

Contact:

Andi Merfeld
amerfeld@watertownhealthfoundation.com
(920)390-4000

**Watertown Daily Times
Health Foundation Announces Grant Awards**

The Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation (GWCHF) this week announced awards for its Spark! Health Grants totaling nearly \$100,000. Spark! Health Grants are small grants designed to spark excitement for health transformation and make it easy for community entities to implement proven practices in the areas of Healthy Living and Healthy Child Development.

The foundation focuses its resources on the priorities of Healthy Living and Healthy Child Development and invests in upstream initiatives to measurably “move the needle” on the following community health indicators:

- Reducing rates of child abuse and neglect
- Increasing kindergarten readiness
- Reducing the number of young students who are chronically absent from school
- Increasing the number of students who are reading proficiently by third grade
- Increasing the number of youth who are active for 60 minutes or more daily
- Increasing the number of youth who have access to nutritious foods
- Improving the social and emotional health of children and those who care for them

“The majority of GWCHF’s investments are strategically focused on large, multi-sector initiatives that bring national-level best practices to our community such as Every Child Thrives, our school nutrition efforts, and our county-wide partnerships fostering the social and emotional health of youth,” said Tina Crave. “Spark! Health grants are smaller grants designed to make it easy for community partners to obtain funds to implement ‘quick win’ health best practices.”

Spark! Health Grant awards by category include:

Active Classroom

- School District of Jefferson, Sullivan Elementary School, Blink - Heart Rate Monitoring Fitness Technology
- School District of Jefferson, Flexible Seating for Students
- School District of Jefferson, East Elementary School, Physically Active Classroom
- Waterloo School District, Flexible Seating to Foster Learning
- Waterloo School District, Fun Flexible Seating

Active Living

- Hustisford School District, Hustisford Ice Rink Grant
- Johnson Creek Public Library, Yoga For Kids
- St Paul's Episcopal Church Watertown, Family Yoga
- Watertown Unified School District, Webster Elementary School Walking Track



Emotional Wellbeing in Schools

- Waterloo School District, Mindfulness for the Educator
- Watertown Unified School District, Discipline with Dignity--Watertown High School
- Watertown Unified School District, Douglas Elementary School, Sensory Room
- Watertown Unified School District, Education Service Center, Try It

Healthy Choices: Nutrition

- Calvary Baptist Christian School, Water Fountain Replacement Project
- Johnson Creek FFA/Johnson Creek School District, Johnson Creek FFA Greenhouse Building Project
- The Gathering Source, Inc., Bridging the Rural Food Gap
- The Gathering Source, Inc., Healthier Weekend Meal Packs
- Watertown Unified School District, Douglas Elementary School, Fueling Tigers
- Watertown Unified School District; Discover Academy; 1,2,3 a DAY
- Watertown Unified School District, Lincoln Elementary STEM Community Garden
- Zachariah's Acres, Seed to Sale Program

Healthy Child Development

- Community Pediatrics/Reach Out and Read, Reach Out and Read
- Jefferson County Literacy Council; Goodbye Cavities, Goodnight Moon
- Reeseville Public Library, Early Literacy Program
- Watertown Unified School District, Douglas Elementary School, Summer Reading Loss Prevention by Mail
- Reeseville Public Library, Reeseville Public Library Community Space
- Watertown Family Center, Inc., Parent And Child Enrichment (PACE) Drop In Playgroups
- Watertown Unified School District, Heroin Summit Committee Stairway to Heroin Program
- Watertown Unified School District, Incredible Years Parenting Program

“We were happy to be able to offer this Spark! Health Grant cycle again this year and we continue to be impressed by the passion and dedication of the organizations in our area. We see their leadership making positive changes in the health of our community,” GWCHF Board Chair Karla Mullen said.

The GWCHF serves the residents of Dodge and Jefferson Counties with priority given to projects impacting the communities served by the school districts of Dodgeland, Hustisford, Ixonia, Jefferson, Johnson Creek, Lake Mills, Waterloo and Watertown.

Formed out of the 2015 joint venture between Watertown Regional Medical Center and LifePoint Health, the foundation is an independent non-profit that invests in creating health in the community. The mission of the foundation is to inspire collaboration, mobilize resources and encourage innovation that measurably contributes to the wellbeing of our communities. To date, GWCHF has invested more than \$1.4 million in health enhancement initiatives across Dodge and Jefferson Counties.

To learn more about the foundation and supported initiatives, visit www.watertownhealthfoundation.com or Facebook at Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation.