

**Grinnell-Herald Register**  
**January 8, 2007**

**“Reflecting on stories that made headlines in 2006:  
Ahrens Foundations Strengthen Presence”**

Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens Foundation has been a big part of Grinnell since it was established in 1993, as has the Ahrens Park Foundation established in 1997. This spring, both foundations moved into a new 2,350-square-foot headquarters building located in the park – giving them their first permanent home. Melissa Hull was hired as full-time administrative assistant when the headquarters opened, joining treasurer/secretary Shannon Fitzgerald-Schultz, and the Ahrens Foundation now provides “back-office support” to strengthen the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation and the newly founded Grinnell-Newburg Educational Excellence initiative. Julie Gosselink, President and CEO of the Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens Foundation and President of the Ahrens Park Foundation, said: “Building an official headquarters for both foundations was a big step but we felt it was time, not only for us but for the community of Grinnell.” The private family foundation administers charitable grants and programs, and has given more than 9 million in charitable contributions since its founding. The Ahrens Park Foundation owns and operates Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park, the Ahrens Family Center and the Grinnell Athletic and Recreation Center as well as the new Administrative Headquarters. Gosselink and her brother Chad Ahrens, and her sister Susan Witt, are the grandchildren of foundation founder Claude Ahrens, and all three serve on both foundation boards.