

Grinnell Herald Register

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“Ahrens Foundation Receives Philanthropy Award”

The Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation was recently picked for a 2005 Philanthropy Day award, sponsored by the 2005 Central Iowa Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The foundation, located in Grinnell, will be recognized on Friday, November 18, 2005, at the 20th annual Philanthropy Day luncheon in Des Moines as an “Outstanding Corporation/Foundation.” Other winners include:

- Outstanding Philanthropist – Dr. Tom (posthumously) and Jo Ghrist, Des Moines
- Outstanding Volunteer Fund Raiser – Bob Pulver, Des Moines
- Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy – Charissa Frideres, Madrid

The Philanthropy Day awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the quality of life in Central Iowa through their many generous contributions. This year marks the 20th year the Central Iowa Chapter of AFP has participated in this national day of recognition honoring philanthropists in communities throughout the United States.

Grinnell Regional Medical Center nominated the Ahrens Foundation to this prestigious award. In the nomination papers, the medical center wrote: “Since 1992, the Ahrens Foundation has granted close to \$7 million to area projects and organizations, including Grinnell Youth Baseball and Softball Association, Grinnell College, the National Recreation and Park Association, the Poweshiek County Conservation Board, and Grinnell Regional Medical Center. In addition, the Ahrens family has made several personal contributions to dozens of organizations, bringing the family’s and foundation’s support in Iowa to well over \$15 million in the past 15 years.”

“We are incredibly honored to receive this award,” says Julie Gosselink, chair and president of Ahrens Foundation. “Becoming a model family foundation is one of our many goals. Receiving this award is one step in the right direction toward achieving that goal.

“Our grandfather, Claude Ahrens, would have been so proud,” Gosselink adds. Giving back to his community is really his legacy. I wish he could be here to enjoy this with us.”

Todd C. Linden, GRMC president and CEO, says that he medical center is thrilled the foundation will be honored for its generosity.

“The impact of the generosity of Ahrens Foundation is far reaching,” Linden says. “Even if you only consider the breadth of what the foundation has done for GRMC – and in turn what that means to the 40,000 people who live in the medical center’s seven-county service area. Thanks to the gifts from the Ahrens Foundation, GRMC has

expanded its surgical area, built a new intensive care unit, opened a fitness and rehab center, and developed family practice clinics: the Lynnville Medical Clinic in Lynnville and Deer Creek Health Center in Tama. These services touch the lives of literally thousands of people each year.”

Gosselink adds, “We want the people of Grinnell to know we are a community partner, whether it’s in the form of charitable giving, the use of Ahrens Park and its facilities, or helping partner organizations such as GRMC. We want to continue to be accessible to the community.”

Members of the Ahrens Foundation board are Gosselink, chair; Chad Ahrens, vice-president; Susan Witt, secretary; David Clay, treasurer; and Shannon Fitzgerald-Schultz, CFO/controller.

Information about the Ahrens Foundation and its funding guidelines are available at www.ahrensfamilyfoundation.org.