

UPDATE: \$250K given to Rotary's Eagle Point campaign

By Amy Kent Assistant Editor | Posted: Thursday, May 7, 2015 12:53 pm

CLINTON — The Clinton Rotary Club is about 40 percent of the way to \$1 million and a big portion of that total came in a single donation from the Armstrong Curtis Foundation.

In an announcement Thursday, marketing committee chairwoman Kellie Hillis shared the news of a \$250,000 donation from the foundation to the fundraising efforts of the Rotary Club for the renovation of the Eagle Point Park Lodge.

Not only will the donation add a significant amount to the total fundraising goal of \$1 million, fundraising chairman Dee Willoughby said it also provides a strong foundation for other donors to join the campaign.

“The foundation has a history of supporting projects that really add value to the community and (we’re grateful) they chose to participate in this one,” Willoughby said. “Any great project needs champions, and the more champions we can get on board, the easier it is for others to catch the vision and want to be a part of it.”

The Armstrong Curtis Foundation joins a handful of other donors for the project which has generated nearly \$400,000 in donations in a few weeks of campaigning. With a pace already set, Willoughby is confident the organization will reach its desired goal, and perhaps surpass it with the momentum it has already gained.

Willis said that confidence and encouragement is a contagious feeling and it’s not only Willoughby and the fundraising committee feeling optimistic for the June 30 fundraising deadline.

Gaining \$250,00 with just one donation, that just adds to the optimism.

“I’m leading the marketing support side and normally the philosophy is to ask big and hope that you get 25 to 40 percent of the ask,” Hillis said. “Then they come back with the full amount; that’s why



Rotary Club: 'Why not this project?'

In this April photo, Clinton Rotary Fundraising Committee Chairman Dee Willoughby (left) shares his club’s vision for the Eagle Point Park Lodge with numerous community leaders. The \$1 million campaign is part of Rotary’s 100-year celebration.

we are so thrilled about this.”

The Eagle Point Park Lodge, built in the 1930s, was a project designed by the Work Progress Administration.

Since its construction, there have been additions and upgrades, but as it continues to age, facing crumbling walls, outdated fixtures and increased usage, the Rotary Club knew it was in need of major improvements.

The \$1 million renovation will include leveling out the entrances and updating the bathrooms for ADA compliance, creating a grand entrance that will accommodate buses, expanding the veranda on the east side facing the Mississippi River to allow for outdoor event space, aesthetic interior and exterior improvements plus the addition of a small meeting or bridal room.

It’s a project that has gained enthusiasm from donating organizations in the private sector, and the hope is when the group reaches a little more than half of its goal, it will gain the same interest from the community, committee members said.

“Most of what we’re doing right now is private asking, we haven’t hit the public yet because we want to build a list of supporters so when we do hit the public they know that the Rotary Club is serious about making this project happen,” Hillis said. “We want to be able to come out in a few weeks and say we’re 60 percent of the way there, using that with the list of everyone who has contributed to encourage the community to get involved.”

Willoughby has no doubt the call to the community will be answered with open arms.

“The Rotary Club is doing this in celebration of their 100th anniversary and to give back to the community that has always given so much support,” Willoughby said. “It’s (\$1 million goal) absolutely realistic. It takes a great asset of our community, and brings it to a new level.”

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