

# Community Grants Report

June 2020



## Smoky Hills Public Television, Literacy Leadership for Cloud County Children

**Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, \$1,500, Awarded 05/29/2019**

**Project Summary:** Smoky Hills Public Television requests \$1,500 to provide books to children enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start and to purchase broadcast rights to children's educational television programs.

**Use of Funds:** We provided three books to each of the 54 children enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start in Cloud County. The remaining was used to purchase broadcast rights for children's educational TV programs.

**Impact & Results:** Kathy Dawson, Head Start Literacy Coordinator for Republic, Cloud, and Ottawa counties told us: "The books from SHPTV through the Community Foundations is a very important part of our curriculum in all three counties. The books are oftentimes a way that we can extend classroom learning into the home. As evident in the pictures, the books are read to the children in the classroom or in the case of EHS [Early Head Start] at the home visit. These teachers are trained Early Childhood professionals who have the skills to use a book to teach beyond the story.



Also, we have a program in Head Start called 'Hubie the Hero' (a cartoon dog that helps promote extra learning at home). Teachers send daily slips home that reflect what the family can do that evening to support the curriculum-such as 'Practice counting to ten three times during the evening.' Then the slips are signed and returned to be recorded for each individual child! So one night, the slip will say, 'Read the new book from SHPTV as a bedtime story'."

Because of grants like yours, we were able to give at least one book to over 2,300 children enrolled in Head Start or public preschool in central and western Kansas. In addition, we provided free Share A Story events in 71 community libraries and the finest children's educational television programs (e.g., "Sesame Street", "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood", and "Dinosaur Train") to over 40,000 children ages 2 to 12, including 8,000 children living in poverty.