



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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## **Nearly \$265,000 in Grants Available to Fund Important Issues in Eastern Jackson County**

**Including \$80k in new grants for children's education**

EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY, Mo. (February 21, 2014) – Truman Heartland Community Foundation invites nonprofit organizations located in or serving citizens in Eastern Jackson County to submit a letter of interest requesting funding from the Community Foundation. More than \$265,000 is currently available through the annual Community Grants Process including \$80,000 from the new Jelley Family Foundation Endowment for Children's Education Fund.

THCF works in partnership with nonprofits that share the vision and passion of improving area communities. The Community Foundation's grants are considered to be community investments, and the grants committee looks for proposals that make the most positive impact on the community possible. Organizations applying for grant awards may apply for both pools of money, with different proposals.

### **Community Grants Guidelines:**

The two-step review process will begin in April. Grant seekers must first submit an initial letter of interest by **Thursday, April 4**. Finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal due the fourth Thursday in May. To be considered for funding, programs must address one or more of the following issues which are important to the communities served by THCF.

- Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation
- Building Stronger Neighborhoods
- Education
- Fostering a Sense of Community Spirit
- Health Needs for the Community
- Leadership Development for Youth and Adults
- Programs for Seniors
- Positive Youth Development
- Transportation
- Violence Prevention

To complete the letter of interest and subsequent application, applicants can download the Community Grants Program Guidelines and apply online at [www.thcf.org](http://www.thcf.org).

In 2013, 47 nonprofit organizations received grants from the THCF community grants program totaling more than \$150,000. This included Downtown Lee's Summit for the Summit Art Festival, McCoy Park Inclusive Play Project in Independence, Raytown Christian Church for their Summer Lunch Ministry, Community Services League for their Supportive Housing Program and Missouri College Advising Corps for their programs in Van Horn and Raytown South High Schools. A full listing can be found at [www.thcf.org](http://www.thcf.org).

**Jelley Family Foundation Endowment for Children's Education Guidelines (NEW IN 2014):**

The two-step review process will begin in April. Grant seekers must first submit an initial letter of interest by **Thursday, April 4**. Finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal due the fourth Thursday in May. To be considered for funding, programs must address one or more of the following issues; these issues are not listed in order of importance.

- Advancement of promising and collaborative support programs.
- Leverage of additional funding and resources to maximize the grant's impact across the region.
- Organizations and partnerships emphasizing early childhood education, family literacy, educational advocacy, innovative educational practices, policy reform, whole child development including the arts, healthy living, and lifelong learning.

To complete the letter of interest and subsequent application, applicants can download the Jelley Family Foundation Endowment for Children's Education Guidelines and apply online at [www.thcf.org](http://www.thcf.org).

Truman Heartland Community Foundation is a public charity committed to "improving area communities by promoting private giving for the public good." Founded in 1982, THCF continues to serve the region with assets reaching \$33 million and annual grants surpassing \$3.5 million. THCF provides a wide range of services to donors and grant seekers alike. For more information on charitable giving, visit [www.thcf.org](http://www.thcf.org) or call 816.836.8189.

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