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BLACK HILLS ENERGY MATCHES GRANT FUNDS FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE, \$40,000 TO BE DISTRIBUTED FROM WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION

Heartland Family Services serves as lead agency to coordinate grant

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, July 9, 2009 – A program to provide housing and energy assistance to local residents has grown by \$40,000. Black Hills Energy has matched \$20,000 in grant funds going to West Central Community Action, the state’s local community action agency, to help qualified customers pay for energy-related expenses.

The Iowa West Foundation (IWF) awarded an energy assistance grant to Heartland Family Service, which distributed \$20,000 of the IWF grant to West Central Community Action for the HEAT project. The distribution was fully matched today by Black Hills *Cares* – the energy assistance program offered by Black Hills Energy – resulting in \$40,000 available for energy assistance. Black Hills *Cares* is an ongoing program that matches customer and employee contributions, dollar-for-dollar, to provide assistance to local Black Hills Energy natural gas customers.

“The HEAT program is a collaborative effort between businesses, local organizations and many hard-working individuals all dedicated to helping others in the community,” said Nick Gardner, Black Hills Energy operations supervisor in Council Bluffs. “On behalf of Black Hills Energy, we’re excited to play a role in the HEAT grant and appreciate the partnership with those involved in making this contribution happen.”

“The mission of the Iowa West Foundation is to improve lives and strengthen communities, and this grant for energy assistance helps do just that,” said Jerry Mathiasen, IWF’s Senior Vice President. “Our board receives many grant applications, but this one fits well into our focus area of human and social needs,” Mathiasen added.

Heartland Family Service serves as the lead agency in the HEAT grant collaborative effort by writing the grant, coordinating collaborative meetings and submitting the impact report to the Iowa West Foundation. Along with Heartland Family Service and West Central Community Action, the other partners funded through the HEAT grant include American Red Cross, Interfaith Response, Southwest 8 Senior Services and The Salvation Army. Since 2007, Black Hills Energy (and its predecessor Aquila) have been matching HEAT program funding resulting in \$90,000 for energy assistance.

Black Hills Energy serves 149,500 natural gas customers in 130 Iowa communities. Black Hills Energy is part of Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) — a diversified energy company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice — is based in Rapid City, S.D., with corporate offices in Golden, Colo., and Omaha, Neb. The company serves 759,000 utility customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company's non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity, produce natural gas, oil and coal, and market energy. Black Hills employees partner to produce results that improve life with energy. More information is available at www.blackhillscorp.com.

The Iowa West Foundation is headquartered in Council Bluffs, and its funding for grants comes primarily from investment income and also the Iowa West Racing Association, which receives contracted fees from casino operators – Ameristar and Harrah's. The foundation's web site is www.iowawestfoundation.org.

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