



An Affiliate of Southwest Initiative Foundation

Bird Island / Olivia Community Foundation Newsletter

Summer 2017



BIRD ISLAND, OLIVIA KIDS GAIN MENTORS

Southwest Initiative Foundation newsletter- June 1, 2017

Shrieking and giggling, kids from the [Christian Community Outreach Center](#) in Olivia dashed across the lawn at their end-of-school-year party in May. They quickly learned they wouldn't get far in the wheelbarrow race without someone to hold them up. The local [BIO Legacy Foundation](#)'s board took that lesson to heart, teaming up with CCOC to mentor kids after school.

On a sunny spring day, it's hard to picture the challenges some children face in the surrounding towns of Bird Island and Olivia. Of the 126 elementary students in the CCOC's After School Enrichment Program, 95 percent were enrolled in free or reduced lunch programs last school year. And a quarter of the kids live in a single-parent home with little or no contact from the other parent. Half come from split families or shared custody households.

Kids from low-income families have less access to everything from quality early childhood education to advanced placement courses in high school to sport and enrichment activities that provide mentoring, teambuilding and other life skills. BIO Legacy Foundation is one of 25 affiliate partners established through the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), and it received a \$2,500 [Grow Our Own](#) grant from SWIF to help close the opportunity gap poverty creates.

"This is a chance to help build a relationship with these kids," said Rob Thurston, president of BIO Legacy Foundation's board. "It was a good opportunity to partner with a program that is already addressing the opportunity gap and to provide greater access to funding, marketing and mentors."

'There are people that care about you'

The CCOC formed in response to an outcry from families, social service agencies and police for help with unsupervised youth during the after school and early evening hours when parents are working. Its After School Enrichment Program provides a nutritious snack, homework assistance, community service and social skills while allowing students to experience a variety of artistic, active and educational enrichment activities. It's a place where adults take an interest in kids' lives.

"No matter what, there are people that care about you," After School Enrichment Program Coordinator Nicolas Hendriks told kids at the party in the park. "There's a lot of people here who really love you guys. We're looking forward to watching you grow up."

After school programming doesn't extend through summer, but BIO Legacy Foundation board members hope to see the kids at other community events the foundation will host. Starting again in fall, each of the 12 board members will share two interesting topics with the students at the after school program. Rob set the bar high, bringing his race car to a recent after school gathering.

"Racing is just cool for kids. But I also pointed out the sponsors on the car and how I need to be responsible and show respect as I'm representing those businesses," said Rob, whose full-time job is as president at Thurston, Inc. seed brokerage firm.

Most BIO Legacy Foundation projects are focused on youth in the area, with past grants to the Boy Scouts, St. Mary's School, The Learning Funhouse and BOLD School District. More broadly, the foundation supports area projects that strengthen the communities around four pillars — education, recreation, health and amenities.

"We want to show people this is a place you can come back to. These communities are thriving," Rob said.





Julie Remer of RC Hospital & Clinics accepts a \$1000 grant from the BIO Legacy Board of Directors to be used for a new educational class on Type 2 Diabetes Prevention.

Strengthen our Communities

The BIO Legacy Foundation has been created to enhance our rural lifestyle in the Bird Island and Olivia area by supporting ideas and projects that strengthen our communities. The four focuses or pillars of the BIO Legacy Foundation are:

Education, Recreation, Health and Amenities

We exist to build funds that will provide grants for area projects that strengthen our community and four pillars.

Grants are made with interest earned by the BIO Legacy Foundation's endowment fund.

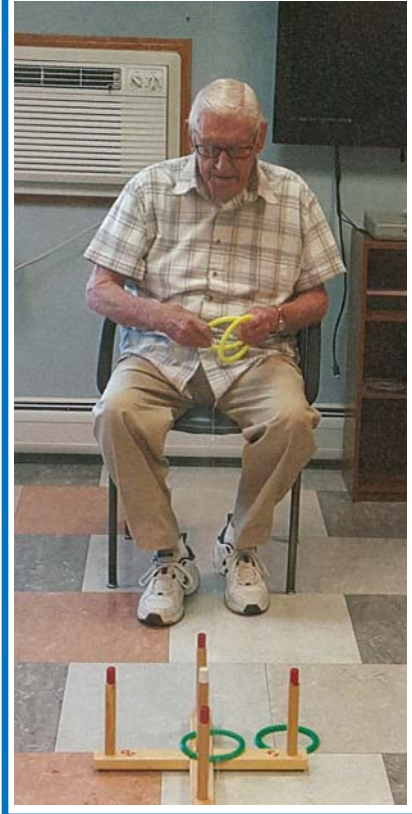
The BIO Legacy Foundation is a vehicle for donors who wish to make charitable contributions for the benefit of our communities.

How to get involved:

- **Donate:**
 BIO Legacy Foundation, PO BOX 7, Olivia, MN 56277
 or
www.givemn.org (search: BIO Legacy)
- **Visit our website www.biolegacy.org**
- **Follow us on Facebook**
- **Learn more about SWIF & community funds at swifoundation.org**

Fit for Life

Park View Village in Olivia has a goal of keeping their tenants fit. Using the \$500 grant from BIO Legacy they were able to purchase games and fitness equipment to keep seniors active.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about BIO Legacy Foundation.

