

Colorado

Mercy Community Capital

In Commerce City, Colorado, the graduation rate is 64.2% (well below the statewide average of 80.7%) and teens have difficulty bridging the gap between high school and a career when college may not seem like an option. Mercy Community Capital has partnered with Mercy Housing to help break this cycle at Mercy Housing's Holly Park Apartments by providing an apprenticeship program that connects minority teens with volunteer mentors in their field of interest. By connecting with mentors in interactive Zoom meetings, mock interviews, and weekly shadowing, along with resume writing assistance, the teens will graduate high school with a career idea and feel empowered to achieve the goals set through the program. With the help of FHLB's #500forGood, each program participant would receive a gift card when milestones are met, encouraging them to build a path toward a brighter future.

Denver Community Credit Union

With \$500, our staff would purchase and donate children's books to the Denver Public Library Foundation. All 26 Denver Public Library branches have been closed since the onset of the pandemic in mid-March. This project will help children in our community continue to learn and develop through reading. The Denver Public Library Foundation has been partnering with free meal sites to distribute books to at-risk kids and families via bookmobiles while most schools remain closed to students.

Through this project, we will support children's love of reading and learning. The Denver Public Library Foundation has a wish list of children's books recommended by child development experts. Our employees would purchase books from the list and deliver them to the Denver Public Library Foundation for distribution to children at meal sites across our region.

Century Savings and Loan

*** This is with the caveat they can use the money for a holiday dinner since Thanksgiving will be finished*
For many years, Century Savings and Loan has contributed to Zion's Lutheran Church who puts on a Thanksgiving Dinner for low income individuals, shut in citizens, and homeless people in our community. The church typically will serve over 900 people each Thanksgiving. In past years, church members would prepare the food at home and donate it. Because of COVID 19, the church is required to buy all the food and prepare it, then distribute it to the community. Therefore, the burden on the church is much greater this year.

The food will be delivered to people's homes as the people cannot come in to the fellowship hall to enjoy it and follow the social distancing rules. The church also has a program called five loaves where they serve approximately 250 meals every two weeks to people who receive meals on wheels during the week. There is no program for them without the church stepping in.

I would like to nominate Zion's Lutheran Church's Thanksgiving dinner as Century's representative for doing good for our community. This is a tiny congregation with a large impact.

Kansas

***Five members were selected in Kansas because we only received three submissions from Colorado.*

Bank of Hays

Holy Family Elementary is working to implement STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Music) instruction across the curriculum at all grade levels. To make the many supplies and materials available to classroom teachers we would like to create mobile STEAM carts that will be stocked with a variety of non-consumable (eggs, marble runs, coding robots, etc) and consumable supplies (popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, toothpicks, cotton balls, etc) for STEAM instruction. Immediate availability and organization of these materials reduces the preparation time required for STEAM lessons, and the mobility of the supplies makes them available to more students rather than being stored and used in one classroom. Removable bins will allow teachers to grab specific items that they need to bring them to the classroom.

STEAM instruction builds increases grows student creativity and problem-solving skills which will be necessary for success in future careers. Students build resilience to learn from ideas that didn't work as planned, determination to find a solution to the problem, and ingenuity to look for other solutions. Through this process, confidence and enthusiasm grows and engages students to solve more difficult problems in the future. The goal is to create four carts, two for the preschool-kindergarten-1st grade floor, and two for the 2nd-6th grade floor. The \$500 would provide us the funds to purchase one of the four carts.

Kansas Teacher's Credit Union

Annually, the local Salvation Army conducts a Christmas gift distribution to needy families. This year has been very difficult on many families in our community. Unfortunately, the need this year may exceed the Salvations Army's resources. Last year at this event I noticed an 8 year old boy not opening his gift. I asked him why he was not opening the gift. He stated that he was saving the gift for Christmas because it will be the only gift he will receive.

If we were selected I would donate the money to the Salvation Army to purchase additional gifts.

Impact Bank

If I had \$500 to help my community, I would donate it to the kids of AAHN'S PLACE (AP). AP is a residential group home for children 10-18. Kids often arrive at AP with just the clothes on their back as they are placed in DCF custody, most often through no fault of their own. These are scared children who are being removed from the home due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, etc. They are thrust into a new home, a new school and carry a stigma of being the kids from the group home. These are bright kids with much potential who are forced to create walls as many end up transient in nature, whisked away to the next stop often after just starting to build relationships. With \$500 I would work with the local leaders at AP to provide Christmas gifts, fun recreational activities or entertainment equipment that is not in the budget of a facility dependent on an under funded DCF. In short, I would use the \$500 to show kids, (again through no fault of their own) that people do care and want the best for them.

Farmers & Drovers Bank

I would match the funds with bank funds and use it to purchase gift cards from local businesses. I would give the gift cards to the employees our local Morris County Hospital, EMS and Clinic to thank them for their commitment to our community's health during the pandemic.

FNB Washington

Help sponsor a Service or Guide dog which are provided free of charge to recipients by KSDS in Washington Kansas. KSDS is a great organization and they provide the animals to change people's lives.

Nebraska

Elkhorn Valley Bank & Trust

I would purchase masks and sanitizer for the Norfolk Rescue Mission, a local non-profit homeless shelter. On a daily basis they encounter folks who have the misfortune of being temporarily without a home. Personal hygiene and disease prevention generally take second place to food & shelter, so they simply do not have the resources to acquire the proper safety equipment. Providing at least the basics of protection would go a long way toward ensuring the guests and workers at the mission stay safe and limit unnecessary spread of the disease.

