

# WILLIAMS NEWS

Gateway to the Grand Canyon®

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## Greater Williams Community Fund gives out \$7,900 to local organizations

Marissa Freireich

Williams-Grand Canyon News Reporter

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WILLIAMS, Ariz. - Local nonprofit organizations are getting financial help through grants from the Greater Williams Community Fund (GWCF).

On June 28 at the Best Western Plus, the GWCF steering committee presented \$7,900 in grant money to eight local organizations. Organizations that received money include Camp Civitan, Friends of the Williams Aquatic Center, SAVE-Meant to Rescue, Williams Area Habitat for Humanity, Williams Special Olympics, Williams-Elementary Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association, the Matthew J. Broehm Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12128 for Operation Veterans Helping Veterans, and Coconino County-Senior Nutrition Program for food for the Williams Senior Center.

Linda and Chuck Eaton started the GWCF in 2005 in memory of their son Kevin Twitty, who died three years earlier at age 25. The GWCF is an endowed fund that started through an agreement with the Arizona Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization that manages the money.

According to the GWCF's brochure, "Endowments are permanent charitable funds in which the principle is preserved and invested, while a portion of the investment returns are used for grants to community organizations."

In other words, the GWCF doesn't use the principle, but can use about 5 percent of the income earned off of the principle for grants, explained Kristine Vasquez, chair of the GWCF steering committee.

"It keeps on giving," Vasquez said. "If I donate, my money is going to help this town forever."

In fiscal year 2012, donors gave \$6,433 to the GWCF. As of March 31, the end of the fund's fiscal year, the total balance was \$177,607.

The goal of the organization is to reach \$1 million.

"If you had \$1 million in assets in your fund...we could give away every single year from just the interest and the investment money \$50,000 a year to our local nonprofits," Vasquez said.

Every donation helps the fund reach its goal. A few years ago, the GWCF started the 1881 club.



Williams organizations celebrate after the Greater Williams Community Fund awarded them \$7,900 at Best Western Plus June 28. Photo/Jan Shirley

"People who couldn't see giving large amounts of money could give \$18.81 and still be a part of it," Vasquez said. "So it gave us a broader base."

Another way people can support the fund is through The Gallery in Williams' raffle for art that gallery artists donate. Every six weeks the gallery will sponsor a drawing and then offer a new raffle. Tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10 and are available at The Gallery in Williams, 145 W. Route 66. The money from the raffle goes to the GWCF.

"We're trying to think of different creative ways to build up that fund," Vasquez said.

More information about donating to or volunteering with the GWCF is available from Vasquez at (928) 863-2467 or GWCF vice chair Karen Peters at (928) 635-2275.

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