

Annual Report

FY2023



BLACK HAWK COUNTY
GAMING ASSOCIATION
HELPING THE CEDAR VALLEY PROSPER

Staff



**EMILY
HANSON**
Executive
Director



**HOLLY
ALTHOF**
Project
Coordinator

Letter from the Executive Director

The Black Hawk County Gaming Association (BHCGA) has spent the last 15 years dedicated to “helping the Cedar Valley prosper.” As we celebrated this exciting milestone in Fiscal Year 23 (FY23), the BHCGA Board spent a significant amount of time thinking about impact, both past and future.

Since our inception, the partnership between BHCGA and the Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo has reinvested over \$72 million in Northeast Iowa. Our focus has been the collaboration with cities and nonprofit organizations to build up sizeable public infrastructure with the goal of making the Cedar Valley a better place to live, work, and play.

FY23 was no exception. The Board approved funds for 39 different projects totaling \$2,256,064. As you’ll read throughout the annual report, the grants selected are very diverse. From air pack replacements in Chickasaw County to Casey Lake restoration at Hickory Hills to a new Cedar Valley Kids location in Waterloo, our recipients represent the various sizes, locations, and populations served across our seven counties. Each grantee is doing great work to address community needs, and we’re honored to be part of their exciting efforts to build a brighter future.

In January 2023, the BHCGA Board of Directors and staff prioritized time to analyze past funding and where the most significant impact could be in future grant cycles. As a result, board members voted to update the funding guidelines to be clearer and more concise for applicants. In addition, we started exploring how our organization can be a community leader outside of grantmaking.

As we look into the next fiscal year, the Board of Directors are eager to continue strategic planning surrounding community impact. The last 15 years serving Northeast Iowa have been truly remarkable, and we look forward to continued growth and service for years to come.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

\$2,256,064

DOLLARS
AWARDED
IN FY23

37%

FUNDING
REQUESTS
APPROVED

\$72

MILLION
AWARDED SINCE
INCEPTION

39

TOTAL #
GRANTS
FY23

637

TOTAL GRANTS
AWARDED SINCE
2008

51

DIFFERENT
COMMUNITIES
FUNDED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since Black Hawk County Gaming Association's inception in 2007, the Board has contributed many hours to ensure high-quality governance. Board members carefully assess and vote on project proposals that enhance public amenities, create or upgrade capital items, and create new opportunities for cities, counties, and qualified nonprofit organizations across seven counties in Northeast Iowa.

Volunteer Board Member Facts

- All 16 Board of Directors are residents of Black Hawk County.
- Each volunteer member is licensed by the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission.
- Board members represent broad areas of interest and expertise around the county.



Eric Johnson
President



Alice Shirey
Vice President



Jane Whittlesey
Secretary



Dave Richter
Treasurer



Paul Lee
At-Large



Scott Becker



Kingsley Botchway



Nick Evens



John Huff



Endya Johnson



Melanie Knipp



Chiquita Loveless



Ann Lyons



Carolyn Rafferty



Eric Ritland



Stacy Van Gorp

Legacy Grant Funding

Projects \$500,000 and over are part of the Black Hawk County Gaming Association's Legacy Grant Program. All the projects listed below are significant investments that have enhanced our local communities.

Project	Award
Cedar Valley Sportsplex	\$8.0 M
City of Waterloo Gates and Byrnes Parks Transformation	\$6.5 M
Riverloop Expo	\$2.8 M
Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity Walnut Neighborhood	\$1.9 M
City of Cedar Falls River Recreation	\$1.5 M
YWCA Building Renovations	\$1.2 M
Hartman Reserve Interpretive Center	\$1.2 M
City of Waterloo Jefferson/Commercial Streetscape	\$1.2 M
E911 Black Hawk County Radio Project	\$1.0 M
Grout Museum Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum	\$1.0 M
Northeast Iowa Food Bank	\$1.0 M
City of Waterloo Public Works Building	\$1.0 M
Hawkeye Community College Van G. Miller Adult Education Center	\$1.0 M
Operation Threshold New Facility	\$850,000
Mark's Park and Amphitheater	\$823,000
City of Waterloo Convention Center	\$820,000
Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center	\$750,000
City of Waterloo 4th Street Bridge Restoration	\$750,000
City of Waterloo University Avenue Enhancements	\$750,000
La Porte City Main Street Redevelopment	\$750,000
City of Cedar Falls Public Safety Building	\$750,000
City of Cedar Falls Streetscape Phase 1	\$743,000
Byrnes Park Drainage Project	\$642,000
Young Arena Improvements	\$600,000
Waterloo Lincoln Park Improvements	\$600,000
Waterloo Riverfront Stadium Improvements	\$590,000
City of Cedar Falls Details of the District Phase 2	\$575,000
Build Our Ballparks	\$500,000
Waterloo Center for the Arts Pavilion	\$500,000
UNI Dome New Turf	\$500,000
UNI New Scoreboard	\$500,000
City of Cedar Falls/UNI/Cedar Falls Schools Tennis Complex	\$500,000
City of Waterloo Boat House Enhancements	\$500,000
Peoples Community Health Clinic Capital Project	\$500,000
Hawkeye Community College Smart Automatic Training Alliance Center	\$500,000

