

2018 MAKING AN IMPACT



2018 was a busy year for the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation, awarding the most grant money to date totaling \$102,250. 2018 marked the completion of a 4-year \$50,000 commitment to Junior Achievement of the Heartland, a 3-year \$50,000 commitment to the River Bend Foodbank, and a 3-year \$22,500 commitment to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley.

2018 also marked the fourth year of the annual Leadership Grants, awarding 31 different charities and organizations in our region with \$20,000. 2018 also brought new opportunities, including the establishment of a Student Emergency Assistance Fund awarding \$25,000 in grants to local community college students. In addition, in 2018 the foundation awarded grants to the Spring Forward Learning Center, Midwest Writing Center, United Way, Project Renewal, Iowa State University Extension, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley.



Total contributions given to date:
\$345,392

MISSION

Established in 2015, the mission of the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation is to improve the quality of life for the membership of Ascentra Credit Union and further the philanthropic outreach in the communities we serve. Our focus will be on funding work to enhance youth development, expand credit education opportunities, foster community development, support cultural activities, and invest in ways to enhance the financial viability of the underserved.



The Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley (BGCMMV) got everything crossed off their wish list this year. The Ascentra Credit Union Foundation provided a grant of \$10,000 which enabled the club to purchase a new 15-passenger van.

The new set of wheels was dedicated specifically to their Moline Teen Center to help transport their members to various sports activities and youth development opportunities such as post high school planning and career exploration through college visits and job shadows, and other hands-on experiences like volunteering.

“Thanks to the work the Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley does, many youth in our region have a safe place to go after school to do their homework, learn something new, make a new friend, have a hot meal, and so much more. **”**

- Dale Owen, Ascentra President and CEO



In its third year of supporting the Spring Forward Learning Center and its mission to provide educational and enrichment opportunities to families, the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation awarded another \$2,500 grant to provide materials for the organization's newly formed Kids on Campus Program. In the program's inaugural year, children entering sixth and seventh grade were introduced to the college experience by participating in activities at Augustana College's campus led by the Biology, Geography, Art, and Information Technology Services, and guided through campus activities and reading lessons by students in Augustana's teacher education program.



STUDENT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND GRANTS

Staying true to its mission of being committed to supporting education initiatives, the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation established multiple Student Emergency Assistance Fund grants, awarding a total of \$25,000 to students at Muscatine, Scott, Clinton, and Black Hawk Community Colleges. These grants were created in collaboration with the Quad Cities Community Foundation to help students feel empowered to be successful and accomplish their educational goals when unexpected and emergency life events happen.

“My life journey has been anything less than perfect. I feel blessed to be able to go to school and get a great education. I know that someday I will be a great nurse. It's just the fact of getting through it and getting done with school. It is often a struggle to be dedicated in my studies when some of my basic needs are not met.
- A Recipient of the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation Student Emergency Assistance Fund



The Ascentra volunteer board of directors and senior leadership team continued their fourth year of summer giving, awarding a total of \$20,000 in Leadership Grants to 31 different organizations and charities throughout the region. These efforts stem from Ascentra's People-Helping-People philosophy and giving back to the community. Since their establishment, the Leadership Grants have positively impacted over 74 organizations and awarded a total of \$71,000.



PAUL LENSMEYER GOLF OUTING



Now in its 4th year, the annual Paul Lensmeyer Golf Outing exceeded its fundraising goal again this year, raising a total of \$22,346.69! In 2015, the Inaugural Paul Lensmeyer Golf Outing was established to raise funds for the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation and celebrate Paul and his spirit. With this new total, the golf outing has raised a generous \$75,863.31 for the foundation.