

Environmental Scholarship for Iowa High School Students in 2009

KIB will be offering two \$250 college scholarships for high school students in early 2009. The scholarship fund was established by KIB and the Byers family in honor of Robert Byers, a retired teacher and part-time education consultant for KIB's Litter-Free School Campus program.

These scholarships will support students enrolling in an Iowa college or university with studies in the environment, community services, conservation, public service or government, nonprofit management, landscape architecture, architecture (historical emphasis) or community planning.

Applicants with a strong background in community service and/or community enhancement will be ranked higher in the selection process. Local matching funds for student applications will be encouraged to leverage available funds and to increase local community involvement.

For more information on obtaining an application or making a donation to the scholarship fund, visit the KIB website at www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com or contact us at 515-323-6507 or gschnepf@keepiowabeautiful.com. All donation checks should be made payable to the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation.



Winter 2009

Annual Affiliates Meeting



KIB Affiliate representatives, partners and friends are invited to an annual meeting on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009 from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Discussion topics will include KIB programs for 2009 and subjects you bring to the table.

Location is the Anderson Erickson Dairy, 2420 East University, Des Moines 50317. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP Gerry Schnepf at gschnepf@keepiowabeautiful.com or call 515-323-6507.



Half Price Books "B(eco)me Bagless Campaign" To Benefit Keep Iowa Beautiful

As part of its B(eco)me Bagless initiative to promote recycling and the protection of the environment, Half Price Books has chosen Keep Iowa Beautiful to receive a portion of the sales of every reusable tote bag purchased in its stores throughout the state of Iowa.

Half Price Books is donating 10 cents from every sale of its exclusive reusable tote bags, and the first proceeds will be donated to Keep Iowa Beautiful on Earth Day 2009. The bags are available in six different designs and retail for 98 cents.

"We loved the message this program is sending to each of us to reduce our bag use, and we plan to use the donation to support Keep Iowa Beautiful programming," said Gerry Schnepf, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful.

Half Price Books designed the program to benefit Iowa in two ways: Half Price Books is taking an active stand through its B(eco)me Bagless campaign to reduce plastic bag use throughout the city, which will result

in less litter on roads and highways. The average person uses 336 single-use bags a year and an estimated 4 billion bags end up as litter each year.

"It's our hope that educating people of the importance of reducing plastic bags will ultimately result in cleaner Iowa communities," said Kathy Doyle Thomas, executive vice president for Half Price Books. "The small step of not using a plastic bag goes a long way for the environment."

About Half Price Books

Half Price Books is the largest family-owned new and used bookstore chain, with more than 100 retail locations in 15 states. There are two stores in Iowa. In the Des Moines area at 8801 University Ave, Clive, 50325 and in the Cedar Rapids area at 1400 Twixt Town Road, Marion, 52302 For more information about Half Price Books, please visit www.halfpricebooks.com.

First Impressions Symposium V – Friday, March 27, 2009



Community leaders and others are encouraged to attend the fifth annual Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) First Impressions Symposium on Friday, March 27, 2009. The one-day symposium will be held at Reiman Gardens, Iowa State University, Ames.

"The symposium is a great opportunity for community leaders, elected and public officials, those interested in beautification and growing tourism, chamber and economic development leaders," said Chairman of KIB Kevin W. Techau. "Participants will leave the symposium with an action plan for improving the image of their communities."

"The daylong symposium will be filled with many new ideas and 'best practices'," added Gerald Schnepf, Executive Director of KIB. "Spring Cleaning Your Community" includes policies, methods, techniques and ideas for public nuisance abatement, cigarette litter, enhancing your

community with public art, clean-up days and getting young people involved in your community.

A tentative agenda may be viewed at www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com

Registration before March 13th is \$40 (includes lunch and breaks) and the symposium will be limited to the first 125 registrations. You can register on line at www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com. E-mail bjackson@keepiowabeautiful.com or call 515-323-6537 for more information.

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Clarion Boy Scouts (l-r) Brady Studer, Andrew Studer, Bryce Hamilton and Kelton LaRue. Todd Foss, from Prairie Energy, is in the background with the chain saw.



Volunteers and residents design and make seasonal door cards at the Clarion Care Center.

