

Helpenstell Foundation awards \$286,000 in grants



14 HOURS AGO • BY [LINDA COOK](#)

The Amy Helpenstell Foundation Fund awarded \$286,000 in grants to 22 area nonprofit organizations.

The awards were announced during a grant reception Wednesday at the iWireless Center in Moline.

Amy's father, Franz "Bud" Helpenstell, gave the grants to the groups. In addition, three nonprofit leaders shared the effect that will be made on their organizations and the people they serve through funding received from the foundation.

Speaking on behalf of their organizations were Patrick Carlson, clinical director at The Center for Youth and Family Solutions; Sally O'Donnell, executive director of School Health LINK; and Amanda Dybek, executive director of Henry County Youth Services Bureau.

The fund promotes awareness, understanding, diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders in the greater Quad-City area.

Amy Helpenstell died in 2003 from complications related to an eating disorder. The foundation was created through her estate to support causes related to health, education, youth development, community development and cultural activities within a 60-mile radius of Rock Island, where she lived and worked.

"Since 2005, Amy's Foundation Fund has given more than \$5 million back to causes that she cared deeply about," said her father, who is the fund chairman. "The spring grants will impact community efforts to protect children from abuse, provide enrichment activities for individuals with disabilities, help local students attend college and so much more.

"The results of the grantees' important work will be felt in the lives of real people every day."

Spring grant recipients and the programs that received funding include:

- Aldridge Early Learning Center, parent education, \$1,500.
- Augustana College, Amy Helpenstell Foundation student interns program, \$20,000.
- Bethany for Children & Families, housing for chronically homeless families, \$10,000.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley, one-to-one youth mentoring expansion and enhancement initiative, \$15,000.
- Black Hawk College Adult Education Program, adult education English-as-a-second-language coordinator, \$20,000.

- Black Hawk College Foundation, documentation at point of care for nursing students, \$4,500.
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Mississippi Valley, after-school programs for at-risk youth, \$15,000.
- Child Abuse Council – prevention education core program support, \$10,000
- Children’s Therapy Center of the Quad-Cities, enhanced feeding therapy program, \$16,000.
- Gilda’s Club Quad-Cities, children in need continuation, \$10,000.
- Hand-in-Hand, inspiration studio art for individuals with disabilities, \$2,000.
- Henry County Youth Services Bureau, home-based, school-based, individual, group and family counseling, \$10,000.
- Junior Achievement of the Heartland, Junior Achievement: Empowering the Future, \$15,000.
- New Kingdom Trailriders, horse care, \$6,000.
- Rick’s House of Hope, trauma and loss training program, \$4,000.
- Robert Young Center, Amy’s Gift. Amy’s Gift: QC Eating Disorders Consortium, \$50,000.
- School Health LINK Inc., behavioral health specialist, \$15,000.
- Spring Forward Learning Center, after-school tutoring and mentoring programs, \$15,000.
- St. Ambrose University, Amy Helpenstell Scholars Program, \$10,000.
- The Center for Youth and Family Solutions, crisis intervention service enhancement, \$5,000.
- Vera French Foundation, school-based services program expansion, \$20,000.
- YWCA of the Quad-Cities, theplace2b, \$12,000.

For more information about the fund, go online to amyhelpenstell.org or call 563-326-2840. The Community Foundation of the Great River Bend administers the fund.