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Contact: Kevin Langin
402-602-3541

First National Bank of Omaha Awards \$360,000 in Community Development Grants

Grants Support Affordable Housing, Educated Workforce and Economic Development Programs in Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas and South Dakota

OMAHA, Neb. Aug. 10, 2016. – First National Bank of Omaha, which also operates as First National Bank Fremont and First National Bank North Platte, has awarded a total of \$360,000 in community development grants to 28 organizations in Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas and South Dakota announced Alec Gorynski, Senior Director, Community Development and Corporate Social Responsibility. The grants will support Affordable Housing, Educated Workforce and Economic Development programs.

“First National Bank’s Community Development Grant program focuses on creating lasting impacts within our communities through partnerships with organizations who are dedicated to building an educated workforce by improving self-sufficiency, strengthening local economies, and increasing access to safe and affordable housing,” said Gorynski. “Across the four states, these grants will help over 4,000 people become more self-sufficient, create access to over 170 affordable housing units, serve 570 small businesses and create over 1,200 full- and part-time jobs.”

In Nebraska, First National Bank awarded \$113,000 in community development grants to eight organizations across the state. Grants for Affordable Housing programs will allow recipients across Nebraska to build, rehabilitate or finance 157 homes and provide 313 individuals with housing counseling and education. These include:

- \$15,000 – NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska (Norfolk): empowers individuals and families, and strengthens communities in a seven-county area through affordable housing and down payment assistance programs.
- \$15,000 – NeighborWorks (Lincoln): keeps Lincoln a safe and prosperous community by building affordable housing, revitalizing neighborhoods and promoting home ownership.

- More -

- \$10,000 – Dana Point Development/Building a Better Tomorrow (David City): provides affordable housing opportunities to seniors and families with financial, physical, and/or life situations that may not otherwise be afforded.
- \$8,000 – Scottsbluff County Habitat for Humanity (Scottsbluff): builds quality affordable home for families in need with community and volunteer support.

Grants supporting Educated Workforce initiatives will enable 1,389 individuals in Nebraska to move closer to self-sufficiency. These include:

- \$35,000 - 75 North/Omaha Code School (Omaha): drives the redevelopment of the Highlander neighborhood on the north side of Omaha. Their mission is to break the cycle of poverty and community deterioration by facilitating the creation of a healthy, sustainable, mixed-income community complete with thriving schools, recreational facilities and other amenities that will attract new public and private investment to north Omaha neighborhoods. Highlander Code School is an annual summer camp for high school students interested in developing web design, computer coding and programming.
- \$10,000 – Fremont Public Schools (Fremont): provides after school and summer learning opportunities for Fremont youth, focusing on enrichment activities and support services that enable lower income youth in the community to gain educational skill development and continue learning during non-school hours.
- \$10,000 – City Impact (Lincoln): equips urban youth and adults with greater literacy, competency, leadership skills, and financial wellness opportunities.
- \$10,000 – The Connection (North Platte): provides basic needs for homeless individuals and moves each one a step closer to a home.

In Colorado, First National Bank awarded \$100,000 in community development grants to nine organizations. Grants supporting Economic Development initiatives will contribute to 637 new and retained full- and part-time jobs and assist 310 new and existing small businesses. These include:

- \$40,000 – Rocky Mountain Innosphere (Fort Collins): creates economic impact by supporting tech start-ups that have a potential to exponentially grow.

- More -

- \$10,000 – Accion Colorado (Denver): provides the tools entrepreneurs need to operate, grow, or start a business by increasing access to business credit, loans, and training.

Grants for Affordable Housing programs will contribute toward the construction or rehabilitation of 10 homes or housing units and provide homeownership education to nine individuals. These include:

- \$10,000 – Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity (Fort Collins): supports the construction of a single family home in Fort Collins, built by 80 high school students participating in a hands-on STEM educational program.
- \$10,000 – Mile High Community Loan Fund: coordinates and leverages resources to increase the affordable housing stock and promote homeownership
- \$5,000 – Flatirons Habitat for Humanity (Broomfield): supports the construction and rehabilitation of 6 housing units in Broomfield.