**TOTAL
LEGACY
GRANT
FUNDING**

\$43.3M

*Making the Cedar Valley a better place to
live, work, and play.*

FY23

AWARD SPOTLIGHT

Cedar Valley Kids - \$300,000

Cedar Valley Kids North Crossing

Access to quality, affordable childcare is an issue across our state. To tackle the disproportionate shortage of daycare centers on Waterloo's north side, Cedar Valley Kids and UnityPoint Health/Allen Hospital joined forces to create a new location. A temporary site is underway at the Allen College Campus, with the permanent North Crossing site slotted to open in the spring of 2024. BHCGA Board is proud to partner with UnityPoint and Cedar Valley Kids on such an important project. Once complete, the Cedar Valley Kids North Crossing site will provide 116 childcare spaces for UnityPoint employees and residents of the north side of Waterloo.



Janesville Public Library - \$75,000

Community Space

Inspired by author Caitlin Moran's quote, the City of Janesville recognized the need for more space in its library. With funds awarded from BHCGA, the Janesville Public Library will gain 1600 square feet of open space. Once finished, the library will be open to all and serve as a community hub with more resources and programs.



Buchanan County Conservation - \$20,000

Lakeside-Prairie Campground

Fontana Park is one of Buchanan County's most popular parks and tourist destinations. With the \$20,000 award from the Board of Directors, the Buchanan County Conservation Board is modernizing the Lakeside-Prairie Campgrounds. It will be the first campground in the county with water, sewer, and electric hookups. When the project is complete, the campground will offer various water activities along the lake and trail systems, interpretative trails, live animal displays, and other fun and educational opportunities.

A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life raft, and a festival.

-Caitlin Moran

House of Hope - \$36,000

Pillars Porch Rebuild

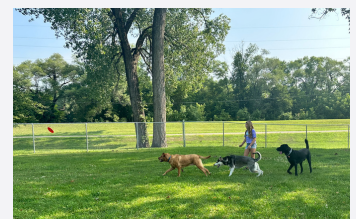
The massive 125-year-old duplex on Walnut Street is as much a vital part of the historical Walnut neighborhood as it is the House of Hope's Pillars program. Used as transitional housing for women who've aged out of the foster system, the duplex was severely in need of a new porch. But replacing a historic porch is no small feat. With the money awarded from the BHCGA Board of Directors, the House of Hope can continue functioning as transitional housing while reconstruction is underway. Once complete, the porch will maintain the historic nature of the Walnut neighborhood.



City of Evansdale - \$34,000

Willow Run Dog Park

The Cities of Evansdale and Elk Run teamed up to establish Willow Run Dog Park, maximizing the green space between Burger and Mayor's parks. The park, which is close to the trail system connecting both communities, is the ideal space for residents to safely let their dogs run free.



Boys and Girls Club of the Cedar Valley - \$100,000

Lime Street Elevator Project

For over 50 years, the Boys and Girls Club of the Cedar Valley has been an anchor in youth programs and mentorship opportunities. As inclusion becomes more important for the community youth, the Boys and Girls Club is working to make the main clubhouse located at 515 Lime Street more accessible for all. BHCVA supports this mission by funding the cost of an elevator unit so club members, parents, staff, volunteer groups, and community members can access the unique spaces on the second floor of the Lime Street location.



City of Jesup - \$50,000

Liberty Volunteer Park Splash Pad

Nothing screams summer like the sound of kids playing at a splashpad! BHCVA Board of Directors were pleased to partner with the City of Jesup on its Liberty Volunteer Park Splash Pad. When this multi-phase, 2,500 square foot splash pad is finished, it will be the only splash pad in Buchanan County and the first all-inclusive, fully accessible park in the Jesup community.



