

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Crawford County Community Fund Gives Leadership Awards**

Seven Crawford County residents were honored for their volunteer efforts at the first-annual Crawford County Leadership Awards Reception, presented by the Crawford County Community Fund. Over 60 people attended the reception, which was hosted by the Village of Wauzeka at Century Hall on Thursday evening, April 28.

Crawford County Community Fund chairperson, Sherry Quamme, reports the Community Fund has made significant progress since its development in 2008. The fund currently holds an endowment of \$83,000. During its first grant awards presentation, the Community Fund granted money for the Kickapoo River cleanup effort, Crawford Markets Care, and to a community kitchen feasibility study.

Brad Niemcek of Gays Mills, guest speaker for the evening festivities, discussed the state of economic development in Crawford County. Economic development is a primary focus of the Community Fund and its awards program.

The highlight of the evening, was the presentation of leadership awards to seven individuals in five different categories. Those persons honored in their respective categories included: **Ritch Stevenson** of Gays Mills, Community Leadership and Service Award; **Jerry and Liz Quebe** of Soldiers Grove, Tourism Award; **Sara Achenbach** of Eastman and **Mackenzie Knutson** of Ferryville, Outstanding Youth Leadership Award; **Pete Knapik** of Soldiers Grove, Above and Beyond Award; and **Mickie Rasch** of Gays Mills, Business Development Award.

The Crawford County Community Fund plans to make the leadership awards reception an annual event and encourages citizens to submit nominations for next year's awards.

Community members may make a donation to the Crawford County Community Fund by sending a check to Crawford County Community Fund, PO Box 13, Seneca, Wisconsin 54654-0013. Donations to the Crawford County Community Fund are tax deductible.

The Crawford County Community Fund, a component of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Inc. is a tax-exempt public charity. For more information, contact Sherry Quamme, Crawford County Community Fund chairperson at (608)734-9077 or Kelly Sponsler, donor services representative with the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, at (608)778-3344. Sponsler can also be reached by email at [kelly@cfsw.org](mailto:kelly@cfsw.org).

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