

POET awards \$3000 to local community groups

The Review Times, July 23, 2021

By Alexa Scherzinger, Staff Writer ascherzinger@advertiser-tribune.com

FOSTORIA - In March, POET Biorefining announced the Never Satisfied grant program, which provides money for community organizations, schools, churches, environmental groups and others that want to improve their town. This week, POET's Fostoria facility awarded \$3,000 in grants to three organizations: The Franciscan Earth Literacy Center, Court Appointed Special Advocates and Seneca County Family and Children First Council.

Each of the three recipients was awarded \$1,000. FELC, which provides environmental education to promote sustainable living, plans to use the money to install an area where students can learn to clean, prepare and package produce. Specifically, the funds will go toward installation of a sink, a work and weigh station, and a storage area within the greenhouse.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates - known as CASA - serve Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot counties. CASA will use its \$1,000 share to train at least three volunteers in the Seneca County area to assist abused, neglected and dependent children involved in children's services court proceedings.

Finally, the Seneca County Family and Children First Council will use the funds to start an after-school program in the Fostoria area. The grant will provide program supplies, funding for background checks and other more. The council works within the community to provide youth mentoring and after-school programs in an effort to promote positive youth development.

The POET Never Satisfied grant began four years ago as an extension of POET's student scholarship program. Since then, POET plants have awarded nearly \$100,000 in grants to 50 groups and individuals, not including this year's recipients.

POET Fostoria has been open since 2008 and employs 40 people.

"POET has always made it a priority to give back to our communities, especially those most in need," said Karl Charron, general manager of POET Biorefining - Fostoria. "Each of these organizations provide valuable and necessary services to our community members, and POET is proud to support their initiatives."