

Grants: Health Department receives \$152,222 to help fund programs

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Mercy Hospital Jefferson,” said Patty Morrow, vice president of the Behavior Health Services Mercy East Community.

Morrow said the grant money will be used to offer incentives to attract psychiatric nurse practitioners and physicians to the hospital. Some of the funds also may be used to cover some of their initial salaries.

She said the community will benefit by adding more mental-health providers at the hospital.

“Often these are complex patients with medical and psychiatric conditions, so to have that sort of consultant team dedicated to serve those patients will be a great resource for not only the hospital, but for the community,” Morrow said.

Since the Jefferson Foundation began administering grants in 2014, the Mercy Health Foundation Jefferson has received a total of \$1,131,826 in responsive grants, which are awarded twice a year, and another \$2,720,008 proactive grant. Proactive grants were first awarded in 2016 and are given out every three years.

“We are very grateful to the Jefferson Foundation,” Morrow said.

Health Department grant

The second highest grant went to the Jefferson County Health Department, which received \$152,222 to fund various services.

“The big thing with this grant is filling needs,” Health Department Director Kelley Vollmar said. “We are on the frontlines of assessing what is going on in the community and having a pulse of current needs.”

Vollmar said one example of the Health Department filling an immediate need was the recent formation of a suicide survivors support group for teens and young adults.

“We have been working with our partner, Provident, on that,” Vollmar said. “Out of the adult group, it really came up that there was a need for teens and young adults to have their own space to talk.”

Vollmar said the grant also will help the department subsidize or offer free services to patients, like preventive screenings.

“One of the things we found is when you take that (cost) barrier away, people are willing to get the screenings,” Vollmar said. “We have found individuals who have had results outside of the norm



Lisa Krystosek, left, a Provident counselor, and Jaclyn Brown with the Jefferson County Health Department start a recent meeting of the new Survivors of Suicide group for teens by lighting a candle.

Ted Howell photo

and required follow-up care. But they weren’t getting the screenings because of the cost.”

So far, the Health Department has received a total of \$840,883.07 in responsive grants from the Jefferson Foundation, as well as a \$3,000,000 proactive grant.

“We have a great Health Department, so we are happy we can help out a little,” Endres said.

DRA grant

The Disability Resource Association received the third-highest grant – \$100,000 that the organization will use to fund its transportation and home modification programs. The DRA also will use some of the funds to pay for nurses and medical equipment.

The association has received \$1,356,920.10 in responsive grants from the foundation since 2014.

“These grants help us so much to be able to help individuals in our community,” executive director Nancy Pope said. “It is really a benefit to our community.”

Pope said the money will help pay for gas and the drivers needed to provide approximately 1,200 rides per month to low-income individuals, seniors and

people with disabilities so they can get to medical or therapy appointments.

“It is a door-through-door service, it is unique because drivers can go into homes and help them to the van and they can help them into the office they need to go,” Pope said.

She said the home-modification program helps individuals get ramps or things like roll-in showers installed in their homes.

Pope said the association typically completes eight to 10 home-modification projects a year, but thanks to the Jefferson Foundation grant the agency received last year, as well as to AmeriCorps volunteers, the DRA has completed 25 projects already this year.

“It really is dependent on the funds we receive on how many people we can serve,” Pope said.

She said the medical supplies the association provides go to people whose insurance may not fully cover the expense.

“It could be a shower chair that is not covered by insurance,” Pope said. “That is a safety thing that can prevent falls and further health issues. There are a range of things that people ask for that insurance does not cover, yet their doctor says they need to have.”

Pony Bird grant

Pony Bird, a residential care facility with homes in Mapaville and De Soto for people with profound disabilities, received the fourth highest grant, getting \$91,266 to purchase medical equipment and a second generator for the Mapaville facility.

“We are really excited about this opportunity to get another generator to ensure when power goes down, we can provide the basic needs for individuals,” said Linda Dallas, Pony Bird’s director of business development. “That is very exciting.”

Dallas said one of the pieces of medical equipment it will buy with the grant funds is a bladder scanner.

“The goal is to help prevent urinary tract infections, which is one of the causes of hospital admission for folks in a long-term care setting,” Dallas said. “Our goal is to decrease this. It will also assure our individuals are comfortable and getting the support they need.”

Pony Bird has received \$1,445,050.46 in grants from the foundation since 2014.

“It has been such a gift to programs in Jefferson County to have this foundation,” Dallas said. “For Pony Bird, they have been extremely generous. We are extremely grateful for the amount of dollars we have received from the foundation.”

Pink Ribbon Girls grant

Pink Ribbon Girls is a new grant recipient this year, Endres said. The group received \$7,500 to provide meals and transportation to Jefferson County residents who have a family member dealing with breast or gynecological cancer.

“We all know the stress involved with a cancer diagnosis. This will help remove some of that stress,” Endres said.

Agencies that received grants in the last round were notified on May 1 and the grant checks will be sent on June 1, Endres said.

The grant money comes from the \$154 million the Mercy health system paid in 2013 when it acquired Jefferson Regional Medical Center (now Mercy Hospital Jefferson) in Crystal City.

The foundation has awarded \$38,412,640.22 in grants since it began administering them, according to its website.

The foundation will take requests for this year’s second round of grants in June until July 24, and that round of grants will be announced in November.

Awarded: This round of grant recipients share total of \$2.75 million

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John’s Conference: \$5,000 to provide direct financial assistance to individuals and families in need.

- Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Immaculate Conception Parish in Arnold: \$5,000 to provide direct financial assistance to individuals and families in need.

- Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Sacred Heart - Crystal City Conference: \$5,000 to provide direct financial assistance to individuals and families in need.

- Society of St. Vincent DePaul - Good Shepherd in Hillsboro Conference: \$5,000 to provide direct financial assistance to individuals and families in need.

- Society of St. Vincent DePaul - Our Lady Conference: \$5,000 to provide direct financial assistance to individuals and families in need.

- St. Joseph St. Vincent DePaul Impe-

- rial: \$5,000 to provide direct financial assistance to individuals and families in need.

- St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness (SLOCA): \$5,000 to conduct an outreach campaign on ovarian cancer in Jefferson County.

- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1831: \$5,000 to provide direct financial assistance to veterans in need and to provide transportation for veterans to medical appointments

- Zion Lutheran Church: \$5,000 to support the agency’s back-to school program that addresses basic needs of children and their families.

- Richwoods Community Pantry: \$4,000 to purchase food and to assist with general operating expenses.

- Hillsboro Christian Church: \$1,435 to purchase emergency medical equipment.

- Total: \$2,751,886.20