Dysart Development Corporation - \$10,000

Main Street Pocket Park

When a large tree was removed from Dysart's Main Street, the Dysart Development Corporation transformed the empty space into a pocket park. The covered area with photos of historic Dysart now serves as a place to socialize, dine, or enjoy some local entertainment.

All FY23 Grants Awarded

Congratulations to all of our grant partners this past year! The following proposals were selected through our four-month long, competitive grant cycles between July 2022 and June 2023.

Organization	Project	Award \$
Cedar Valley Kids	Cedar Valley Kids North Crossing	300,000.00
City of Gilbertville	Emergency Services Building	225,000.00
Black Hawk County Conservation	Casey Lake Restoration	200,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of the Cedar Valley	Lime Street Elevator Project	100,000.00
EPI, Inc.	Smart Home Technology Project	100,000.00
Friends of the Waterloo Public Library	Youth and Teen Updates	96,000.00
City of Janesville	Janesville Public Library Community Space	75,000.00
City of Reinbeck	Reinbeck Aquatic Center Bathhouse	75,000.00
24/7 BLAC	Project HOME	54,000.00
City of Jesup	Liberty Volunteer Park Splash Pad	50,000.00
Cedar Valley Arboretum	Master Plan: Phase One	50,000.00
House of Hope	Pillar Porch Rebuild	36,000.00
City of Evansdale	Willow Run Dog Park	34,000.00
Butler County Conservation	Fishing Handicap Ramp	25,000.00
Lutheran Services in Iowa, Inc.	BHC Immigrant and Refugee Community	25,000.00
Friends of the National Cattle Congress	Services NCC Pavilion Automatic Sprinkler Fire	25,000.00
Salvation Army	Protection Staff Expansion	23,814.00
New Hampton Parks and Rec	Inclusive Park	20,000.00
Buchanan County Conservation	Lakeside-Prairie Campgrounds	20,000.00
Jesse Cosby Center	Jesse Cosby Rebuild	20,000.00
Tama County	Natural Playscape at Otter Creek	15,000.00
Chickasaw Township Fire	Air Packs Replacement	10,000.00
Dysart Community Betterment Corp	Dysart Main Street Pocket Park	10,000.00
SuccessLink	Data System	7,000.00
Cedar Valley Youth Sports Association	Deerwood Park Updates	7,000.00
Impactt Foundation	Young Gentleman's Beautillion	5,000.00

**TOTAL
AWARDED FROM
FY23 GRANT
CYCLES:**

**over
\$1.6M**

Each grant cycle includes four stages: Letter of Intent, Application, Evaluation, and Decision.

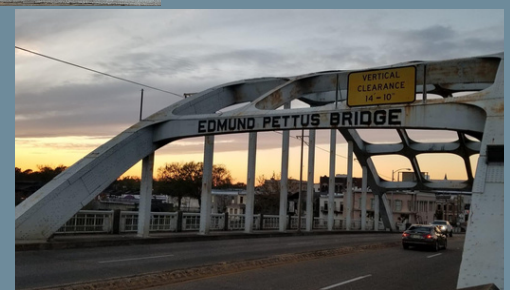
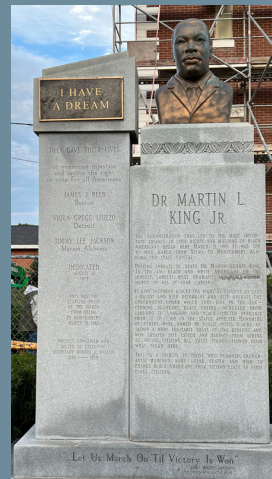
DISCRETIONARY AWARDS

The Discretionary Fund allows the Board of Directors to award grants outside our competitive application process. In most cases, interest income is used to fund these requests.

MLK New Jerusalem - \$7,000

Freedom Bus Tour 2022

The MLK Freedom Bus Tour allows participants to go on a week-long journey to visit historic human and civil rights monuments in the U.S. In FY23, the Board approved a last-minute emergency request to help send participants to several iconic spaces in Tennessee and Alabama, including the Lorraine Motel, the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the Brown Chapel AME Church, and Kelly Ingram Park. MLK New Jerusalem sponsored this incredible opportunity, and the BHC GA Board was proud to partner in the 2022 tour.



