

NT Foundation receives special \$2,500 donation

By Megan Kennedy

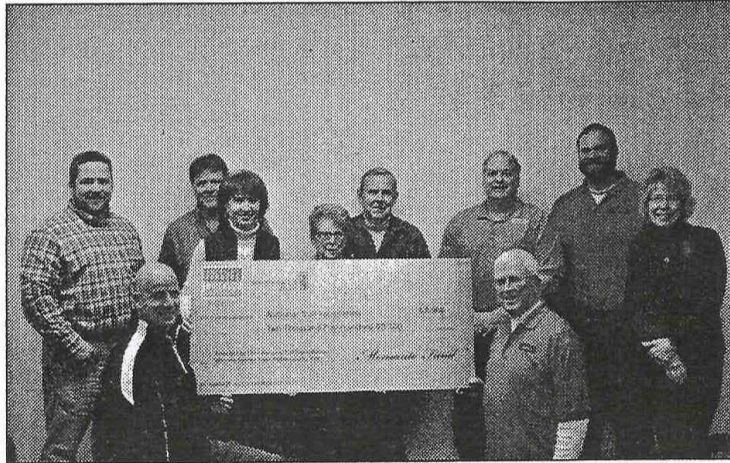
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Thanks to the Monsanto Foundation, the National Trail School Foundation received a donation from June Cottingim Wednesday, Feb. 12, totaling \$2,500 for scholarship opportunities.

The NT Foundation, formed in 2005, is a non-profit educational foundation within the National Trail School District. Under the umbrella of the Dayton Foundation, National Trail's School Foundation cultivates and accepts donations from the National Trail Local School District to build scholarship opportunities for students.

The check presented to the school was won by June Cottingim from the Monsanto Fund. The fund is a "nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening farm communities where farmers and Monsanto Company employees live and work," according to a press release from Monsanto.

The donation will benefit students who are



National Trail School Foundation received a \$2,500 donation from June Cottingim, the recipient of the America's Farmers Grow Communities award from Monsanto.

interested in agriculture and are "involved in 4H or agriculture as an extra-curricular and is going on to college not just as agriculture, because that can narrow the pool," said treasurer of the NT Foundation, Sheryl Arnett.

"So many farmers' kids who have been so active, go into business [majors in college] to be able to come back and help the farm."

"For 2014 we are launching a program that will directly benefit the school systems, and go the schools," said Bill Bowers

of Dekalb and Asgrow, an affiliate of Monsanto. "Monsanto Foundation is always running different campaigns such as America's Farmers Grow Communities... Student-focused campaigns are pretty frequent."

Cottingim, whose farm includes grain and cattle, was chosen by the America's Farmers Grow Communities, one category of grants within Monsanto, to choose a non-profit of her choice. Cottingim said she chose the Foundation due to the fact that her grandchildren attended National

Trail.

Over 82,000 farmers nationwide nominated non-profits in their communities. Winners were chosen from 1,300 counties over 39 states of the farmers who applied.

Greg Arnett, a trustee with the NT Foundation, said he hopes to see a connection grow between the Foundation and Monsanto, in terms of Career Day. "Obviously we like to work with Monsanto for any potential future donations or to assist kids," said Greg Arnett.

"It opened up our eyes to some programs we did not know were available and that we, as a Foundation, can maybe help our Foundation grow so we can do more," said Sheryl Arnett.

The \$2,500 scholarship will be spread over five years, contributing \$500 each year to five different students.

Donations can be made through mail or the NT Foundation's website at nationaltrailsschoolfoundation.org.