Folks in Cambridge are talking about the impact of the Story County Community Foundation. “Amazing” and “awesome” are just a few remarks you’ll hear residents use to describe their new community building, addition to the fire station, restored mural honoring veterans, updated library computers, and modern concession stand at the community ballpark.

Cambridge has received more than $40,000 in grants from the Story County Community Foundation. The newest project supported by the foundation is Cambridge’s new community building. The foundation helped organizers raise funds for the building through the use of a community betterment fund, the Cambridge Community Center Fund. The foundation collected and receipted donations from community members into the fund.

“We couldn’t have done this without this fund option,” said former Cambridge mayor Scott DeYoung. “It allowed us to focus on fundraising instead of worrying about administrative details.”

The community center houses a new library which serves as the cornerstone of this thriving, healthy community. A foundation grant helped purchase new computers and a printer for the library – resources residents use daily.

The Cambridge Volunteer Fire Department used its $25,000 foundation grant to build a new addition to house its large trucks in 2016. The department is the first responder to accidents occurring on I-35 in southern Story County, so the impact of this emergency equipment extends beyond the boundaries of Cambridge. The department also has a new all-terrain vehicle funded by the foundation. The vehicle is used to rescue accident victims in areas that can’t be reached with a regular vehicle. These are two of many examples of how foundation grants are improving the quality of life in Story County.

COMMUNITY BETTERMENT FUND: A community or group of individuals establish a short term fund for a specific fundraising project that meets a charitable purpose and civic need.