DAR Foundation awards more than $49,000 in grants during second of three award periods

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Historic and educational programs across South Dakota were major beneficiaries of grants from the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation during the spring distribution period.

Eight grants totaling $49,100 were approved and awarded by the Sioux Falls-based DAR Foundation during May and June, the second of three grant-distribution periods for 2019.

Among the recipients was the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village Preservation Society, which received $7,500. The funding will enable students, teachers and their chaperones to tour the educational site without paying an admission fee.

“The grant might encourage more schools to take students on field trips to the historic village, where they will be exposed to interesting, historic facts about Native American people,” said Judy Goetz, who chairs the DAR Foundation’s Grants Committee. DAR is short for the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The DAR Foundation awards grants in three categories: Regular Grants ($1,000 to $15,000), Mini-Grants (for up to $1,000), and Schoolroom Grants (for up to $500 for educational projects in public schools with fewer than 300 students.).

Here is a list of organizations in addition to the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village Preservation Society that recently earned grants:

Regular Grants

- South Dakota Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. $4,000 for the creation of a doll of Miss Maggie Mellette, wife of the first governor of South Dakota. The National Junior Doll will be presented at a national gathering and be used by DAR to help raise money for a Junior Membership program. Being selected to provide the new doll is an honor for the South Dakota chapter, Goetz said.
• Washington Pavilion of Arts and Sciences in Sioux Falls. $4,000 for an Open Door Initiative, which gives economically or socially underserved students in the region from age 3 to 18 the opportunity to participate in a variety of high-quality, hands-on summer camps, school-year classes and performing arts programs.

• Sioux Falls Public Schools Education Foundation. $15,000 for grants to help first-time teachers buy classroom supplies and to fund innovative education projects.

• Rural School Historical Society. $2,500 to restore the bell tower in a rural school near Canton. The school building was purchased by a former student as part of a preservation project.

• The Sioux Falls History Club. $15,000 to cover part of the cost of removing and replacing old and crumbling mortar in the organization’s building.

Mini-Grants

• Harmony South Dakota in Sioux Falls. $1,000 to help with a summer program that empowers children and helps transform their lives through music education and performances.

• Friends of the W. H. Over Museum in Vermillion. $120 to replace banquet linens.

Sept. 5 will be the next deadline for grant applications to be considered. Forms and filing information for DAR grant programs are available online at DAR-MaryChiltonFoundation.org.

The organization prefers that applications for regular grants be used for specific projects and not to partly fund larger programs.

Written inquiries about grant policies and procedures may be mailed to: Mary Chilton DAR Foundation, PO Box 90716, Sioux Falls, SD 57109-0716. Prospective grant applicants also may contact Grants Committee Chair Judy Goetz at jgoetz6970@gmail.com or (605) 413-3798.

The Mary Chilton DAR Foundation is affiliated with the Mary Chilton chapter, NSDAR. The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution strives to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who gave their lives and fortunes for American Independence.