Clarion Make a Difference Day

Eighty-eight people volunteered in October for Make a Difference Day projects in Clarion. This was the seventh year the Clarion's Marys and Marthas (M&Ms) Club has organized various projects on four Saturdays in October.

Projects included painting and clean up at Lake Corneilia campgrounds and park, painting of aquatic center park shelter house, trimming shrubs and bushes in Gazebo Park and designing and making seasonal door cards at the local care center.

Organizations volunteering were the

Clarion Boy Scouts, Clarion-Goldfield & Dows Middle School Peer Helpers, Clarion-Goldfield & Downs High School Spanish Club, Clarion Garden Club and employees of the Prairie Energy Rural Electric Cooperative.

Annually, Make a Difference Day, which is sponsored by the USA Weekend magazine that is tucked in many Sunday papers, attracts more than 3 million volunteers who help make a difference in their local communities and in the lives of people in their neighborhoods.

New Year's Resolution For Your Community

Gerald F. Schnepf, Executive Director



Why not make a New Year's resolution that helps improve the cleanliness and beauty of your home, neighborhood, community or the State. Your 2009 resolutions can help to enhance the economy, the environment and instill a sense of pride in your community. This will be

appreciated by the your family, neighbors and friends. It helps to spark or encourage others to make similar resolutions that will improve the cleanliness and beauty of where we live and work. It can become contagious!

Take a few minutes now to resolve to do some of the following, simple things during the new year:

- Walk around the block and pick up litter (take your child or grandchild along – it's a great lesson),
- Help a neighbor paint a home or building,
- Plant some flowers,

- Volunteer for a clean-up event or for a tree planting or landscaping project,
- Ask your church group or social club to also get involved and adopt an area to clean and beautify,
- Help remove a public nuisance,
- When you go to an athletic event, help curb littering and debris from tail gate events – start a "keep the area clean" habit,
- Volunteer to start or join your local beautification committee,
- Thank those that are doing an outstanding job of caring for their property,
- Encourage everyone in your neighborhood to recycle,
- Work with the local youth group to collect deposit bottles and cans as a fundraising effort,
- Above all think of other things you can do to encourage building a sense of pride in your community.

This list isn't exhaustive – do your own "wish" list. Share this concept with your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends. You will create a lasting sense of pride and respect in your community.

Illegal Dumpers Caught on Hidden Cameras



Keep Iowa Beautiful's Illegal Dumping Surveillance Program in partnership with Metro Waste Authority recently captured two cases of illegal dumping on hidden cameras. After local television broadcast the images, one of the individuals has turned himself in to Des Moines Police.

Officials from the city of Des Moines and Polk County identified several high level illegal dumping sites. Two sites in the city of Des Moines were selected. The Des Moines City Police and the Des Moines Department of Public Works in the project assisted and the apprehension of the individuals.

"if they have the means to dump their things, then they also have the means to take their things to the landfill," said Amy Horst, spokeswoman for Metro Waste

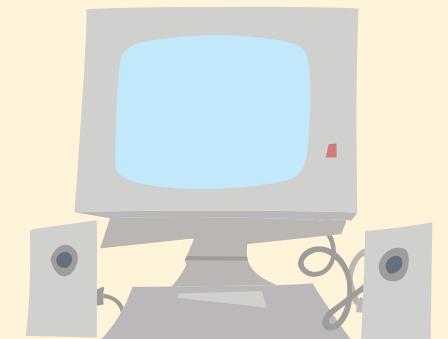
Authority. "It's not hard to do the right thing."

Illegal dumping cost taxpayers statewide about \$13.5 million a year. If private areas, like business parking lots, are included, it costs more than \$27 million to pick up after people. Fines for illegal dumpers are \$100 if violators are prosecuted through a Des Moines city ordinance, or up to \$5,000 if the case is taken to the state level.

This pilot project verifies the value of a professional illegal dumping surveillance program in preventing and reducing the high cost of illegal dumping in our state.

Video of the incidents can be seen at www.keeptowabeautiful.com

Support KIB While You Shop!



Search the internet and earn money for KIB. Visit www.goodsearch.com and enter Keep Iowa Beautiful in the charity/organization box. This site earns KIB money each time a search is made on the Internet.