

A beacon of hope: Bank helps organizations that serve young people

By Amy Hillenburg | ahillenk@md-times.com

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Organizations that won more than \$10,000 Tuesday from Home Bank included KIC-IT, a drop-in center for homeless youth in Johnson County; and the Boys and Girls Club of Morgan County-Mooresville. From left are Beverly Martin and Jill Overton of KIC-IT and Brigitte Gurden, Angela Kath, Neal McNalley and Brittani Bentley with the Boys and Girls Club. Photo by Amy Hillenburg.

Home Bank president/CEO Dan Moore presents a \$10,250 check to the Boys and Girls Club of Morgan County-Mooresville Tuesday as Home Bank employees helped them celebrate and ate a buffet dinner. From left are board president Angela Kath, Neal McNalley, executive director Brigitte Gurden, Brittani Bentley of PDS Wireless and Teresa Brown, bank manager in Mooresville, at the podium.

Dan Moore, president and CEO of Home Bank, presents a \$10,250 check to KIC-IT, a drop-off center for homeless youth. Representatives of the facility are Beverly Martin and Jill Overton who came Tuesday to SCI REMC for the awards celebration and employee meeting and dinner. Gifts can range from \$10,000 to \$50,000, and Home Bank does them once or more each year. Photo by Amy Hillenburg.

MARTINSVILLE

The legacy of tithing its profits began with Home Bank's president/CEO Dan Moore about five years ago. It continued Tuesday as the bank gave away more than \$20,000 to organizations in the communities it serves.

Teresa Brown, manager of the Mooresville Home Bank branch, said Moore started the program to share 10 percent of the bank's net profits to charities and non-profits that were truly benefiting youth and adults in need. Brown said sometimes it has been done quarterly, sometimes the bank staff will wait six months and another year they waited until the end of the year. In December, Brown said the bank awarded six \$10,000 gifts after waiting six months.

On Tuesday the bank gave \$10,250 each to the Boys and Girls Club of Morgan County-Mooresville and KIC-IT in Franklin. Home Bank employees were there to see the donations and hear about how the money will help each program.

The Boys and Girls Club is located in Mooresville and serves area youth. KIC-IT is in Franklin and serves homeless youth with hot meals, warm clothes, blankets, things needed for their vehicles, counseling for addiction, hygiene items and a laptop to help them find jobs.

Melissa Fisher, vice president of deposit operations for Home Bank, said this was by design.

"We're going to have a fun meeting. We found that it is so impactful for our employees to see how our donations are used. We decided this was a great idea, so we're doing it again tonight," Fisher said.

Lisa Arnold, senior vice president/COO of Home Bank in Martinsville, said the beauty of the tithing program is that the charitable organizations or non-profits are chosen not by senior executives, but rather by the employees themselves who serve on a committee.

"We average from 12 to 15 committee members, and people go off and others come on," Arnold said. "They meet regularly and study different programs to find those that are really making a difference."

Boys and Girls Club executive director Brigitte Gurden brought along other key people in the program to be part of the awards celebration, Neal McNalley, Robbie Lollar, Angela Kath and Brittani Bentley.

The organization serves between 235 and 250 children from Mooresville and surrounding areas. It has two locations - its home facility at 490 St. Clair St. - and at Newby Elementary School, Mooresville. The Boys and Girls Club of Morgan County's after-school program collaborates with Mooresville Consolidated School District to serve more than 300 young people a year. The program serves children ages 5 to 17 and focuses on academic success, character and citizenship and healthy lifestyles through a number of programs offered at the club. The Boys & Girls Club of Morgan County is a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Jill Overton, vice president of the KIC-IT board, and board member Beverly Martin accepted the award from Home Bank on Tuesday. Martin said the KIC-IT program is not an overnight facility. But it gives a respite for them to come in, get fed and encouraged and have access to technology for job searches.

"We have about 700 young people come to us in a year — some are repeat clients because they want to move on with their education and work. Many of them go couch surfing. They travel from place to place, at friends' and relatives' houses, to have a bed for the night," Martin said. "We've heard of them staying in sheds at a Lowe's store or a garage at a business."

Overton said on a daily basis, they see from four people to 20 come in for help. The facility is open currently only two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at 1015 Grizzly Cub Drive, Franklin. It is in a brown trailer in back of the Franklin Community Administration Building. It received its 501(c)3 status in 2014 and will be under the United Way umbrella in 2017. The drop-in site averages about 25 regular volunteers.

Their executive director Kimberly Spurlong is using the McKinney-Vento Act at Franklin Schools to pinpoint kids and families in crisis - those children who could become homeless and need to continue their education. Parents might be on drugs, accused of a crime and going to jail or they have died.

"We're going to use the money for client assistance," Martin said.

Gurden said they would be using the money for similar needs, for member programs, field trips and other materials it needs for day-to-day activities and learning tools. There were smiles all around at Tuesday's event, held at the South Central Indiana REMC community room.