2009 Awards

More than half-a-million dollars in new grants awarded in February 2009

$273,000 in grants to support recreational programs administered by the Parks & Recreation Department

- The Build-A-Dream program will receive $30,000 to fund scholarships for 360 children to attend activities and programs during the fall/summer 2009 season, which includes swim lessons, summer day camps, sports and recreational classes.
- The Dream Music program will receive $13,000 for youth to receive free music lessons, which could fund up to 2,340 participants in three locations.
- The LEAF Program will receive $15,000 for the planting of 375 trees in Arlington neighborhoods and public spaces.
- Eight city parks will benefit from $100,000 in new playground shade structures, which will protect playground equipment from the hot summer sun and allow children to play without the threat of heat-related injury.
- Randol Mill Park will receive $100,000 for barrier-free playground equipment, which will allow the park to become the City's first fully accessible playground for children with physical and mental disabilities.
- Elzie Odom Recreation Center and Meadowbrook Recreation Center will share $15,000 for facility upgrades and general repairs.

$57,700 in grants to libraries and literacy programming

- Lamar High School will receive $10,000 for upgrades to the school library. The goal is to develop a 21st century library that provides contemporary fiction and nonfiction library resources in web-based formats that include e-books and i-pods.
- Dunn Elementary will receive $2,700 for computer laptops for teachers and students to support advanced learning.
- The City of Arlington Public Library System will receive $45,000 for two projects: To enhance special collections at the Central Library and increase retention and the overall success rate of students enrolled in the Family Literacy program.

$27,300 to underwrite local beautification efforts that enhance safety and quality of life

- Arlington Code Ranger program will receive $2,300 for volunteer recruitment and recognition programs.
- The Public Works and Transportation Department will receive $13,500 for facility upgrades to park and ride lots.
- Mt. Olive Day Care will receive $11,500 for new security fencing and locks for its playground and school yard.

$73,900 in grants awarded to support local arts and culture

- Arlington Historical Society will receive $17,900 for upgrades at Knapp Heritage Park.
- The Arlington Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee will receive $5,000 for a jazz festival at the Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts.
- Friends of the Levitt Pavilion will receive $30,000 for a children's series and concert series.
- Theatre Arlington will receive $20,000 to fund its ACTS UP program.
- The Vietnamese Community of Tarrant County will receive $1,000 for a Vietnamese Memorial Day essay-writing competition.

2009 Awards

$137,700 dedicated to programs which will help strengthen Arlington's youth and families

- The Arlington Life Shelter will receive $13,000 for a healthy lifestyle/wellness program and cooking classes for homeless families.
- Arlington Urban Ministries will receive $15,000 for emergency utility and rental assistance programs for at-risk, working families.
- The Boys & Girls Club will receive $20,000 for its SMART program, which focuses on self-esteem, positive peer involvement and anti-drug initiatives.
- Teen Court will receive $3,000 for more volunteer recruitment and recognition.
- The Down Syndrome Partnership will receive $4,000 to fund a summer camp for children. The Looe the Training Wheels Program is modeled after a nationally recognized initiative which teaches bicycle skills and development skills among children with Downs Syndrome.
- Dental Health Arlington will receive $10,000 to fund oral health scholarships for approximately 1,250 students in the first, second and third grade in five economically disadvantaged schools.
- The Filipino American Church will receive $1,500 for a science/garden tutoring program at Short Elementary School.
- Friends of the Levitt Pavilion will receive $10,000 for concert series sponsorship.
- HOPE Tutoring will receive $10,000 for tutoring services and materials for at-risk students.
- Mental Health Retardation will receive $15,000 for the first-of-its-kind multi-sensory environmental room for disabled clients at the MHMR Vision Center.
- Miracle League will receive $10,000 for its upcoming spring baseball season, offering children with mental and physical disabilities a free team sports experience.
- Mission Metroplex will receive $20,000 to fund a transportation program, which takes clients to and from healthcare appointments, job training, school and after-school programs.
- Special Olympics will receive $5,000 for year-round sporting activities for individuals with disabilities.
- The Vietnamese Community of Tarrant County will receive $1,200 for upgrades to its community center, which has the potential to serve more than 12,000 members of the local Vietnamese community.

The Foundation is currently evaluating the next round of applications for Building Safe & Strong Neighborhoods. Recipients will be announced in July.