

# Rural Healthcare

Medical emergencies can be especially frightening for residents of rural communities. They rely on volunteer First Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians

## **FULFILLING A NEED**

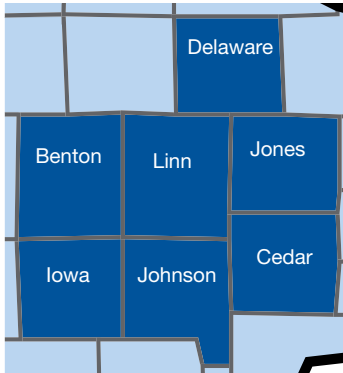
In the early 1980s, Iowa was experiencing a farm crisis as real estate values plummeted and farm foreclosures became a common



to have the critical training and up-to-date equipment to stabilize their condition so they can be safely transported to a hospital.

Your gift ensures that Emergency Medical Service volunteers in rural communities will have the life-saving training and equipment they need.

occurrence. This placed a strain on rural communities to fund their own emergency medical services. In response, St. Luke's Foundation established the Rural Healthcare Endowment Fund to strengthen healthcare in rural areas. The Foundation reached its \$150,000 endowment goal through corporate and individual donations. Once the endowment was established, grant requests continued on an annual basis.



Since its inception, the Rural Healthcare Endowment has awarded over \$275,000 in matching grants to support emergency medical services in Benton, Cedar, Delaware, Iowa, Johnson, Jones and Linn counties.

**PARTNERING FOR STRONGER RURAL HEALTH**

Rural emergency medical organizations provide services that are critical to the health and well-being of their residents and communities. There is minimal, if any, local funding for vital equipment and training. St. Luke's Foundation puts its mission in motion by partnering with these

groups.

Nonprofit medical emergency services located within

St. Luke's Hospital service area can apply annually for matching grants.

A grant committee, whose members represent St. Luke's

Foundation and rural healthcare communities, decides which applications to award.

Medical equipment and training made possible through Rural Healthcare Grants include:

- CPR compression device
- Defibrillator
- Carbon Monoxide Oximeter (detects carbon monoxide poisoning)
- Medical and dental transportation expenses for older rural residents
- Ambulance cot
- Ambulance upgrade
- Training mannequin
- EMT basic training
- Pediatric advanced training

Most First Responders/EMTs in rural areas are volunteers. The equipment and vehicles they use are not usually funded by local taxes; they depend on donations to cover operating expenses.

*You mean so much to rural communities.*

Please complete the enclosed pledge card today or call St. Luke's Foundation at 319/369-7716.