Waterloo Housing Trust Fund - \$100,000

Local Housing Trust Fund #11

Iowa Dental Foundation - \$25,000

Iowa Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic

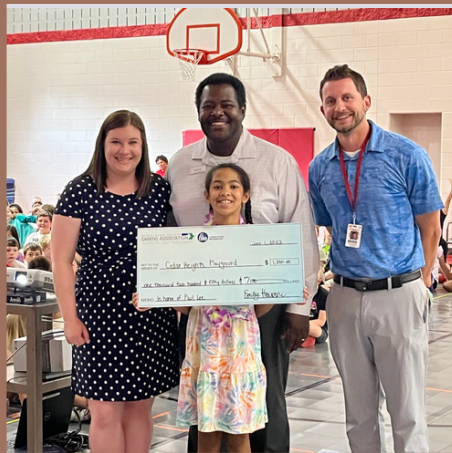
Outgoing Board Member Gifts



Youth Art Team



Kaden's Kloset



Cedar Heights Elementary Playground

As a thank you to the time dedicated to the BHC GA Board, outgoing members are given a total of \$2,500 to award to organizations of their choice. In FY23, outgoing board members contributed to some fantastic causes in the Cedar Valley.



Greenbelt Recreational Trail, Waterloo



Jesse Cosby Center

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

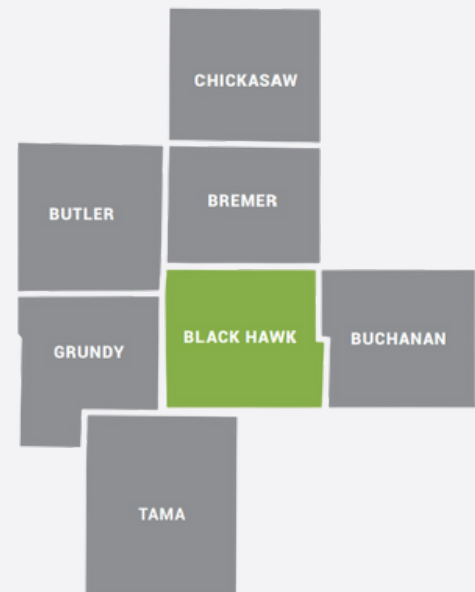
Since its inception in 2007, Black Hawk County Gaming Association has awarded over 72 million dollars to 637 different projects in 7 counties and 51 cities.

ASSETS FY23

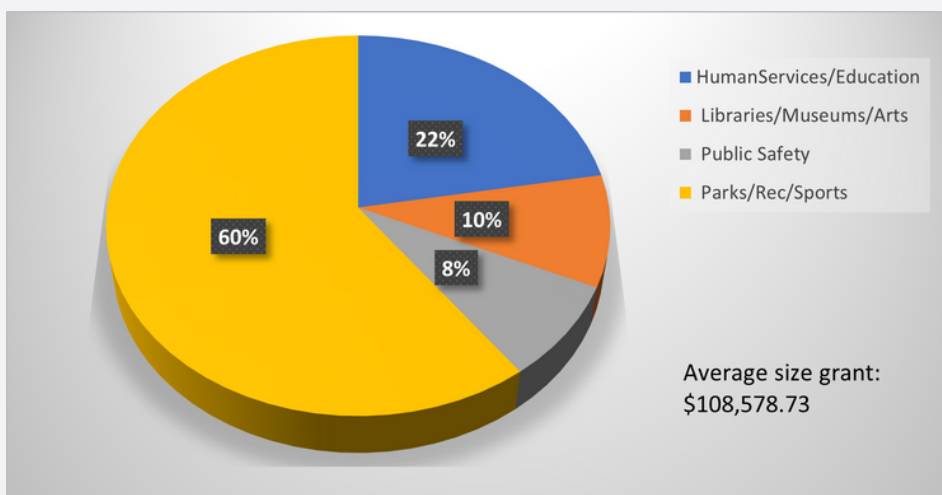
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,375,929
Certificates of Deposit	\$13,644,139
Interest Receivable	\$27,182
Accounts Receivable	\$67,390
TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,114,640

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)

Grants Payable	\$9,583,398
Net Assets, unrestricted	\$7,531,242
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ASSETS	\$17,114,640



Breakdown of Awards FY 2008 - 2023



AUDIT PROVIDED
8/2023
BY
BERGANKDV