

Donation to playhouse jump starts digital projector fund-raiser

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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The Gothenburg Community Playhouse received a hefty donation recently that will help buy a new digital movie projector for the Sun Theatre.

A \$2,500 check was given to the playhouse through the Monsanto-based America's Farmers Grow CommunitiesSM program which gives farmers the opportunity to win money for their favorite local nonprofit organizations.

Local producers Beverly Schmeeckle and Schmeeckle Farms Inc. were program winners and selected the playhouse to receive the money.

Schmeeckle said she chose the playhouse because it benefits not just Gothenburg but the entire county.

"It has helped young people develop their cultural and theatrical abilities," Schmeeckle said. "The playhouse is also community oriented and is a safe place for children to go."

Jill Rubenthaler, co-manager of the Gothenburg Community Playhouse, thanked the Schmeeckles for nominating the playhouse which will kick start a drive for a new projector estimated to cost \$80,000.

Monsanto representative Bryan Franzen presented the check, noting that the Monsanto Fund expects to invest more than \$3 million in local communities.

More than \$177,500 has been donated to nonprofits in Nebraska, with \$190,000 expected to be donated this year.

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The program is designed to benefit nonprofit groups such as ag youth, schools and other civic organizations. Visit [Monsanto's website](http://www.growcommunities.com) www.growcommunities.com to view a list of winners.