



Vibrant communities with a positive future.

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VIP Winners Announced



The winners of the 2017 Volunteers Impact PRIDE (VIP) Grant Program have been announced. You can read all about it in my most recent news release:

MANHATTAN, Kan. – *“Work and live to serve others, to leave the world a little better than you found it and garner for yourself as much peace of mind as you can. This is happiness.”* – David Sarnoff, American radio and television pioneer

In that spirit, the [Kansas PRIDE](#) program has announced the winners of its 2017 Volunteers Impact PRIDE (VIP) Grant Program.

- Almena for playground replacement
- Grinnell for roof repairs
- Lincoln for sidewalks and improvements
- Norton for community signage
- Russell for walking trail and wellness

If you would like to read more of this news release, please visit <http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/news/news-stories/2017-news-releases/january/volunteers-impact-pride-2017.html> Congratulations to our VIP communities! -*Madison Blevins, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Student Office Professional* madisonmb@ksu.edu

Week of PRIDE 2017



A proclamation is ready to be signed to designate May 21-27, 2017 as Week of PRIDE. Although this week is designated as Week of PRIDE, we are going to exercise last year’s rule: if you have a community event, celebration, or any other work that will take place from

mid-April to the first week of June – you can “own” that time as your community Week of PRIDE. The reason – anytime is a good time to volunteer!

This year there are many more opportunities to partner, and we have two organizations that your community can reach out to:

Our New Partners – The Kansas Masons!

If you don’t know a local mason, contact our office and we will get you a contact. If you don’t have a lodge in your community – we can help you find one near you and begin building a relationship!

48-Hours of 4-H (484H)! We are cross-promoting volunteer efforts this year! [Contact your local Extension Office](#) to get 4-H Youth involved in planning and implementing your projects!

[CLICK HERE for your handbook](#) – which has many great ideas on what types of projects to tackle if you need inspiration.

We are so very excited to see what your local PRIDE groups achieve this year! - **Jaime Menon, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Program Manager**
jmenon@ksu.edu

Ashland PRIDE and 4-H Work Together



September/October is traditionally when Ashland PRIDE decorates the Main Street business district for fall. This year they decided to try something new. Since 4H week

was October 2nd – 8th, they decided to see if the local Cimarron River 4Hrs would want to help out.

16 hay bales were donated and 26 pumpkins for the project. About 10 of the bales were spray painted to look like Minions with their blue overalls, and 4 were sprayed with green overalls with the 4H clover! They also had volunteers paint Minion pumpkins. Where there wasn’t a Minion bale, there would be a plain bale with a couple of Minion pumpkins.

It was a great way to work together with the kids, they were a big help putting the faces together and placing the hair just right! Both organizations gained from this project by working together for a civic purpose, getting a little advertising for 4H week, and PRIDE had some new ideas with great helpers!

They kept all of the Minions up throughout the fall season, then wrapped the hay bales as Christmas presents & added some cute signage. They even had four 4Hrs show up to help us on that dark, cold and windy night.

Working with the 4Hrs and their leaders adds so much fun to our projects and gain great ideas & learn from each other! - **Loree Krier, Ashland PRIDE**

Grainfield Youth PRIDE



We have been fortunate to have a Grainfield Youth Pride for the past 6 years. It started with the youth of our community helping with Pride and Community projects. Some of the projects they have completed:

1) Helped construct an Enclosed Sand Volleyball Court in the City park.

2) Pulled weeds on a vacant lot on Main Street.

3) Helped assist the Grainfield Community Development Committee (aka Grainfield Pride) plan and carry out Cruise Shoes & BBQ's on Memorial weekend. This year they planned and constructed a human Foosball game and helped with kid's games.

4) On Halloween our Pride group and Youth Pride teamed up to provide a free outdoor Haunted House. Our community supports us so much that we wanted to give something back to them and it turned out to be a huge success!

Our Youth Pride have been given a \$2500/yr budget for them to plan community projects that they will carry out and complete along with their leader. Our High School Senior Youth Pride members can apply for a Scholarship provided by GCDC as a thank you for their volunteerism. We have a lot of fun while helping give back to the Community. We encourage all Pride groups to involve their youth and are proud to lead by example. **-Denise Gillespie, Grainfield PRIDE**

Events Calendar

Award Application Dates:

February 15 (for Recognition Awards, Growth and Action and PIP)

Week of PRIDE – May 21-27

Quarterly Report Dates:

April 15th

July 15th

October 15th

January 15