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News Release

For Immediate Release

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The Williston City Commission has approved a recommendation from the STAR Fund board to allocate \$50,000 to 16 area nonprofit organizations. The funding was made available through the STAR Fund's Community Enhancement Program.

The STAR Fund is financed by a voter-approved one cent City sales tax; one-fourth of the sales tax benefits economic and community development projects while the remainder of the sales tax supports property tax relief through debt reduction and infrastructure improvements.

The goal of the Community Enhancement Program is to improve the quality of life in the Williston Trade Region by allocating funds to qualifying nonprofit efforts. This year, a number projects receiving funds were from outside of Williston.

"We had some nice interest from the surrounding communities," said Williston Economic Development executive director Shawn Wenko. "It's always nice to support those projects because their residents shop in Williston and contribute to the STAR Fund. It's a way for the City of Williston to say thank you."

Some of the projects receiving funds in 2017 included mailing free books to pre-school aged children, enhancing Science Technology Engineering Mathematics programming, updating popular tourist attractions, and purchasing new signs for Williston's expanded trail system.

The organizations receiving funds were the following: Fort Union Cooperating Association, \$4,000; Mon-Dak Gymnastics Support Group, \$4,000; Divide County Historical Society, \$3,000; M-T Saddle Club, \$4,000; Crosby Country Club, \$1,000; Divide County Fair Association, \$2,000; Boys & Girls Club of Richland County, \$2,000; Prairie Tumbleweeds Association, \$1,000; Imagination Library Committee WPSD #1, \$6,000; Williston CVB-Band Day, \$5,000; Williston CVB-Chokecherry Festival, \$5,000; Fort Buford State Historic Site, \$2,500; Marketplace for Kids, \$5,000; James Memorial Preservation Society, \$2,500; and Leadership Williston, \$3,000.

For more information about the City of Williston's Community Enhancement Program please contact Williston Economic Development at 701-577-8110.

Submitted by Barbara Peterson, Williston Economic Development