

The Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, Inc. is pleased to announce that they recently awarded eight grants from their Community Funds. Community Funds enable the Foundation to respond to grant requests from local nonprofit organizations and also assist with ever-changing community needs. The Community Foundation administers six Community Funds which include the Community Foundation Board & Alumni Fund, the William & Kathy Day Fund, the Switzerland County Community Fund, the Switzerland County Quality of Life Fund, the Vevay Deposit Bank Fund, and the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation Fund.

Organizations that were awarded grants during the fall cycle include:

Jeff-Craig Fire & Rescue was awarded \$4,750 to purchase a Macaw Backpack. The backpack is a compressed air foam system that is used for wildland firefighting, exposure protection, vapor suppression, and decontamination. The five gallon backpack will have the capability of producing 350 gallons of extinguishing agent and will be able to easily be transported to areas that are difficult to reach by vehicles and ATV's.

Pathways Youth Shelter & Family Services was awarded \$2,500 to implement the "Project Safe Place" program in the county. This is a crisis prevention and management program designed to empower children through education and resources and to enable them to seek help and ensure their safety. Safe Place works within the local community to provide certified sites in local businesses and organizations where children may seek immediate assistance if exposed to abuse, neglect, drug use, or other types of hurtful situations.

Switzerland County Elementary School was awarded \$1,350 to start the Family Fun Night-Make it and Take it program. The program will be held once a month in the evening and is open to the entire Switzerland County community. The school will be open for families to explore learning stations such as teacher/parent tutoring, art, games, snacks, and reading. The program aims to be a link between the school and community.

Switzerland County Emergency Management was awarded \$5,000 to equip a new emergency vehicle that the county recently purchased for Emergency Management. The grant will be used to purchase mobile radios and overhead lighting with a siren.

Switzerland County Local Emergency Planning Committee was awarded \$4,850 to purchase haz-mat decontamination and defensive equipment. Local emergency responders have been certified on how to respond to haz-mat incidents but lack the equipment needed to be effective. The grant will be used to purchase a Decon Shower & Pool, Plug & Dike granules, Poly Drum spill kit, a non-sparking tool kit, and a Plug & Wedge kit.

Switzerland County Public Library was awarded \$400 to purchase a Nintendo Wii gaming system and games. The library plans on starting a series of programs for children, teens and families using the Wii game console.

Switzerland County School Corporation was awarded \$4,250 to help cover the increase in the cost of school lunches for the 2011-2012 school year. The increase in cost was required by

federal law. The school corporation will work on developing a plan to address the cost increase for future school years.

Switzerland County YMCA was awarded \$5,000 to purchase playground equipment for the Larry Tolbert Outdoor Fitness Area.

This grant cycle was the last one for 2011. The deadlines for the 2012 grant cycles will be the first business day of March and the first business day of September. Guidelines and application information may be found on our website www.cfsci.org.