

Children's Academy of New Albany receives \$20K for reading program

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— Once a child is behind in reading, it can be difficult to catch up.

Terri Boutin, principal at the Children's Academy of New Albany, said students there will soon utilize technology to conquer that challenge.

The school will be purchasing software that listens to how the child reads, tells the child how to correctly say words and times how quickly a student can read an excerpt, Boutin said.

The school will be able to pay for that thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County.

"We think it's going to make a real difference for our kids," Boutin said Wednesday after accepting the grant at the Floyd County branch of the YMCA of Southern Indiana. "This is proven to work, but we just couldn't afford it."

She said helping students get caught up with reading will help improve the school's ISTEP+ scores too.

Boutin said the benefits will stretch beyond the classroom.

"Our kids can really impact the community when they are given a good start," she said.

Boutin was just one person at the YMCA accepting a grant. The foundation handed out a total of \$365,000 to 34 Floyd County organizations.

Jerry Finn, executive director of the foundation, said the group works to help five areas of the community: Community development, human services, education, health and arts and culture.

Ruth Koerner, with the New Albany-Floyd County Public Library, said the library's grant will not only benefit this generation, but the ones to come.

"It's gives us a starting point to enhance what we already have," she said of the grant, which will help to buy more books for the teen collection. "I'm excited to get going."

Boutin is too. She said the new software system should be up and running next month.

Finn said the foundation gives out grants like this two times a year. So far, the amount given each time has increased, Finn said. However, the economy is effecting everyone, including the Horseshoe Casino and Hotel. Finn said the casino is seeing lower profits, so grants next time around may not be as large.

"The need is even greater now," Finn said of the economy effecting area organizations. "We certainly want to do everything we can to help organizations that are struggling."

The foundation is accepting applications for the next grant cycle, which will be awarded in the summer.

Grants totaling \$20,000

- Floyd County Maternal and Child Health Center: To fund a prenatal and family planning program in an effort to offset costs to provide high quality services to Floyd County residents.
- Ivy Tech Community College: To purchase 26 computers, a printer and two smart podiums.
- Children's Academy of New Albany: To fund a project to increase the reading comprehension levels of students in the school by utilizing speech-recognition technology to provide computer-based, one-on-one tutoring using repeated readings for guided oral reading practice.
- Paul Ogle Cultural and Community Center: To provide ticket subsidy for Floyd County school children to attend professional and educational art performances, as well as subsidizing family-oriented programming.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church: To partially fund the replacement of commercial grade appliances in the

Carriage House used by Shepherd's Kitchen meal ministry and numerous community outreach ministries.

- Purdue College of Technology: To purchase the first 10 Macintosh computers and associated software to develop the advanced computer graphics laboratory for New Albany Purdue students/programs.

Grant recipients and totals

AMOUNT — ORGANIZATION

\$810 — Challenger Baseball Team
 \$2,460 — NAFC Public Library
 \$2,500 — Boy Scouts Troop 4005
 \$4,536 — Floyd County Token Club
 \$4,990 — American Legion Post 28
 \$5,000 — Hoosier Hills Aid Coalition
 \$5,000 — St. Marks United Church of Christ
 \$5,000 — Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana
 \$5,000 — Youth Philanthropy — CFSI
 \$5,000 — Gilda's Club
 \$5,200 — Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Delta Epsilon Chapter
 \$7,996 — Lifespring Inc.
 \$8,000 — Providence Self Sufficiency Ministries Inc.
 \$9,000 — NAFC Parks Dept.
 \$9,971 — Center for Women and Families
 \$10,000 — YMCA of Southern Indiana
 \$10,000 — Guerin Inc.
 \$10,000 — Habitat for Humanity
 \$10,000 — New Albany Urban Enterprise Association
 \$10,850 — Brandon's House Counseling Center Inc.
 \$11,000 — Arts Council of Southern Indiana
 \$12,250 — Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center
 \$13,000 — Jewish Hospital and St. Mary's Foundation
 \$15,000 — Junior Achievement of Kentuckiana Inc.
 \$15,000 — New Directions Housing Corp. Repair Affair
 \$15,000 — New Albany Housing Authority
 \$15,000 — City of New Albany
 \$18,000 — Hispanic Ministry of New Albany

Helping education

- Also at the grant ceremony, representatives with the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County announced they are starting an endowed scholarship in Judy Hess's name at Spalding University. Hess, who is on the foundation's board and was the first employee of the Horseshoe Casino and Hotel, is also a graduate of Spalding

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Photos



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