

Building community one cup at a time



Dwayne Fiihr, Pete Tekippe and Al Holm (left to right above) are part of the group who created the Story City Friends Endowment. On the left Dwayne Fiihr presents a \$750 check to Christie Marti for Little Flock Daycare.

Benefitting the Roland and Story City communities forever

AGENCY FUND: Nonprofit organizations establish an endowed fund for permanent future income for their activities.

COMMITTEE ADVISED FUND: A group of individuals establish a flexible endowed fund to provide permanent future income for charitable purposes.

The idea struck while the guys chatted over coffee, something they do regularly at the chamber office in Story City.

"We wanted to do something to help Story City locally," says Dwayne Fiihr. He and Al Holm are part of a group of retirees that meet for coffee and conversation.

The pair realized that while there are several nonprofits in Story City, each had a specific focus and there wasn't a way to help other, smaller efforts supporting the community. Dwayne and Al brought together a group of like-minded individuals, people who "love Story City," and brought in the Story County Community Foundation to provide technical assistance. Together they created the *Story City Friends Endowment* in 2014.

During the first three years the group distributed a total of \$3,400 to the community. This amount is derived from an endowment that has grown to more than \$50,000 and will be available to provide support in Story City and Roland every year going forward. Originally a committee-advised fund, the endowment became an agency fund as soon as the group received their 501(c)3 nonprofit status. Support for the endowment has been steady, and Dwayne is especially excited about the potential for support via estate gifts. He already knows of one future estate gift put in place to support the endowment.

The group has used their funds to help the local Lions Club purchase eye glasses for low-income children and expanded Little Flock Daycare's capability to care for infants and toddlers.

Their long-term goals are to continue growing the endowment, involve more community members, and provide a growing number of annual grants to support Story City and Roland.