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Helping the helpers: Horseshoe Foundation awards 39 grants

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SELLERSBURG — Just because they do some helping doesn't mean they can't use a little help of their own.

The Horseshoe Foundation of Southern Indiana awarded 39 grants totaling \$365,248 at a ceremony Wednesday at Ivy Tech's new Ogle Hall.

The grants were given to organizations that benefit Floyd County through education, arts, medicine, human services or community development.

Jerry Finn, executive director of the foundation, said giving to organizations who make an effort to help others is one of his favorite parts of his job.

"It's a real honor to be able to provide funds for organizations that help our communities," Finn said.

The grants were awarded to organizations that benefit Floyd County. Finn said 50 applications were taken for a total of \$678,022 requested, but that list had to be narrowed down.

Floyd Central High School's Band Boosters received a grant for \$10,000 to get a new semi trailer for the high school's band equipment when they go to competitions.

Tabitha Resener with the boosters said an upgrade was long overdue for the band, but is grateful to the foundation for filling in gaps where funding couldn't be provided otherwise.

"Our other trailer is just so incredibly old," Resener said. "Let's just say it collapsed a couple of times out at competitions."

Another grant recipient was Clark County Youth Shelter and Family Services, Inc. Laura Fleming-Balmer, the executive director of the organization, said they'll use the grant to continue funding Safe Place in Floyd County and make parenting classes free of charge.

"This grant definitely helps us with parenting and being able to provide for children," Fleming-Balmer said. "We try to help eliminate all barriers for parents to come, attend and learn very specific parenting skills."

Finn said the foundation offers these grants twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Organizations can only be awarded once a year. Organizations who didn't make the cut the first time around can apply again and also get help from the foundation to strengthen their applications.

"There are just so many good works being done by so many organizations in our community," Finn said. "The other part that people don't think about is that this just doesn't take financial services, but human services and strong leadership."