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“Imagine Grinnell finds new home at Ahrens Foundation”

Imagine Grinnell, the community betterment organization founded in 1985 in the depths of the farm crisis, has moved its offices to the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation at 1510 Penrose St. on the eastern edge of Grinnell. For more than a year, Imagine Grinnell has received administrative and asset management services from the Greater Poweshiek Foundation (GPCF), also located at the Ahrens Foundation.

The Imagine Grinnell board believes the move will allow for greater collaboration between the Ahrens Foundation, Imagine Grinnell and GPCF and will help stimulate Imagine Grinnell’s continued growth and visibility in Grinnell, according to Melissa Strovers, Imagine Grinnell’s executive director.

“With such a close mission fit between the GPCF and Imagine Grinnell , moving the Imagine Grinnell office to the Ahrens Foundation is a natural next step,” says Denise Lamphier, current president of Imagine Grinnell. “We have already benefited from the expertise the Ahrens Foundation team brings to the table and look forward to this new ‘living arrangement.’ The entire board is excited because this move will help Imagine Grinnell achieve greater efficiencies in serving the Grinnell community. That means our board and executive director can focus on the good work that needs to be done to keep Grinnell one of the coolest communities on the planet.”

Strovers says the move tells a story of how numerous community organizations have formed partnerships and linked together to strengthen each other. “The story began in the fall of 2007 when Imagine Grinnell and the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation developed a partnership born out of their shared missions to improve quality of life in the community,” she notes. “Founded in 1989, the primary goal of GPCF is to assist donors in efficiently and effectively supporting nonprofit organizations that make life better for the people of Poweshiek County.”

In the past several years, GPCF has provided administrative and asset management services to a growing list of Grinnell nonprofit organizations. Imagine Grinnell is one of eleven affiliates or agencies for which GPCF provides services (see story in the May 11 issue of the Herald-Register). “By consolidating the administrative work of small nonprofit organizations in the area, we gain efficiency and are better able to serve Poweshiek County,” says Nicole Brua-Behrens, Coordinator of Programs with Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation.

Imagine Grinnell is a member-based community organization whose primary focus is enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Grinnell and the surrounding areas, Strovers says. The nonprofit organization takes pride in forming and empowering coalitions to implement projects that improve the quality of life for area residents, promoting a healthy environment and complement economic development efforts. More information about Imagine Grinnell can be found at www.imaginegrinnell.org or by calling 236-5518.