BIO Legacy Foundation
 P.O. Box 7
 Olivia, MN 56277

(320) 523-5324

biolegacy01@gmail.com

**Total Grant Dollars
spent: \$23,119.00**

Grants Recipients

April 2017:

ACTS - \$525
BOLD Schools Literacy - \$1000
CCOC - \$788
CIRCLE - \$250
Olivia's House of Hope - \$568
**Granted by the Dr. Paul Thompson
Memorial Fund*
Play Island Preschool - \$275
RC Hospital & Clinic - \$1000

November 2016:

BOLD Elementary - \$2000
St. Mary's School - \$750
CCOC - \$690
BOLD Musical Boosters - \$750

April 2016:

Bird Island EDA - Splash Pad Feasibility - \$500
St. Mary's School - \$2300
The Learning Funhouse - \$400

November 2015:

ACT'S of Kindness - \$500
BOLD Musical Boosters - \$750
CCOC - \$500
Olivia's House of Hope - \$560
**Granted by the Dr. Paul Thompson
Memorial Fund*
Park View Village - \$500
Renville Co. Aquatic Club - \$750
Renville Co. Historical Society - \$250

April 2015:

BOLD 8th Grade - \$1275
Active Living Days - \$500
Play Island Preschool - \$225

September 2014:

Olivia Pond Project - \$300
Back the Pack - \$500
Boy Scouts - \$550
CCOC - \$500
Play Island Preschool - \$513
RC Hospital & Clinics - \$2150

September 2013:

BOLD ECI - \$500
Prairie View Trail - \$500

Jon Butler Leads BIO Legacy Foundation

First, I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of the BIO Legacy Foundation. I am a devoted husband, father to two great boys (6,1), and President at F&M Bank Minnesota in Olivia. Growing up on a farm in rural southern Minnesota engrained the importance of our rural lifestyle at an early age. It is a great honor to be part of an organization that was founded to enhance our rural lifestyle and most recently becoming the acting Chair.

More importantly, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the past Chair, Rob Thurston. Rob has served on the BIO Legacy Foundation since inception 2013, and Chair the last 3 years. Under his leadership, the endowment fund of the organization has seen rapid growth, and nearly doubled. The foundation now has approximately \$300,000 in its permanent endowment. This means the Bird Island and Olivia communities will see the benefit of those funds in the form of grants for education, recreation, health and amenities.

Another accomplishment of Rob as the serving Chair was the distribution of approximately \$23,120 in grants, which has been the benefit of its growth. As many know, groups such as the Christian Community Outreach Center, Cub Scouts, Play Island Schools, The Learning Fun House, BOLD Schools, and Renville County Aquatic Club are just a few of the groups who have benefited from this endowment fund under Rob's leadership.

Thank you for your dedication and leadership Rob!

Jon Butler

Chair- BIO Legacy Foundation



*Jon Butler (Chair) and
Rob Thurston (Vice
Chair) watch as Holly
Johnson fills out the
BIO Legacy
Foundation's large
grant check.*

2017 BIO Legacy Board Members:

Jon Butler - Chair
Rob Thurston - Vice Chair
Erik Peterson - Treasurer
Justin Vogt - Secretary
George Ebbers
Holly Johnson
Susie Lang
Summer O'Neill
Neal Prokosch
Sene Zupke

Want to join our board? Please contact Jon Butler @ 320-523-1111 to see if we have any openings.

BIO Legacy Founding Members

Anonymous	F & M Bank Olivia	Rural Computer Consultants	John Baumgartner Family
Anonymous	Buboltz Acres, Inc.	Carol Setzepfandt	Dick & Gladie Hagen
Jim and Mary Page Family	In memory of Charles & Mary Glesener	Setzepfandt Trust	Roger Heller
In memory of George & Ruth Rauenhorst	Robert & Renae Saunders	Robert L. Thurston	

Platinum Level Donors - \$7500

Paul & Carol Setzepfandt	F&M Bank Minnesota	\$7,500	\$7,500
\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500

Gold Level Donors - \$5000

Saunders Mertens Schmitz, P.A.	Baumgartner Envirionics,	Robert L. Thurston	\$5,000
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000

Silver Level Donors - \$2500

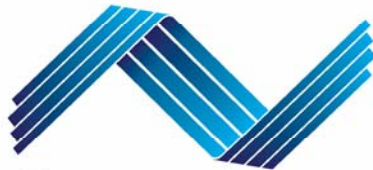
Thurston, Inc.	Island Financial Planning	Sheehan's Gas Company	SWIF
Rob & Abby Thurston	Rob & Renae Saunders	Vern Prokosch	Corn Capital Innovations
\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500

Legacy Club 2016 - \$1000 Annual Gift

Rob & Renae Saunders	Nathan & Geri Blad	Rob & Abby Thurston	David Torgelson
Rural Computer Consultants	Sheehan's Gas Co.	Paul & Carol Setzepfandt	Vern Prokosch
Neal & Brenda Prokosch	Bruce Prokosch	F&M Bank Minnesota	Island Financial Planning
Brian & Patricia Prokosch	\$1,000 per year	\$1,000 per year	\$1,000 per year

Thank you to all who have made a contribution to BIO Legacy Foundation's endowment!

Your charitable gift has long term local impact



BIO LEGACY
Foundation

An Affiliate of Southwest Initiative Foundation

BIRD ISLAND - OLIVIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Supporting organizations in need of funds for projects and ideas related to:
HEALTH - EDUCATION - RECREATION - AMENITIES



donate at
www.biolegacy.org

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT = **ANNUAL GRANT \$**
(raised to date)

