

Milton Fund awards \$9290 in community grants

By JANE METCALF
Courier Reporter

The Milton Fund, a component of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, celebrated its "15 Years of Philanthropy" by awarding \$9290 in grants for community projects at its November 2 awards program.

The City of Milton Historic Preservation Commission received \$1,000. It previously was awarded a grant from another organization that covered the cost of six signs describing significant buildings and locations in the Milton College Historic District. The grant from the Milton Fund will enable the Historic Preservation Commission to purchase the final sign that will commemorate the location of the College's football field. The goal of the project is to educate pedestrians in the Milton College Historic District about the history of Milton College and the role it played in building the community.

The baseball diamonds at Lamar Park will feature improved fencing and infields with the aid of a \$500 grant from the Milton Fund and a partnership between the City of Milton, Milton Thunder Baseball Association and School District of Milton. The development of the Lamar Park baseball diamonds is key to making the fields more playable, and additional and/or larger baseball tourna-

ments are expected to be hosted at Lamar Park when the field renovations are complete.

The Goodrich Square Splash Park received a \$1,000 grant. Splash Park is one component of an overall revitalization plan for the Goodrich Square downtown district on Milton's east side. The plan was developed in response to the anticipated construction of the State Highway 26 bypass that will be completed in 2013. The goal for the splash park is to bring people to Milton, specifically Goodrich Square, to visit Milton's businesses.

The Milton Fund awarded \$1,000 to Milton Area Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism for its Adopt-a-Basket Community Beautification Program. The funds will be used to purchase baskets of flowers hung in the city's two business districts.

The Milton Area Youth Center received a \$2000 grant to go for the purchase of computers and computer programs, and the Milton College Preservation Society for Milton College received an \$880 grant for its Milton College Authors and Artists exhibit, which will be housed in Main Hall on the former Milton College campus.

A total of \$1000 was given to Milton Middle School to help pay for costumes and props for an on-going slate of plays, and the Milton Fund awarded a \$1200 grant to The Gath-

ering Place for its Concerts in the Park series, which will be held once monthly in June, July and August 2012 in North Goodrich Park.

"Each year, charitable non-profit organizations that provide direct service to the Milton community, schools in the Milton School District and local government entities providing service to Milton are encouraged to submit grant applications," said Lisa McCue, Milton Fund Advisory board chair.

Nineteen grant applications requesting more than \$33,000 were received. The Milton Fund advisory board, which includes Bob Albrecht, Kris Agnew, John Arndt, Jason Cowley, Bob Cullen, Beth Drew, Jeff Hansing, Lisa McCue and Theresa Rusch, has the task of reviewing applications and making funding decisions.

"I think anyone who has made a gift to the Milton Fund shares a common goal, to do what we can to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations in Milton," said McCue.

The Milton Fund, an endowment fund to benefit Milton, responds to not-for-profit organizations wanting to start new programs or expand current services. Grants from the Milton Fund have strengthened ties between generations and have encouraged community participation in the arts, education, health and human service programs and historic preservation. Established in 1996, the growth of the fund depends on current and planned financial gifts. Gifts to the Milton Fund are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. For more information, contact any advisory board member or Jane Maldonis at 608/758-0883. Gifts may be sent to Milton Fund, c/o Community Foundation, 26 S. Jackson St., Janesville, WI 53548