Pinnacle Bank

Due to Covid-19, our community and its residents have lost so much. We've lost weddings, graduations, sports seasons, time with loved ones, and treasured traditional community events, just to name a few. As this pandemic continues on, it has tested everyone's patience and mental strength. So, in our opinion, what our community needs more than anything is hope. With \$500.00, we would team up with our local high school group called SWAG (Students With Awesome Goals) to develop a community-wide campaign to deliver messages of hope. This could include a variety of efforts like gifts/messages to residents at the nursing homes who aren't able to see their families, continue with SWAG's existing project using yard signage with positive messages around town, a letter-writing campaign thanking local health care workers who are on the front lines fighting this virus every day, and a window painting or sidewalk chalk campaign at downtown businesses to create positive messages for everyone to see. We would use the creativity of the students at school to improve the spirits of the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Scribner Bank

I am sending this request to you as a concerned member of our community. The City of Scribner, Nebraska has been holding a food pantry for our small-town residents who are struggling since the pandemic hit. Once a month, members of the community gather to put together food boxes for those residents in need. Unfortunately, the funds to continue this food pantry are dwindling. However, the need to help these families has not disappeared.

Therefore, as a concerned member of this community, I am asking for your help to continue this worthy cause. Everyone in Scribner would be most grateful to your organization, if you could help us to continue this food pantry with your \$500.00 donation.

Cobalt Credit Union

This holiday season, Cobalt Credit Union in Nebraska is hosting a giving tree for veterans living at Victory Apartments in Omaha and Victory Park Apartments in Lincoln. Both Victory campuses provide affordable, transitional housing to Omaha and Lincoln's homeless veteran population. When a veteran moves into their apartment, they have nothing except the clothes on their back so our giving tree project hopes to collect basic household necessities (i.e. toilet paper, tissues, trash bags, cleaning supplies) and non-perishable food items. There are 150 Veterans currently living at the Omaha campus

and 70 at the Lincoln campus. The \$500 would help our giving tree project to ensure we get enough of these much needed items for our local veterans. Thank you for this opportunity to submit our project for consideration!

Oklahoma

The First State Bank

The Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City is on a mission to assist African Americans, other minorities, and the poor to achieve social and economic equality. This year with COVID-19 and civil unrest thrust into the spotlight of our existence, we are uniquely presented with an opportunity to fight for justice for those among us who are the most vulnerable. As the oldest state banking charter in Oklahoma, we know the importance of having strong leadership in our communities. Now more than ever, a commitment to unity and leadership is needed, which is why The First State Bank is a long-time supporter of the Urban League. The First State Bank CFO, Chris Turner was a board member for the Urban League for six years and was the 2015 Russell M. Perry Award recipient. As an organization, we are committed to the work the Urban League does, as it is foundational to our city. A donation to the Urban League would help provide workforce and career development, housing and financial literacy, and community convening and social justice to Oklahomans.

Cherokee Strip Credit Union

The Culture Committee is an organization within Cherokee Strip Credit Union (CSCU) that is inclusive of employees of the credit union. Employee enrichment and community outreach is the main focus of the Culture Committee. The club is funded by employee contributions which are payroll deducted bi-weekly and is a voluntary program developed by CSCU employees. Every quarter, the committee gives out \$500 donations to different charities in the community. This year, the Culture Committee made donations to The Department of Human Services Foster Care Program, Liberty Elementary School, and the New Emergency Resource Agency (NERA). The #500forGood Campaign would allow CSCU to donate an extra \$500 to make a difference in our community by supporting The New Life Trails Petting Zoo in Ponca City. This organization is a private non-profit program which focuses on child education and enrichment. The New Life Trails Petting Zoo has specialized assisted tours for children with disabilities and they offer a fun, safe environment for all children to learn and play. The zoo offers a plethora of different animals and services such as, riding lessons, therapeutic petting zoo, and animal assisted learning (AAL) tutoring. This year, The New Life Trails Petting Zoo expanded and opened Logan's Barn in remembrance of their 10 year old son, who passed away from cancer. This was only made possible due to financial support and volunteers from the community. To learn more about The New Life Trails Petting Zoo, please visit <http://www.newlifetrails.com/about/>. The zoo's mission statement is, "There are no footprints too small to leave its imprint on this world." CSCU believes if The New Life Petting Zoo was to receive the #500forGood funds it would make ripples across the whole community.

First National Bank & Trust Co.

This is a rough year in the communities we serve. I started a project called Heart4Hats to provide nearly 1,000 hats to the Salvation Army Angel Tree children in three counties as well as one city. So far, I have 525 hats thanks to generous donations from my coworkers. With \$500, the project would definitely reach the goal.

Bank of Grand Lake

If I received \$500, I would donate it to Be The Change - Grove, OK. These wonderful people have set up blessing boxes all over the community and keep them filled with food and toiletries. They set up fundraisers to help men, women and children with clothing, coats, hats, gloves and scarves in the winter, holiday meals and Christmas gifts for children. They give help finding furniture and clothing and essential needs for those who have lost their homes in fires. They buy backpacks and fill them with school supplies when school starts. They set up prom dress donations for high school girls that can't afford to go out and buy a brand new one. Anything anyone in the community needs, from our children to our older folks, this group is on top of it!