



2025 July Grants

Contact: Thomas H. Webb, Jr., Executive Director

Phone: 479-755-6880

twebb@thedegenfoundation.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Smith, AR (August 19, 2025) – The Degen Foundation is pleased to announce the July 2025 Grant Awards. These organizations are making a difference in our area, especially to the clients that utilize their services. After the sale of Sparks Hospital in 2009, The Degen Foundation was reorganized and now awards grants to other nonprofit organizations that provide health services and promotes health and education to the needs of the uninsured and the underserved population in the seven county area that we serve.

Grants totaling \$442,104.00 were awarded in July to the following organizations.

Please visit The Degen Foundation website for more information on grants:

www.thedegenfoundation.org

The Arkansas Colleges of Health Education is a supported organization of The Degen Foundation. They received a grant in the amount of **\$389,587.00** to purchase new high fidelity manikins, and hospital beds for the Simulation Lab and replenish funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the Registered Student Organizations of ACHE.

The integration of high-fidelity pediatric manikins and an additional labor and delivery high-fidelity manikin into the curriculum will significantly enhance student doctor education, patient safety, and overall patient outcomes. The addition of pediatric high-fidelity manikins represents a new and vital expansion of the curriculum, demonstrating the institution's growth and commitment to advancing medical education. This addition directly aligns with the mission of the ACHE by fostering the education of a diverse group of highly competent and compassionate health care professionals.

In 2017, The Degen Foundation donated funds for the Registered Student Organizations to be managed by the Office of Student Affairs. A few examples of the past use of these funds include: ACHE Day of Service (2 years); Latino Medical Student Association: Pop-up clinic to help an underserved community by completing glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings; Surgery Club: Heart smart Quick Response Key Chain; Blue Phantom Branched Four Vessel Ultrasound Training Block Model for a workshop to teach students new skills; and a PT Fit Future Program.

Pictures of the new Sim Lab Equipment and hospital beds will be available soon!

THE DEGEN FOUNDATION

2025 July Grants

We are pleased to announce that The Leflore County Hospital Authority dba Eastern Oklahoma Medical Center received a grant in the amount of **\$28,867.00** to purchase equipment for training purposes: An AXEL Patient Simulator – a full bodied simulator with real-time speech and built-in audio-visual recording capabilities. AXEL scenarios help build critical thinking, decision-making, and priority-setting skills. Funds for a Simulaids STAT Baby Simulator, which is the most lifelike simulator for infant care, were also awarded. Utilizing an easy-to-use iPad, the instructor can satisfy every training need for post-neonatal care of pediatric patients, including basic concepts to advanced medical procedures. These purchases will help EOMC, and their staff better respond to emergencies as this will improve staff's expertise, knowledge, and ability. It will also leverage the training devices for local nursing students to improve their skills and prepare for a career in healthcare.

Pictured left to right are:

Tom Webb, Executive Director; Tiffany Griffis, CEO at EOMC; Payne Hall, Degen Board of Director; Darla Ford, CNO at EOMC; Bob Cooper, Degen Board Chair; Rebecca Ameis, Director of Grants & Scholarships

<https://eomchospital.com>



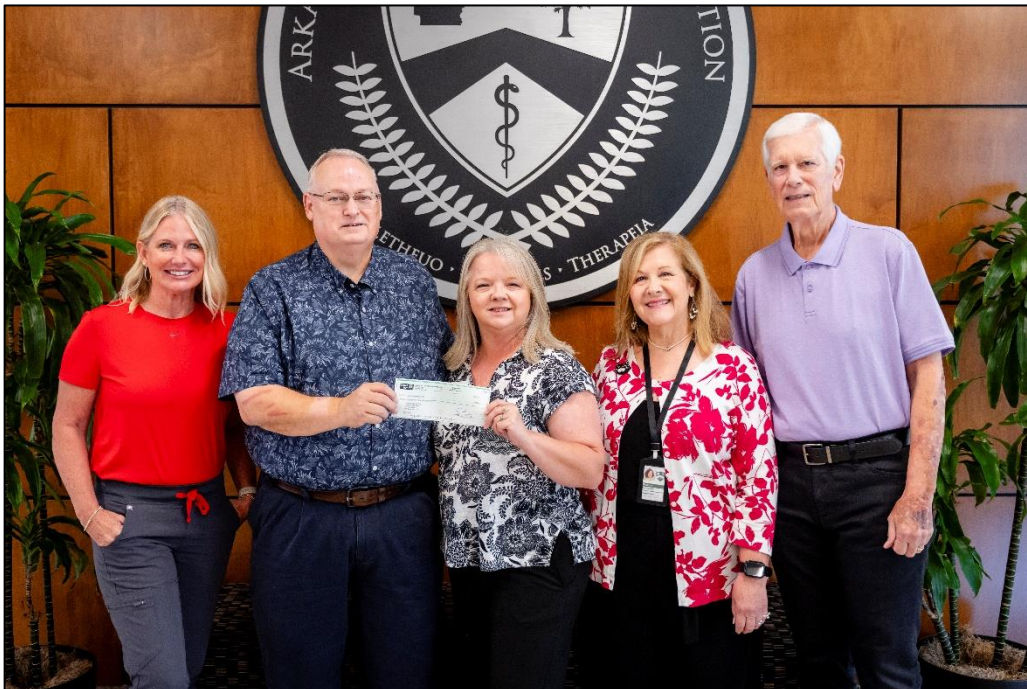
THE DEGEN FOUNDATION

2025 July Grants

The Community Dental Clinic – a United Way Agency, was awarded a grant of **\$19,400.00** to purchase three (3) Cavitron 300 Ultrasonic Scaling systems (6 scalers, and 6 holders) to update their dental hygiene equipment. This will equip the clinic with the latest technology for effective periodontal treatment and oral health maintenance. The Cavitron uses high-frequency sound waves and water to break down stubborn tartar and bacteria painlessly and efficiently. This means they can provide faster, more comfortable, and more thorough cleanings helping more patients in less time. The Cavitron system is an industry-leading tool that allows more effective removal of plaque, tartar, and calculus, thereby improving patient outcomes in both preventive and therapeutic treatments.

Pictured left to right: Lisa Woodard, CDC Clinic Director; Marc Baker, Executive Director at CDC; Mitzy Little, United Way Rep & Degen Vice Chair; Rebecca Ameis, Director of Grants & Scholarships; Tom Webb, Executive Director

<https://www.cscdc.net/community-dental-clinic>



THE DEGEN FOUNDATION

2025 July Grants

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Diamond Hills, also a United Way agency, received a **\$4,250.00** grant to help establish Community Hygiene Closets in their units in Alma, Mountainburg, Mulberry and Paris to ensure all children have access to essential care.

They feel that hygiene closets are important!

“They ensure that individuals, especially youth and families in need, have consistent access to essential personal care items. By providing basic hygiene supplies, these closets help promote health, dignity, and confidence, reducing barriers to participation in school, work, and community life. “The Boys & Girls Club of the Diamond Hills mission is to enable all youth, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

Pictured left to right: Tom Webb, Executive Director; Brooklyn Ball: Site Coordinator at Alma; Avery Westfall, Alma Unit Director, B&G Club; Mitzy Little, United Way Rep and Degen Vice Chair, Rebecca Ameis, Director of Grants & Scholarships

<https://www.bgcdiamondhills.org>

