



## Helping causes is gaining ground

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Giving money for a whole variety of community causes looks to be building some momentum for a Pauls Valley group with a mission of helping.

The most recent donation from the PV Community Foundation went to X-Treme Summer Fun, a free program for youngsters offered weekdays in June and July at the Reynolds Recreation Center.

“Now we’re starting to get a lot more awareness about the foundation,” said Arien Williams, who represents the main push for the effort. He now serves as one of the board members.

“We’ve even got a Facebook page now.”

This recent donation is for a program sponsored by Allies for Better Living, formerly known as the Garvin County Health Coalition. The program is offering a variety of activities for kids ages 4 to 18.

The donation of \$1,000 is fairly typical for most causes approved by the foundation.

“That will pretty much be the maximum because we want to spread it out,” Williams said.

Just this week the foundation stepped in to help the local Kiwanis Club get a donation of soft drinks from Pepsi for Pauls Valley’s July 4th event in a couple of weeks.

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

Over 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.

“The foundation is a way to give to individuals, businesses, the community and surrounding area,” he said.

“We have about \$6,000 for the fiscal year, which is what we give out to community projects.”

Overall the foundation’s permanent endowment comes to more than \$100,000.

Since its first donation check a few years ago the foundation has given or raised more than \$20,000 for community projects, including the establishment of a local recycling center.

“I would say the money has done a lot of good things for the community.”

Groups interest in applying for a grant can find application forms on the foundation’s Facebook page.

In the near future the group hopes to do even more.

“In the fall we’d like to get with other foundations in the community, maybe do a wine and cheese party and bring in

an estate attorney to talk to us,” Williams said.

The idea would be to get more information on helping people include one or more of the community foundations in their estate planning.

“People could set up a charitable donation for us or any donation, now or in the future.”