

Community Foundation issues grants

The Fountain Hills Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting educational, cultural and humanitarian activities in the Fountain Hills area.

The foundation raises funds for local charities through various community events.

"Proceeds from our fund-raising go to non-profits serving the needs of our community," said Steve Kelbley, board president.

"The foundation is comprised of an all-volunteer board with many other volunteers from the community serving on our event committees.

"We are dedicated to making Fountain Hills a better place to live, and we're doing it with the help of our friends and supporters who attend our events and donate to the foundation."

In 1995 the foundation was established as the Sunridge Foundation.

To meet the needs of the growing community, in 2006 the board changed the name to the Fountain Hills Community Foundation to broaden its ability to accept more diverse donations, specifically adding the ability to accept endowments.

In 2009 the Flynn Society was established to create the fiscal infrastructure needed for an annual giving program.

The Grant Committee, led by Kelbley, is comprised of four board members and several volunteers from the community.

They dedicated themselves to reviewing the many grant applications, then spent hours reviewing and discussing the merits of each grant request, making their recommendation to the board.

The board in turn reviewed the summary and recommendations from the Grant Committee and made the final decision on funding levels for those requesting financial support.

"The process takes many hours, and our Grants Committee took their job seriously," said Kelbley.

"I'm proud of the work they do, and very proud

that as a foundation we're able to fund so many organizations in need."

Foundation grants for 2012 were awarded to the following area charities, totaling \$40,000:

- Ballet Arizona, \$500
- Boys & Girls Club, \$4,000
- Extended Hands Food Bank, \$3,500
- FH Chamber Players, \$500
- FH Community Band, \$500
- FH Sister City Corp., \$500
- FH Soccer Club, \$2,500
- Junior Achievement, \$3,000
- Girl Scouts of FH, \$1,500
- Golden Eagle Foundation, \$2,500
- FH Ministerial Association, \$3,000
- Fountain Hills Community Theater, \$2,500
- FHCCA-Greening of Downtown, \$500
- St. Vincent DePaul, \$1,500
- FH Historical Society, \$2,000
- *C.A.R.E./ F.H., \$2,500
- Fountain Hills Explorer Post 892, \$1,000
- FH School Athletic Booster Club, \$3,000
- Fountain Hills Coalition, \$1,500
- SeniorNet of Fountain Hills, \$500
- Senior Services of FH, \$3,000

"We are so pleased to provide funding to such a diverse group of organizations serving our community," said Kelbley.

"We know these non-profit groups are in particular need of financial assistance, and we're pleased to be able to provide these funds to help them better serve our community.

"On behalf of the board, I want to thank the Grant Committee for their time and dedication to this year's review process along with all of our friends and supporters who make these grants possible."

To learn more about the foundation, call 837-1287 or visit the website www.FountainHillsCommunity-Foundation.org.



Board members Victoria Bertone, left, and Steve Kelbley, right, present a grant check to Girl Scout leaders Marissa Watson and Joanne Clark along with Scout Loralai Colin



Joanne Meehan and Lois McElligott, left, of the Golden Eagle Foundation and D.J. Lott and John Patris-Browne of the Boys & Girls Club accept checks from board member Wally Nichols.



*Steve Kelbley, left, and Cindy Thomas, right, present checks to Joan Evans of the Chamber Players and Victoria Bertone of CARE/FH.



Steve Kelbley and Wally Nichols were on hand to give grants to Cathay Fischer and Ralph Craner of SeniorNet along with Scott and Casey Timms of the Soccer Club.



Loretta and Bill Filipin from the Ministerial Association and Lisa Shevy from Junior Achievement, right, with board members Cindy Thomas and Wally Nichols.