



“Building healthy communities by fostering charitable support for the Osceola Medical Center and the health related needs of the people in the upper St. Croix Valley.”

For Immediate Release

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Two local nonprofit agencies recently shared more than \$8,000 in grant awards from the Osceola Community Health Foundation.

Kinship of Polk County and the Polk County Family Preservation and Support Project were awarded grants for two of their programs.

“Providing financial support to nonprofits that offer health-related programs for all ages is a major focus of the foundation,” said Sue Gerlach, OCHF director. “We stress the importance of helping provide resources for the health-related needs of the people of the upper St. Croix valley,” she said.

Kinship of Polk County is a youth-mentoring program that serves children ages 5-18. According to Jennifer Williams, Kinship executive director, the group works to improve the quality of a child’s life by establishing a relationship with a caring volunteer for the purpose for promoting stability, support, friendship and community. Kinship will use a \$3,340 grant to provide “Question, Persuade and Refer,” a suicide prevention training program, into the school districts in Polk County.

The Family Preservation and Support Project provides a school-home liaison program to assist school-aged students and their families in Polk County’s eight schools. According to Kim Henningsgard, project coordinator, the Liaison Project works to solve interfamilial and social/emotional problems in the homes of at-risk children, thereby helping to safely reduce the need for children to be placed outside the home and into relative care, foster care, group homes or other institutions. The Liaison Project will use a \$5,000 grant for general operating support.

On April 23, both of these groups, along with the foundation and 36 other nonprofits, will be part of the 24-hour fund drive giveBIG Osceola. For more information, go to giveSCV.org.

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