



Better Communities.
Bigger Dreams. Brighter Futures.

BILL SNYDER, CO-CHAIR

MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR

For Immediate Release:
June 1, 2010

Ella Todd, Director
785.296.8873, etodd@kdheks.gov

Kansas Mentors Announces Mini-Grant Recipients

Local programs propose strategies to recruit and retain more Kansans as mentors

TOPEKA, KS –Coach Bill Snyder, Dr. Andy Tompkins, and Kristy McKechnie, co-chairs of Kansas Mentors’ advisory councils, announced today the recipients of roughly \$34,000 in mentor recruitment and retention mini-grants through the Kansas Mentors’ initiative.

“Kansas’ mentoring programs are reporting significant declines in funding while an increase in the need for services,” Snyder said. “These funds are a strategic investment to ensure more young Kansans have access to a caring role model.”

Grant funds will allow recipients to implement a variety of recruitment and retention strategies over the next six months to engage more Kansans as volunteer mentors. Recipients were selected based on their ability to leverage local resources as match funds and collaborate with community partners. Recipients include:

County	Program	Award
Barton & Pawnee	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Barton & Pawnee Counties	\$1,387
Bourbon	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bourbon County	\$1,000
Coffey, Franklin & Osage	ECKAN	\$1,500
Cowley	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cowley County	\$1,500
Crawford	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Crawford County	\$1,464
Douglas	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County	\$1,500
Franklin	Elizabeth Layton Center	\$1,500
Harvey	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Harvey County	\$1,000
Johnson & Wyandotte	YouthFriends	\$2,000
Lyon	USD #253	\$2,500
Marion	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marion County	\$1,000
McPherson	Big Brothers Big Sisters of McPherson County	\$1,000
Miami	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami County	\$1,037
Reno	USD #308	\$2,485
Sedgwick	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County	\$1,500
Sedgwick	Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas	\$1,500
Sedgwick	Youth Horizons	\$1,500
Shawnee	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Topeka	\$1,500
Shawnee	Breakthrough House, Inc.	\$1,500
Shawnee	YWCA of Topeka	\$1,500
Statewide	The Learning Tree Institute	\$2,500
Wyandotte	Kansas City Urban Youth Center	\$1,997

To date, Kansas Mentors has awarded over \$510,000 to mentoring organizations statewide and is currently partnered with over 175 mentoring programs serving 86 Kansas counties. The organization is committed to providing every young Kansan access to a caring and quality mentor through recruitment, awareness, and training efforts.

###