



For Immediate Release
Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Press Contact:

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Iowa Grocers Award Build with Bags Grants

More than \$20,000 awarded to 11 Iowa schools, parks through initiative led by Iowa grocers

City parks and schools throughout Iowa will soon have new park benches, planters or picnic tables courtesy of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association's Build with Bags program.

The announcement was made that 11 Iowa communities would be receiving grants of up to \$2,000 to purchase items made from recycled plastic bags. Items include park benches made by Plastic Recycling of Iowa Falls. One park bench represents approximately 10,600 bags that won't end up in the landfill.

"We are pleased to announce the winners of the Build with Bags grant program," says Michelle Hurd, president of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association. "Now in its ninth year, the Build with Bags program continues to encourage individuals to recycle their plastic bags so those bags can be turned into products that beautify our communities. This year's grant winners are reaping the rewards of their recycling efforts, and we hope other communities will follow suit and expand their recycling efforts."

A total of 31 applications were submitted from which 11 winners were selected by a committee of four representatives in support of the Build with Bags program. Each committee member individually scored applications. The scores were then combined for an overall point total. This year, the top 11 applicants with the most points received grants totaling \$21,337.

Applications were evaluated based on set criteria that included a statement of need for the grant and the community's own plastic bag recycling efforts. Grant applicants were also asked to verify the recycled plastic content in the products they were looking to purchase and obtain an endorsement letter from a local grocer who is supportive of the community's project and recycling plans.

Geographic location also played a factor as the committee wanted to disperse the grant awards throughout the state of Iowa. Local Iowa grocers played an important role in making the grants possible. Store representatives throughout the state wrote letters of support that led to their communities being selected to receive a grant.

"While the endorsement letter was not the most weighted category in the selection process, it is an important component of the Build with Bags program," Hurd explains. "In the program committee's eyes, it reflects how the

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applying community is working with its local grocers to establish long-term projects and goals that help increase the awareness of plastic bag recycling.”

Encouraging purchases of furniture and equipment made from recycled plastic for parks and schools through its grant program is one of four goals established by Build with Bags partners. The other three include increasing the amount of plastic bags recycled, reducing consumption of plastic bags and increasing the safe use of reusable bags.

Participating retailers include Fareway Stores and Hy-Vee locations statewide plus many independent grocers.

Build with Bags, a cooperative effort of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association, Keep Iowa Beautiful, Metro Waste Authority in Des Moines, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Plastic Recycling of Iowa Falls, was originally launched in August 2009. Now in its ninth year, the Build with Bags Grant program has awarded \$305,461.52 in grants to more than 180 Iowa communities.

For more information on Build with Bags or its grant program opportunities, visit www.iowagrocers.com.

Grant Recipient	City	Grant Amount	Project	Local Grocer
City of Alden	Alden	\$1,968	nine six-foot assorted benches	Store Director Cameron Olson, Iowa Falls Hy-Vee
Briar Cliff University	Sioux City	\$2,000	four hexagon style picnic tables	Store Director Shawn Brown, Sioux City Hy-Vee
City of DeSoto	DeSoto	\$2,000	two handicap-accessible picnic tables, trash cans and benches	Assistant Manager Jay Birks, Adel Fareway
Mary Welsh Elementary School	Williamsburg	\$2,000	six six-foot benches and two round planters	Store Manager Julie Harl, Williamsburg Foods
Prairie Arts Council	Sheldon	\$1,594.20	two benches, a picnic table, a trash can with lid and two planters	Store Director Josh Osborn, Sheldon Hy-Vee and Store Manager Brent Kraft, Sheldon



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				Fareway
Sac City Hometown Pride	Sac City	\$1,775	five benches	Manager Scott Bundt, Sac City Food Pride
Sioux City Railroad Museum	Sioux City	\$2,000	eight picnic tables	Kitchen and Catering Manager, Al Metz, Sioux City Hy-Vee
Sioux City Unity Elementary School	Sioux City	\$2,000	one handicap accessible picnic table, a planter and a bench	Store Director Darin Turner, Sioux City Hy-Vee
Urbandale Parks and Recreation	Urbandale	\$2,000	one picnic table and a bench	Store Director Scott James, Urbandale Hy-Vee
Wayne County Fair Board	Corydon	\$2,000	three six-foot picnic tables and one eight-foot handicap-accessible table	Store Manager Casey Higgins, Corydon Hy-Vee
Winneshiek County Conservation	Fort Atkinson	\$2,000	eight six-foot tables and an eight-foot handicap-accessible table	Store Manager David Noack, Decorah Fareway

About the Iowa Grocery Industry Association

The Iowa Grocery Industry Association is a state trade association that represents the food industry, including chain and independent supermarkets, convenience stores, suppliers, wholesalers, brokers, manufacturers and distributors. Founded in 1899, the IGIA has long served as a resource to its members, the food industry and the general public through education, legislative, partnership and philanthropic programs. The IGIA has headquarters in Urbandale, Iowa, and can be found online at www.iowagrocers.com.

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