



“It Just Makes Sense”

Gerald F. Schnepf, Executive Director

November / December - 2007

Check it Out! - Community Grants & Enforcement Awards

December brings all types of events, gifts and opportunities. In the spirit of the season, Keep Iowa Beautiful has two programs that offer financial awards that help to improve the quality of Iowa.

1. The “Keep Iowa Beautiful” State Income Tax Check-off fund has existed for five years and provides financial awards of \$500 to \$5,000 for communities and projects around Iowa. This program is funded through the generosity of Iowan’s either by:
 - A donation of a part of the anticipated tax refund so that the amount returned to the taxpayer is minus that donation or
 - Through the indication that the taxpayer is willing to pay additional dollars to their tax payment for the KIB Check-off.

This check-off opportunity is on line 58 of the Iowa Tax Form. Give it a check.

The funds collected at the end of the tax year are then turned over to the Iowa Department of Transportation for administration. By administrative rule and at the original suggestion of KIB, 75% of those dollars are distributed in small grants to communities and projects that provide for litter / illegal dumping education and / or prevention, enhancement of Iowa communities or increased recycling opportunities or education efforts. To date over \$208,000 has been awarded to 81 communities and in addition KIB received over \$90,000 for statewide programs.

The deadline for grant applications is December 31, 2007. Grant requirements and application form can be found on the KIB (www.keeptowabeautiful.com) and Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) web sites.

2. The “Litter Enforcement Award” was started in 2002 (with the first awards in 2003) by John and Judy Schneller of West Des Moines. Frustration about the number of cigarette butts around the State Capitol grounds at a KIB-Rotary sponsored cleanup motivated John and Judy to provide an annual \$2,000 grant (split into two \$1,000 awards) to recognize enforcement officers that are actively involved in litter and illegal dumping prevention efforts. The selected officers receive a commemorative award and the right to designate a community enhancement project to receive the \$1,000 award. The commemorative award is presented at one event in front of his or her peers

and the check is presented by the officer to the project of their choosing at a second event. This double presentation gives the officer, the project and the cause significant media attention.

Nominate a special officer (police officer, State Patrol officer, code enforcement officer, conservation officer, State Park officer, etc.) for these two awards. Submit a letter of recommendation outlining the officer's efforts to KIB at gschenpf@keepiowabeautiful.com or 300 E. Locust St., Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50309 by December 31, 2007.

Make a gift this year that will enhance Iowa - submit a grant or enforcement award application. When you do your taxes next year remember the Keep Iowa Beautiful Check-off fund.

Happy Holidays – thanks for helping to make Iowa cleaner and more beautiful.

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See you in the next column.

Helping to Keep Iowa Beautiful