The Catalog for Giving

Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens Foundation

Leave It Better Than You Found It®

WE GIVE

serving together by giving

As of October, 2026

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

At the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation, we believe that strong communities are built through collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to making a lasting difference. As a family foundation, our mission is to improve and enhance the quality of life for present and future generations by maintaining and perpetuating an endowment that supports parks and recreation, education, health, and other community priorities in partnership with organizations that share our vision.

Our work extends far beyond grantmaking. We invest in initiatives, build strategic partnerships, and provide ongoing support and resources that strengthen the organizations and programs serving the Greater Grinnell community and Poweshiek County. Every project we undertake is guided by a long-term commitment to creating meaningful, sustainable impact while honoring the values established by Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens.

We are proud to serve as a catalyst for positive change by bringing people, ideas, and resources together to address community needs and seize new opportunities. Whether preserving treasured community assets, supporting youth and families, advancing education, or promoting health and wellness, our focus remains the same: helping our community thrive today while building a stronger foundation for tomorrow.

None of this would be possible without the generosity, trust, and partnership of our donors, volunteers, community leaders, and supporters. Together, we are creating a legacy of philanthropy that will benefit generations to come, continuing our commitment to leave our community better than we found it.

$884,146

Total dollars distributed through grants, programs, and sponsorships

PROGRAM FUNDS

Giving Gardens

Grinnell Food Coalition

JPK Fund

Grinnell Area Mental Health Consortium

Imagine Grinnell

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

Poweshiek Housing Assistance Fund

S.H.E COUNTS
supporting · helping · empowering · women

TIGER PACKS

Vosburg Music Fund

YEAR IN REVIEW JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

Recipient	Purpose of Funding	Amount
Ahrens Park Foundation	Operations and Capital Improvements	$631,523.00
Brooklyn Community Food Bank	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$3,496.00
Brownells Foundation	In memory of Frank Brownell, III	$250.00
City of Grinnell Parks & Recreation Dept.	Kindergarten Swim Lessons	$1,440.00
City of Grinnell Parks & Recreation Dept.	Senior Walkers Program at GARC	$4,140.00
City of Grinnell Parks & Recreation Dept.	Superhero/Princess Swim Party	$250.00
East Jasper Christian Food Pantry	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$1,600.00
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Strong Foundation Support	$1,000.00
First Presbyterian Church	Imagine Grinnell Support for 100 People Who Care	$100.00
Four Oaks Family and Children Services	Lend A Hand Support for Operation Santa	$500.00
Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation	Tiger Scholarship In Memory of Connie Scurr	$50.00
Grinnell Community Early Learning Center	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$5,000.00
Grinnell Farm to Table	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$3,013.00
Grinnell Lions Club	Ag Appreciation Day	$500.00
Grinnell-Newburg Community School District	Grinnell Area Mental Health Consortium Grant	$1,000.00
Grinnell-Newburg Community School District	Vosburg Music Fund Support for Band Instruments	$3,706.00
Hands That Help	Grinnell Area Mental Health Consortium Grant	$1,000.00
Iowa Kitchen	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$2,000.00
Iowa Kitchen	Imagine Grinnell Support for 100 People Who Care	$100.00
LINK	LINK Mentoring/Annual Bowl A Thon	$1,000.00
Local Individuals and Families	Program Support for Individuals and Families	$193,328.00
Malcom United Methodist Church	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$2,500.00
Mid-Iowa Community Action	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$1,500.00
Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$2,500.00
Northeast Iowa Food Bank	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$5,000.00
PFLAG	Brooklyn Opera House event	$500.00
Poweshiek Animal League Shelter (PALS)	Support	$500.00
Poweshiek County Extension Office	Grantwriting workshop	$250.00
Poweshiek County Fair Association	Poweshiek County Fair Granny's Kitchen	$250.00
Poweshiek County K9	Imagine Grinnell Support for 100 People Who Care	$100.00
Poweshiek County Veterans Affairs	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$1,800.00
Poweshiek Economic Development Collaborative	Support	$2,500.00
Prairie Thrift Store	Seed Funding	$2,500.00
Renewed Hope Home Furnishings	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$1,000.00
The Grinnellian	Grinnell High School Yearbook	$200.00
Treasured by God Ministries	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$3,000.00
UCC Preschool	Grinnell Food Coalition Grant	$500.00
Unity Point Health - Grinnell	Imagine Grinnell Support for Bike Helmet Fund for 3rd Graders	$4,000.00
Unity Point Health - Grinnell	Unity In the Community Fun Run	$300.00
We Care	GHS After Prom Party	$250.00
	Total	$884,146.00

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

How We Strengthen the Greater Grinnell Area through Strategic Funding, Place-Based Investments, and Collaboration

The Foundation's approach to community investment goes beyond traditional grantmaking. Through a combination of direct financial support, mission-aligned investments, long-standing partnerships, and in-kind services, our impact is felt across generations, from individual families to local initiatives that shape the future of the greater Grinnell area and beyond.

"Leave It Better Than You Found It."

— Claude W. Ahrens, Founding Legacy

$30M+ IN CUMULATIVE GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1993

GIFTS & GRANTS

Our direct giving programs focus on providing financial support where it's needed most, from large-scale community initiatives to emergency aid for local individuals and families.

Major Gifts

Strategic contributions that fund long-term capital projects and transformative community initiatives that create measurable outcomes in health, wellness, education, and recreation.

Donations & Sponsorships

Support for local nonprofit awareness campaigns and community events throughout the year.

Community Programs

Support and management of a variety of community programs that enhance the quality of life throughout the Greater Grinnell community. In addition, the Foundation supports, manages, and administers dedicated program funds in partnership with trusted local service providers. These funds provide direct financial assistance to individuals and families facing hardship, ensuring essential resources reach those who need them most while strengthening the community for present and future generations. See the following pages for more information.

Mini-Grants

Flexible, small-scale funding to support grassroots initiatives, one-time projects, and innovative local ideas that strengthen community life.

- **Grinnell Food Coalition Harvest Grant** program supports new and existing initiatives that combat food insecurity and strengthen local food systems in Grinnell and Poweshiek County. The grant provides funding for both immediate needs and long-term solutions, covering operating, food, and infrastructure costs.
- **Grinnell Food Coalition Seed Grant** is a pilot program offering a flexible funding opportunity designed to strengthen food access in Grinnell and across Poweshiek County.
- **Grinnell Area Mental Health Consortium Grant** program created the Karen Phillips Mental Health Impact grant, which honors the legacy of Karen Phillips by empowering local schools, youth groups, nonprofits, and community leaders to design and implement mental health awareness and education projects. These projects aim to promote resilience, connection, and overall well-being throughout Grinnell.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS

We strategically invest in local ventures that generate both community impact and economic return, aligning with our mission to enhance quality of life.

Investment in Ahrens Park

The Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation provides both operational and capital support to the Ahrens Park Foundation to ensure Ahrens Park remains a high-quality, affordable community asset for residents and visitors alike. This ongoing investment helps maintain public access to the park, keeps lease rates low for local organizations, and funds ongoing improvements that preserve the park for future generations.

In addition to serving thousands of recreational users each year at little or no cost to the public, Ahrens Park hosts regional baseball and softball tournaments, weekly park runs, middle and high school cross country meets, Fourth of July fireworks, Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, Kites Over Grinnell, Trunk or Treat, and many other community events. These activities not only promote health, recreation, and community engagement but also attract visitors from across the region, generating tourism, supporting local businesses, and enhancing Grinnell's visibility as a vibrant destination to live, work, and play.

Strand Theatre, LLC

As one of twenty local investors of the Strand Theatre, this vital entity exists to preserve and celebrate the historic legacy of downtown Grinnell while providing an exceptional, community-centered moviegoing experience for all ages. Through thoughtful stewardship of its iconic marquee, historic location, and three-screen cinema, the Strand enhances the cultural vitality and economic vibrancy of Main Street and the greater Grinnell community.

INDIRECT SUPPORT & COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Our commitment extends beyond dollars. Through strategic collaboration, engagement, and volunteerism, we strengthen the nonprofit ecosystem, enhance the local community, and help drive economic development from within.

Collaboration with Nonprofit Partners

Through our **Community Support Services (CSS)** program, we provide administrative, accounting, donor management, human resources, and marketing and public relations services to local program funds and nonprofits, helping them operate more efficiently and sustainably.

Celebrating 20 Years of Community Support Services

In 2026, the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation and the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation (GPCF) proudly celebrated the 20th anniversary of their innovative Community Support Services partnership. Since its launch in 2006, the program has become a model for nonprofit collaboration by providing shared administrative, financial, legal, and operational support that allows organizations to focus more resources on serving their communities.

Championed by Julie Gosselink, Shannon Fitzgerald, and Tom Marshall, the partnership began with six community partners and has grown to support more than 20 nonprofit programs and over 150 charitable funds. By reducing overhead and sharing professional expertise, the CSS program has helped GPCF quadruple in size while strengthening local philanthropy and expanding charitable impact throughout Poweshiek County.

