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In search of good causes

A community group in Pauls Valley has the money; they're just looking for some good causes to help out.

Members of the Pauls Valley Community Foundation Board of Directors met this week to get an update on how things are going for a group formed to help the best of causes in PV and surrounding area.

Arlene Williams, board member and driving force in establishing this charitable foundation, said there's in the neighborhood of \$13,000 in a gifting sponsorship fund right now.

Put simply, that's how much is now available to help community projects meant to help a lot of people over a long period of time.

The group looks to be getting some online interest but not enough to move the process along.

"I'll get three or four likes sometimes every day," Williams said about people responding to the group's Facebook site, "but nobody has made an application.

"We're looking for things to contribute to. We're looking for good causes, but no one is filling out an application.

"We will consider any applications. But it has to be something that benefits the entire community."

The most recent donation from the local foundation went to a free recreation program for children this past summer.

Called X-Treme Summer Fun, the program was offered weekdays in June and July at the Reynolds Recreation Center in PV. It was sponsored by Allies for Better Living, formerly known as the Garvin County Health Coalition.

It was a few years ago when the foundation approved a donation for its first community project.

Since that time it has funded the purchase of things like smoke alarms for PV residents, beautification projects, signs welcoming visitors to PV and help for a children's wrestling club.

Other projects have been to help the PV High School marching band, the local recycling center and the construction of Pauls Valley's outdoor water park.

During this week's meeting Williams said the foundation's endowment fund is now in a down cycle with the total around \$88,000.

Despite the slight endowment drop Williams advises other board members to stick with the investments of Community Foundation of Oklahoma.

"We are a charitable foundation. That's what they manage—charitable foundations," he said about his confidence in the group.



Whitehead fifth-graders Phoenix Meyers (left) and Riley Harris check out a large globe, while Justin Humphrey and Aiden Arroyo (right) are among the students learning lessons from a National Geographic giant traveling map coming to the school, which was last year funded by the PV Foundation for Academic Excellence.

Other local non-profit entities invested through the state foundation are the Toy and Action Figure Museum, the PV Foundation for Academic Excellence and the PV Samaritans food pantry.

Until it was disbanded Main Street PV was also on that list.

Williams added the foundation did receive nearly \$8,000 in donations this year.