

Local support makes 'After the Bell' program possible

To keep the cost of the "After the Bell" program free to participants, the program has relied on the generosity and support of the local community to fund the program expenses for the past 13 years. During the 13 years the program has existed, 615 different youth have participated. Many of these youth attend the program for all three years they are in middle school. Funds are needed to cover the cost of snacks, program supplies and paying staff who provide daily supervision for the 2017-18 after school program.

Donations were recently received from the Merrill Eagles Aerie 584, T. B. Scott Library Board, T. B. Scott Library Staff through their Casual Friday's fund, and Turtle Lake Forestry LLC. In addition, After the Bell received a grant earlier this

year through Lincoln County Safe and Stable Families and a donation from the Knights of Columbus to assist with supply expenses.

"After the Bell" is a free after school program available for all middle school students whether they attend public or parochial school from 3:05-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday in Room 118 (enter the school through Door 14) at the Prairie River Middle School on regular school days. The program offers middle school youth a safe, easily accessible place to go after school where they have the opportunity to participate in positive enrichment activities and to learn new skills. Participants are supervised by an adult supervisor(s) with assistance from community and high school volunteers. Each day the program offers

students a place to choose to participate in enrichment activities, do their homework, play board games, visit with friends, and/or have a snack. Students do not need to attend the program every day but can choose which days they wish to attend.

If students are interested in participating, they can pick up information and required forms in the Prairie River Middle School office, T.B. Scott Library, the UW-Extension office or the first day they attend the program. Forms are also available on the Lincoln County UW-Extension website at <http://lincoln.uwex.edu/>, click on 4-H Youth Development, then After the Bell Program. Completed forms must be turned in the second time you attend the program.

If you are interested in volunteering or in making a donation to the "After the Bell" 2017-2018 school year program, please contact Ann Stoeckmann, Program

Coordinator at 715-536-3016 or via e-mail at astoeckmann77@gmail.com; or Debbie Moellendorf at the Lincoln County UW-Extension office at 715-539-1077 or via e-mail at deborah.moellendorf@ces.uwex.edu.



Bob Grusnick, Merrill Eagles 584 Aerie President presents a check for \$100 to Debbie Moellendorf, UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator for the 2017-18 "After the Bell" program.



T. B. Scott Library staff members present a donation of \$125 to Ann Stoeckmann, Program Coordinator for this year's "After the Bell" Program through their Casual Friday donation. Pictured are (left to right): Carolyn Forde, Ann Stoeckmann, Stacy Stevens, Laurie Ollhoff, Ellie Schwartz, and Kevin Wendt.