

2019 MAKING AN IMPACT



2019 was a historic year for both Ascentra Credit Union and the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation. The doors opened to the newly constructed four-story Ascentra Home Office in downtown Bettendorf, ushering in a new era for the credit union and the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation.

The 40,000-square-foot building offers several places for collaboration for our staff as well as a special space called the Lensmeyer Learning Center. This space allows for larger meetings, educational workshops, and community gatherings that also commemorates Paul Lensmeyer, former President and CEO, and shows the impact of our foundation in the communities we serve. As guests enter the Lensmeyer Learning Center, they are welcomed by a wall highlighting the contributions of the foundation such as the \$98,700 in charitable giving in 2019 alone.



Total contributions given to date:
\$444,092

This was also the year that we committed to a multi-year grant totaling \$100,000 to Junior Achievement of the Heartland – the foundation’s biggest commitment to date. Other multi-year commitments were awarded to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley for \$30,000 and the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois for \$40,000, which can be leveraged to gain the organization an additional \$10,000. The foundation also contributed \$10,000 to the Quad Cities Community Foundation’s Disaster Recovery Fund to help with recovery efforts due to the devastating 2019 spring flood in Davenport. Through our leadership grants, our senior management team and board of directors awarded \$20,000 to 31 different organizations and charities throughout the region.

Another reason to celebrate came when the Paul Lensmeyer Golf Outing, our annual fundraiser, set a new fundraising record thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants.

MISSION

Established in 2015, the mission of the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation is to improve the quality of life for the membership of Ascentra Credit Union and further the philanthropic outreach in the communities we serve. Our focus will be on funding work to enhance youth development, expand credit education opportunities, foster community development, support cultural activities, and invest in ways to enhance the financial viability of the underserved.

VISION

It is the vision of the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation to honor the memory of former President and CEO Paul Lensmeyer and to meet the charitable and educational objectives of the board of directors of Ascentra Credit Union.



In celebration of Junior Achievement’s 100-year anniversary and the opening of our new home office, the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation committed to funding a \$100,000 grant to Junior Achievement of the Heartland to help youth better understand financial concepts and gain confidence in the ability to manage their financial future. The grant is paid out over a five-year period through 2023.

Seeing and understanding the impact that Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley has on our community's youth, the foundation was proud to present a \$30,000 grant to assist with their recruitment efforts through 2021. This grant will help overcome barriers and meet the growing needs of vulnerable youth to help them achieve their full potential.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

GRANT TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF EASTERN IOWA AND WESTERN ILLINOIS

The Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois reached out for assistance with a new recruiting effort that brings Girl Scout leaders and meetings to underserved, at-risk girls in Moline, Rock Island, Davenport, and Muscatine. A guaranteed total of \$40,000 will be distributed through 2021 with an additional \$10,000 in match incentives. This grant will help combat the barriers that keep girls from participating such as transportation, financial resources, parental support, and access to troops in their area.



“Because our program is traditionally volunteer-led, partners like Ascentra Credit Union, break down barriers for girls who live in communities where there are challenges to finding volunteers and resources for the program.”

- Diane Nelson, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois

“Ascentra is helping our community come together to insure that children are happy, vibrant and have the tools to be academically, socially, and economically successful.”

- Jay Justin, President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley



THE HOME COURSE ADVANTAGE!



2019 marked the fifth year of the Paul Lensmeyer Golf Outing held at “Paul’s home course”, Palmer Hills in Bettendorf. Through the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and players, the event exceeded its fundraising goal, raising a total of \$28,504!

In 2015 the inaugural golf outing was established to raise funds for the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation and to celebrate Paul and his spirit. It is a day of fun and fellowship that raises funds to support the various grants and giving opportunities provided by the foundation. Since its inception, this event has raised a generous **\$104,367.47!**



DISASTER RECOVERY FUND

Disaster struck the Quad Cities Region in the spring when a temporary levee, holding back the floodwaters of the Mississippi River broke under pressure causing millions of dollars in damage to area businesses, homes, and infrastructure. After seeing the impact the levee break had on the community, the foundation donated \$10,000 to the Quad Cities Community Foundation’s Disaster Recovery Fund to help strengthen the long-term recovery efforts and lighten the financial pressure for area flood victims.

