

SCHMEECKLE FOUNDATION

*"Providing Grants for the
Betterment of Martin County,
Minnesota"*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11/18/16

Schmeeckle Foundation

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Schmeeckle Foundation Awards \$83,300 in Grants

Martin County, Minn., November 18th, 2016 – The Schmeeckle Foundation recently approved six grants totaling \$83,300 for projects in Martin County that support its three core focus areas which include early childhood care and education, serving the disabled and elderly, and the arts. The grants awarded were the first ever grant round by the Schmeeckle Foundation. The Schmeeckle Foundation is a private family foundation serving Martin County, Minnesota. The Foundation is carrying on the legacy of long-time Martin County resident Juanita Ellen (Teubner) Schmeeckle to provide grants for the betterment of Martin County.

"The Schmeeckle Foundation Grants are designed to support projects that are innovative, involve collaboration and achieve sustainable, measurable results," says the Schmeeckle Foundation Trustees. Grants are reviewed by the four trustees with assistance from the Southern Minnesota Initiative

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Foundation and the Schmeeckle Foundation grant committee. Grants are awarded based on their likelihood to create measurable change in early childhood care and education, serving the disabled and elderly, and the arts. This round's grantees include:

- \$20,000 to The Arc MN Southwest to provide funding for two teams to attend the Olmstead Academy in St. Paul to provide the Day of Discovery workshop in Martin County, and begin preparation to establish an Aktion Club Theatre in Martin County.
- \$2,000 to CREST to develop a traveling library of books and resources related to long-term debilitating diseases for caregivers. Books will be available at locations where caregivers are attending meetings or in resident facilities.
- \$20,000 to the Fairmont Opera House to purchase and install all equipment necessary to use video in the Fairmont Opera House auditorium and video equipment throughout the building enabling them to show video in the various spaces in a manner in which it is discernable by audience members sitting anywhere in the house.
- \$20,000 to the Fox Lake Conservation League to expand their existing work with the Martin County West School and FFA to provide local eco type native plant seeds and forbs by creating an additional parcel to grow and re-establish local native prairie species.
- \$20,000 to Lakeview Methodist Home to add a 21-bed Transitional Care Unit that will ensure the availability of transitional care to the community that is not now available in order to serve and expand those in the rapidly growing elderly population in Martin County. Also to remodel and reconfigure living, dining and fellowship areas on the second and third floors of the Skilled Center to provide a more attractive, comfortable, home-like atmosphere for the well-being and enjoyment of residents, families and community members and those that are involved with Lakeview Methodist Health Care Center
- \$1,300 to Martin County 4-H to start a 4-H Performing Arts Project Club for youth in grades 6-12 that will meet monthly for performing arts lessons and skill-development which will increase their proficiency and allow them to receive feedback from a supportive judge committed to positive youth development; and also to deepen their arts-learning experience by attending live theater performances.

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The application process and guidelines for the next grant round will be announced in January 2017; applications will be due April 30th, 2017. For details on applying for a Schmeckle Foundation Grant please visit our website at schmecklefoundation.org.

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