

January 11, 2013 By Andy Barrand

Representatives from 14 Hillsdale County nonprofit agencies were present Thursday to collect funds part of the Hillsdale County Community Foundation's Match Day.

Foundation gives more than \$40K

HILLSDALE — The Hillsdale County Community Foundation distributed \$40,483 to 14 nonprofit county agencies Thursday morning during its Match Day funds distribution day. For those agencies the match was a tremendous help due to the decline of grants and other funding opportunities over the past couple of years.

Julia Denig, director of Domestic Harmony, said the matching funds help to replace the funds her organization has lost. "We are really appreciative," she said. "I would love it if they could do it every year." Domestic Harmony is a shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence in Hillsdale County. Terry Vear, director of the Perennial Park Senior Center, said the center's portion of the match funds will go toward the purchase of a generator for the facility. The estimated cost of the generator is \$80,000. She said the center could be used as an emergency disaster facility. In 2011 during an ice storm the center served as an emergency shelter. "We are about a quarter of the way there," she said. "We are very appreciative."

This year was the second year for the foundation's Match Day distribution; the first one was in 2009. Sharon Bisher, executive director of the foundation, said none of this could have been done without the help of their donors. The Match Day was Nov. 30. "We wanted to have the biggest day of giving in the county," Bisher said. More than \$233,000 was leveraged, including public donations of \$192,522 and matching grants from the Community Foundation. The total was around \$11,000 over the amount collected in 2009.

Other non-profits receiving funds included Hospice of Hillsdale County, Alpha Omega Women's Care Center, Kimball Camp YMCA, Hillsdale Area Men With Vision, Salvation Army, St. Peter's Free Clinic, Community Action Agency, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Lifeline, Hands of Mercy and King's Kupboard food pantries.

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation was established in 1991 as a community grant making foundation. It provides seed money to organizations and institutions that have identified problems and have designed constructive action programs aimed at solutions. A majority of the Foundation's grant making is focused on the areas of youth, leadership, philanthropy and volunteerism.