

- Special to the Leader & Times

Stepping Stone Shelter has been awarded a \$6,900 grant through the Kansas Health Foundation's Recognition Grants program. This money will help support the purchase of refrigerators that will support the storage and provision of balanced meals to our residents and those who come to us for meals.

"Stepping Stone Shelter recognizes that we provide the only meal(s) some adults and children get each day. This is especially so in the Summer as school is out," said Susan Lukwago, President of the Board of Stepping Stone Shelter. "To that end we want to make every effort possible to use the resources and donations we receive, to provide a balanced meal with fruits, vegetables, protein, dairy as well as carbohydrates and fresh water. Adequate and efficient refrigeration is necessary to make this possible. The grant from Kansas Health Foundation will make it possible to purchase refrigerators to replace those are less efficient which will also mean reduced utility bills for the Shelter. We are very grateful."

For more information about this project or to learn how one can make a donation or volunteer, please visit www.liberalsteppingstone.org or contact Pat Allsbury at 626-6024 or steppingstoneshelter@swko.net.

Recognition Grants expand the Kansas Health Foundation's support to a broad range of health-related organizations throughout the state. The program is targeted for organizations and agencies proposing meaningful and charitable projects or initiatives that fit within the Foundation's mission of improving the health of all Kansans. In addition to supporting projects, the Foundation also seeks to support initiatives that focus on promoting policy, systems and environmental transformations that support health.

"Each year we are amazed at the incredible projects being done by organizations across

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Kansas,” said Steve Coen, president and CEO of the Kansas Health Foundation. “This grant program allows us to support these innovative and impactful community initiatives and recognize the groups and individuals making them a reality.”

This spring, the Kansas Health Foundation provided more than \$830,000 through this program to help organizations accomplish 50 different projects intended to improve the health and wellness of Kansans. Using a competitive application process, the Foundation allocates up to \$2 million each year for the Recognition Grants program. Application deadlines for the two cycles are March 15 and Sept. 15 each year.

Any tax-exempt, nonprofit organization using the money for charitable purposes and proposing a project meeting the Foundation’s mission to improve the health of all Kansans is eligible.

The Kansas Health Foundation is a private philanthropy based in Wichita, but statewide in its focus. Its mission is to improve the health of all Kansans. To learn more about the Foundation, please visit www.kansashealth.org.