Over the past two decades, CDAF and GPCF have worked together on numerous initiatives, including:

- Benda Fund
- Big Hearts 4 Tiny Hands
- Build a Better Grinnell
- Central Iowa Christian School
- Chris' Heart Fund
- Christmas Shares
- Community Education Collaborative
- Gifting Grinnell
- Grinnell Alliance
- Grinnell Education Partnership
- Grinnell High School Alumni Association
- Grinnell Lion's Club
- Grinnell Tiger Football Club
- Imagine Grinnell
- Jeff Menary Care and Share
- JMP Early Childhood Iowa
- LINK childcare and mentoring
- Navigating Economic Stability Together (NEST)
- Nonprofit Educational Series
- Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund
- Poweshiek Animal League Shelter (PALS)
- Poweshiek County Alliance
- Poweshiek County Leadership
- Racial Equity Fund
- Renewed Hope Furnishings
- S.H.E. Counts
- Social Entrepreneurs of Grinnell
- Take Away Hunger
- Tiger Packs
- Tiger Scholarship Fund
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)
- We Give

and many community fundraising campaigns benefiting:

- Ahrens Park Foundation
- Central Park Improvements
- Central Park Inclusive Playground
- Drake Community Library
- Galaxy Youth Center
- Grinnell Area Arts Council
- Grinnell Area Mental Health Consortium
- Grinnell Aquatic Center
- Grinnell Community Early Learning Center
- Grinnell Historical Museum
- Grinnell-Newburg Community School District
- Grinnell School of Music
- Grinnell Skatepark
- Iowa Transportation Museum
- St. Francis Manor Foundation
- Second Mile
- Station Clubhouse
- TT Cranny Renovation
- Veteran's Memorial

Twenty years later, the partnership between CDAF and GPCF stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, responsible stewardship, and a shared commitment to building stronger communities through philanthropy.

In addition to working with GPCF, the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation's CSS program currently provides professional back-office services demonstrating how shared services continue to strengthen nonprofit organizations both locally and nationally. **Current organizations include:**

- Ahrens Park Foundation
- Brooklyn Community Development
- Brooklyn Opera House
- Brownells Foundation
- LINK childcare and mentoring
- Michael J. Manatt Community Center
- Special Operations for Wounded Warriors (SOWW)

Engagement in Community Initiatives

We actively engage with local organizations to support initiatives that strengthen the Greater Grinnell community. By serving as a collaborator and strategic partner, we help advance efforts that improve quality of life, foster community engagement, and address local opportunities and challenges. The following are just a few examples of initiatives the Foundation supported or participated in over the past year:

- Community Health Needs Assessment Planning Sessions by Public Health (CHNA)
- Drake Community Library Food Cupboard
- Grinnell College
- Grinnell College Bucket Course
- Grinnell Community Meal
- Grinnell Empowerment Center
- Grinnell Gathers - Building Community Series
- Health and Resource Fair by Grinnell Public Health
- Healthy Choices Coalition
- Music in the Park by Grinnell Area Arts Council
- Navigating Economic Stability Together (NEST) by GPCF
- New Resident Welcome by Grinnell Chamber of Commerce
- Poweshiek County Economic Development Collaborative's Bike Route Planning Committee
- Racial Equity Grants Program by GPCF
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program by GPCF

Volunteer Management

Our team engages, promotes, and helps manage local volunteer efforts year-round, giving time as well as money to community needs. Examples include:

- Drake Community Library Food Cupboard
- Giving Gardens plantings and maintenance
- Imagine Grinnell Prairie Burn and weekly gravel rides
- Imagine Grinnell Tree Corps distribution & plantings
- P.O.W.E.R. Kids K-5th grade school activities
- S.H.E. Counts Math Club for 4th and 5th grade girls
- Tiger Packs weekly packaging of nutritious snacks for preK-8

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Grinnell Food Coalition

The Grinnell Food Coalition coordinates community driven food solutions in the Grinnell area.

