



Thomas County Community Foundation Melinda Olson (left) talked with Bob Muirhead of Midwest Energy, Orvella Romine, program director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County, and Doug Finley, chairman of the Big Brothers board of directors when they gave the group a check.

## Big Brother receives gift to start endowment fund

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County recently received a \$1,000 donation from the Midwest Energy Community Fund and CoBank, to be used to start an endowment fund.

Big Brothers Big Sisters created the endowment fund with the Thomas County Community Foundation, to support their activities in the area.

"We are so appreciative of the grant received by Midwest Energy for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County Endowment Fund at TCCF," said Melinda Olson, executive director of the foundation. "This is a very new fund and it is still working on becoming fully endowed, so this donation will be a huge help in reaching that goal."

"Anyone can make a tax deductible donation to this fund, and we encourage others in Thomas Coun-

ty to give in order to build sustainability for Big Brothers Big Sisters," she said. "Our endowment funds ... are an investment in our local organizations, so they will be here to serve our communities well into the future."

In January, Midwest's Community Fund made a \$5,000 investment that was matched by a \$5,000 "Sharing Success" grant from CoBank. This \$10,000 pool, administered by the Heartland Community Foundation, has given ten \$1,000 donations to charitable organizations to help establish their own endowment funds to support future projects.

For information about the Midwest Energy Community Fund, or questions about the grants, contact Muirhead at (785) 650-2502, or e-mail [bmuirhead@mwenergy.com](mailto:bmuirhead@mwenergy.com).

## Chief accused of stealing sweepers

DRESDEN, Tenn. (AP) - This was no ordinary theft.

A former McKenzie police chief is accused of stealing city property, including a tractor and two street sweepers.

The *Jackson Sun* reports (bit.ly/10bcLbG) 64-year-old Bobby Pate was arrested Tuesday on theft and official misconduct charges. Pate was indicted after the Ten-

nessee Bureau of Investigation searched his property and discovered missing items that included a John Deere tractor, two street sweepers, a portable trestle hoist and two laptop computers.

The items were valued at over \$10,000 and went missing between 2010 and the end of 2012, while Pate served as chief. He retired in December.

Pate is free on a \$5,000 bond. A phone number listed for him was temporarily disconnected.

He is scheduled to be in court on June 13.

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