

Community Vitality Center

A Catalyst for Creating Real Impact in Real Communities

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Foundations and Philanthropy Statewide Satellite Town Meeting on June 28th

Ames, IA. June 15, 2004-- A statewide town meeting on "Iowa Opportunities for Foundations and Community Philanthropy" is being organized at over 50 local sites across Iowa at 7PM June 28.th The meeting is being organized by ISU Extension with the help of several collaborating organizations including the Community Vitality Center, Iowa Council of Foundations, Iowa Department of Economic Development, and others.

"There has been increasing discussion at the state and local level about foundations and community philanthropy and their importance in the future for creating and sustaining community vitality," said Steve Padgitt, Director of ISU Extension to Communities Program.

"A recent study by the Community Vitality Center reports that \$5 billion in probated wealth annually transfers across the state of Iowa," Padgitt said. "In many cases this wealth automatically transfers to heirs and philanthropy initiatives outside local communities unless there are active local mechanisms to keep potential donors in touch and to encourage creation of hometown legacies. The study says that due to age distribution, nonmetro counties will likely experience a more rapid wealth transfer in the next two decades. So this topic is particularly important for nonmetro Iowa," he said.

Recent interest in this topic has been fueled by statewide conferences, new incentives for philanthropy approved by the Iowa General Assembly and Governor in 2003, and more recently a new state revenue mechanism that will distribute a specified percent of annual gambling revenues equally to non gambling counties for allocation to nonprofits and charities through qualified community foundations.

In response to requests for an educational program, Iowa State University Extension is collaborating with a number of statewide and regional organizations to host this first in a series of statewide satellite town meetings on community philanthropy. Each statewide program will be followed by a facilitated countywide discussion. At the first meeting, the local discussion will focus on identifying existing philanthropy initiatives and next steps.

In addition to ISU Extension, the collaborating groups include the Community Vitality Center, Iowa Council of Foundations, Iowa Department of Economic Development, University of Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center and others.

The satellite program will feature a panel discussion moderated by Rick Morain, Community Vitality Center Board and Jefferson Bee-Herald publisher. The panelists will make a few opening comments and respond to questions called in from across the state. The panel includes Nancy Van Milligen, Greater Dubuque Community Foundation representing the Iowa Council of Foundations; Mark Edelman, Community Vitality Center Director and ISU Extension Economist; Sandy Ehrig, Iowa Department of Economic Development, and Rand Fisher, Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation.

To find the nearest meeting site or to register, please contact your local county extension office or check the ISU Extension calendar on the internet at:
<http://dbs.extension.iastate.edu/calendar> .