IMPACT TO THE COMMUNITY

- Total Grants awarded to local food access programs: $32,909
- 13 different organizations funded
- Supported the Drake Community Library Food Cupboard. Total dollars: $11,482
- 6 Community Partner meetings held and open to anyone in the community
- Harvest and Seed grants continuing to fund local food access organizations in FY27

Giving Gardens

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

- 25+ different vegetables are grown in 7 different gardens
- 1000's of pounds of produce grown and enjoyed by community members
- Hosted 2 AmeriCorps members to grow capacity of the gardens
- 13 volunteers recruited to the gardens

P.O.W.E.R. KIDS

Positive Opportunities for Wellness, Exercise & Reading

Positive Opportunities for Wellness, Exercise and Reading. This program established in 2022 is for K-5th 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

- K-5th grade Mileage Club prizes provided
- Collaborated with G-N School District, Poweshiek County ISU Extension, PWA Fitness Center, local Farmers Market vendors for all programming
- Empowered 615 K-5th grade students with fitness activities, blender bike fun, healthy food taste testing, Mini Farmers Market experience, and Mileage Club

Imagine Grinnell

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

INITIATIVES

- Prairie Burn 100 Gravel bike ride and 5K fun run welcomed 323 riders and runners
- Grinnell Bike Share loaned 82 bikes
- Tree Corps planted and distributed 183 trees through grant funding and a collaboration with the City of Grinnell
- Energy Efficiency initiative loaned 13 kits through the Drake Community Library

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

- Karen Phillips Mental Health Impact Grant funded 2 organizations for a total of $2,000
- Number of patients helped: 152
- Dollars spent on mental health care: $61,691
- Total dollars to date: $563,629

YEAR IN REVIEW JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

Lend A Hand serves the needs of individuals and families who are experiencing unique and extenuating circumstances in their life by providing financial assistance.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Grant to Four Oaks Family Services for Project Santa: $500
- Number of Individuals and Families helped: 23
- Since 2021, number of Individuals and Families helped: 166

S.H.E COUNTS
supporting • helping • empowering • women

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

BY THE NUMBERS

- Donating period products to BGM Schools, Drake Community Library Food Cupboard, Grinnell-Newburg Schools, MICA, Montezuma Library, and Montezuma Schools. Over 4,500 items donated for distribution.
- Supporting 25 4th and 5th grade 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
- Total scholarship amounts awarded: $13,000 paid to 12 students

TIGER PACKS

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 preK-12th grade: 330+
- Fresh fruit available to every middle and high school student for a healthy snack. Average cost per week: $63
- Twice a month packaging costs for 230 students: $4.10

POWESHIEK HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND

The Poweshiek Housing Assistance Fund is available to assist those who are experiencing housing insecurity with the support of rental deposits, back rent payment, utilities and other housing related needs.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Total number of individuals or families helped with housing related expenses and hotel vouchers: 92
- Total dollars spent on rent and utilities: $22,211
- Total dollars spent on hotel vouchers: $3,942
- Number of Poweshiek County homeless at "Point In Time" Survey July 2026: 16

VOSBURG MUSIC FUND

The Vosburg Music Fund is available to support youth in the Grinnell area with funding assistance for music lessons, instruments, and other items associated with learning music.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Grant to Grinnell Middle School for band instruments: $3,707
- Dollars spent for music education: $7,275
- Total number of students helped: 25

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 prevent homelessness for those that face housing insecurity.

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

Donors can create a legacy through charitable giving. CDAF supports various giving options.
If you have questions about ways to support CDAF and/or its programs, please contact us.

1. Cash or Check
2. Online Giving
3. Gifts of Appreciated Assets (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement accounts, etc.)
4. Planned Gifts (bequest, life insurance, charitable trust, charitable gift annuity, etc.)

DONATION FORM

I wish to support the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation. Please direct my donation to the following fund(s). If giving to more than one fund, please specify the amounts. The Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We will send you a tax receipt once we have processed your donation. Thank you!

Name of Fund	$ Amount
Ahrens Park Operations	
Ahrens Park Capital Improvements	
Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation Operations	
Giving Gardens	
Grinnell Area Mental Health Consortium – JPK Fund	
Grinnell Food Coalition	
Imagine Grinnell	
Lend A Hand	
P.O.W.E.R. Kids	
Poweshiek Housing Assistance Fund	
S.H.E. Counts	
Tiger Packs	
Vosburg Music Fund	
Make checks payable to CDAF TOTAL	

Donor Information

Name:_____

Please print your name(s) exactly as you would like your gift to be acknowledged.

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
☐ In Honor

Name:_____

Address:_____

Fund: _____

Please mail completed form and your check made payable to CDAF to the address below. Donations can also be made online at ahrensfamilyfoundation.org or by scanning the QR code. For questions, please contact:

Julie Gosselink, President & CEO – julie@ahrensfamilyfoundation.org
Jennifer Cogley, Director of Programs – jennifer@ahrensfamilyfoundation.org
Melissa Hull, Director of Community Relations – melissa@ahrensfamilyfoundation.org

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