

Foundation procures Kiewit grant

By JEFF HEADLEY
News Co-Publisher

The Keith County Community Foundation recently was awarded a \$20,000 emergency relief funds grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation to help the Keith County Salvation Army, Keith County Senior Center and Keith County Food Pantry.

The foundation, through the efforts of grant writers Anne Slattery, Rita Shimmin and Joanie Halligan, submitted the grant proposal in early January. The grant was approved and the foundation received and dispersed the funds in early February.

The Salvation Army and Food Pantry received \$7,500 each, while the Senior Center received the remaining \$5,000 of the \$20,000 grant.

The Salvation Army provides assistance to local residents for utilities, rent and groceries, while the Food Pantry was awarded funds for the purchase of perishable foods, such as meats, fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Rev. Mary Lou Reynolds, director of the local chapter of the Salvation Army, said, "This grant more than doubles our ability to help people. We are terribly grateful to the Keith County Community Foundation and Peter Kiewit for their kindness and willingness to outreach to people."

Norma Quick, director of the Food Pantry, said, "We have been so blessed this year. The grant total (\$7,500) surprised me. We were expecting much less, and we are blessed."

Quick said community members probably aren't aware of the number of donations that have come to the pantry this year, including the continuing donations from American Shizuki and the city of

Ogallala for use of the building.

Money for the Senior Center will be used to defray food costs and for transportation assistance for senior citizens who may not be able to afford the cost of the meal and the transportation to the center.

"We are so excited about this grant," Lora Beckius, director of the Keith County Senior Citizens Center, said. "This grant will allow us to defray some food expenses and expand our bussing program for senior citizens."

While the funds have been dispersed and are being put to use, the KCCF must file a written report to the Peter Kiewit Foundation by Nov. 1.

Halligan, who serves as the group's president, said, "The Keith County Community Foundation is pleased to have received this grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation.

"Because of this generous grant, many people in Keith County will be helped," Halligan said. "This also comes at a time when all three of the grant recipients were in need of funding."

It is anticipated the local foundation will apply for similar grants in the future.

Organized in March 2001, the mission of the Keith County Community Foundation is:

- To enrich the quality of life in the county-wide community by providing means for citizens to give something back to the community they love.

- To support and strengthen local non-profit organizations.

- Identify needs and make grants in the area of human service, education, environment, art, culture, creation and civic improvement.

- Participate in partnership with other community groups in Keith County.

- Build an endowment to help meet the future community needs for generations to come.

The Keith County Community Foundation began its original endowment by matching a "Legacy Challenge" from Larry and Mary Lynn Callen.

The local foundation, through fund-raising efforts, matched the three-to-one challenge grant, raising \$329,000 to start the foundation's endowment.

With the Callens' \$100,000 pledge added to the local fund-raising efforts, the foundation's initial endowment began with about \$429,000.

With the Legacy Challenge complete, the foundation now continues to build the endowment through the Builder's Club, which is composed of members whose contributions, memorials and planned gifts help increase the foundation's overall endowment total. Currently, the foundation has endowment assets of about \$872,800.

While building the endowment is the overall goal, county organizations benefit from the interest earned on the endowment as, each year, the foundation awards grants to civic organizations and special community projects.

During the past six

years, the KCCF has been able to give \$120,000 in grants to county organizations.

Only interest earned from the endowment is used for grants, enabling contributions, planned gifts and memorials to go directly to expand the endowment total.

As the years go by, Builder's Club members and others continue to make contributions and the endowment grows. Theoretically, more interest is earned on the larger endowment, allowing the foundation to award bigger and bigger local grant totals from the interest earned.

Those wanting to help the foundation continue to expand its endowment are asked to contact Treasurer Jerri Cole in Pinnacle Bank (308) 284-6023 or Halligan at (308) 284-2330.



(Jeff Headley)

DISTRIBUTES GRANT – Keith County Community Foundation President Joanie Halligan (second from left) passes a \$20,000 grant check from the Peter Kiewit Foundation

to KCCF Treasurer Jerri Cole. The money will be distributed to three area organizations. Also pictured are KCCF Secretary Bev Pollock (left) and grant writer Rita Shimmin.