

# Local Knights of Columbus councils present donations

By **Tim Johnson**

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Each year, the Council Bluffs Knights of Columbus councils pass out Tootsie Rolls and collect money for people with intellectual disabilities.

This year, the four Council Bluffs councils – St. Peters, St. Patrick’s, Queen of Apostles and Holy Family – raised a total of \$13,057.89, according to member Steve Kidder. Each council donates to the local organizations of its choice. Leaders presented checks to the recipients Feb. 20 at Queen of Apostles Church.

Together, Kidder said, the councils made the following donations:

- Council Bluffs Community School District, \$2,422.09
- Crossroads of Western Iowa, \$1,656.77
- Friends Inc., \$577.90
- Lewis Central Community School District, \$1,822.49
- Ministry of Mentally Handicapped, \$765.33
- St. Albert Catholic Schools, \$2,204.44
- Special Olympics Iowa, \$1,187
- Vocational Development Center, \$2,422.09

The purpose of the Knights of Columbus is to provide spiritual growth for its members and opportunities for service to the parish and to the larger community, according to the local councils’ website. The Knights work on a broad range of projects for their church, community, council, family and youth. Membership in the Knights of Columbus is available to all practicing Catholic men 18 or older.

The Iowa Knights of Columbus promote respect for human life in all its stages; support their pastors and their parishes in the work of the church; support military personnel here and abroad; donate to local charities supporting persons with intellectual disabilities; volunteer in their communities in a variety of charitable ways; offer their members vital insurance benefits; and offer their members opportunities for fraternity.

The Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest lay Catholic organization, with more than 1.8 million members around the world. The order was founded 130 years ago in 1882 by the Rev. Michael J.

McGivney at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn. The original intent to provide welfare and security for families during times of sickness and death has grown so that, last year, Knights donated more than 70 million hours of volunteer time and \$158 million to charity.