosburg Music Fund	
<b>Make checks payable to CDAF</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

## DONOR INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name(s) exactly as you would like to be listed in all CDAF materials.

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## IN MEMORY/IN HONOR INFORMATION

If you wish to make a donation in memory or in honor of someone special please complete the form below. We will send a special letter to the individual letting them know of your gift.

In Memory      Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor        Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

CLAUDE W. & DOLLY  
AHRENS FOUNDATION  
Leave It Better Than You Found It



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