Grants supporting Educated Workforce initiatives will enable 2,581 individuals in Colorado to move closer to self-sufficiency. These include:

- \$10,000 – I Have a Dream (Longmont): motivates and empowers children from low-income communities to reach their education and career goals by providing mentoring, tutoring, and cultural enrichment.
- \$5,000 – Greeley Dream Team (Greeley): helps young adults achieve success in post-secondary education through one-on-one advisors and connections to resources.
- \$5,000 – Boys and Girls Club of Larimer County (Fort Collins): enables young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens through a range of programs, including Money Matters financial education.
- \$5,000 – Boys and Girls Club of Weld County (Greeley): enables young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. Specifically, the funds will support Money Matters, a financial education course for ages 13-18.

In Illinois, First National Bank awarded \$102,000 in community development grants to nine organizations. Grants supporting Economic Development initiatives will contribute to 642 new and retained full- and part-time jobs and assist 261 new and existing small businesses. These include:

- More -

- \$20,000 – Fox Valley Entrepreneurship Center (Batavia): assists small businesses in the Fox Valley area to stimulate economic growth and enhance the success of local business strategies.
- \$12,000 – DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation (Sycamore): works to facilitate sustainable and diversified economic growth in DeKalb County, IL.
- \$10,000 – Elgin Community College Foundation (ISBDC) (Elgin): provides business counseling and support for local entrepreneurs to start a new business or expand an existing business.
- \$10,000 – Friends of McHenry Community College Foundation (ISBDC) (McHenry): serves business owners throughout every aspect of starting, managing, or growing a small business through counseling, training and professional services.
- \$10,000 – Harvard Economic Development Corporation (Harvard): promotes the economic wellbeing and quality of life to the citizens of Harvard by supporting and facilitation an increase in primary jobs by helping local businesses expand and invest in order to bring new investments and employers into Harvard.

A \$10,000 grant supporting Affordable Housing was awarded to Habitat for Humanity of Boone County (Belvidere) and will contribute toward the construction or rehabilitation of a single family housing unit and will provide homeownership education to five individuals.

Grants supporting Educated Workforce initiatives will enable over 168 individuals in Illinois to move closer to self-sufficiency. These include:

- \$10,000 – McHenry County Economic Development Corporation (Crystal Lake): dedicated to the education of the current and future workforce of McHenry County by exposing students to careers in manufacturing, trades and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- \$10,000 – Kishwaukee Family YMCA (DeKalb): dedicated to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility and strives to teach skills and values that help create a path to success for children and teens; inspire people of all ages to play, be active and maintain a healthy lifestyle; and engage in work that fosters an inclusive, collaborative, proactive approach to addressing community needs.

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- \$10,000 – Kishwaukee College Center for Business Development and Continuing Education (Malta): provides financial assistance to individuals pursuing a short-term certificate program, which will increase income for participants.

In Kansas, a \$25,000 community development grant in support of an Educated Workforce was awarded to The Mission Project (Mission), an organization that enables capable adults with developmental disabilities to live independently and safely in the community with individualized support. The funds will help 30 individuals become more self-sufficient.

In South Dakota, a \$20,000 community development grant in support of Affordable housing was awarded to the Mitchell Regional Habitat for Humanity (Mitchell), which provides simple, quality, affordable housing in Davison and Hanson counties. The funds will help contribute to the construction and rehabilitation of six housing units and provide four individuals with home ownership education.

First National Bank has awarded a total of \$735,000 in community development grants in 2016. First National Bank expects to announce additional community development grants in the fourth quarter of this year. In 2015, the bank awarded more than \$1.69 million in community development grants to organizations across its seven-state service area. To view First National Bank's "First in the Community Impact Report" and learn more about the full extent of its 2015 community contributions, please visit:

<https://www.firstnational.com/site/about-us/in-the-community/index.fhtml>

First National Bank of Omaha is a subsidiary of First National of Nebraska. First National of Nebraska is the largest privately owned banking company in the United States. First National and its affiliates have \$20 billion in assets and 5,000 employee associates. Primary banking offices are located in Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Texas.

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