PUNCH WOODS ENDOWMENT GRANT AWARD SELECTIONS 2016-17
The descriptions below provide a snapshot of each organization and the projects that funds from the Punch Woods Endowment Grant will assist. Descriptions are pulled directly from each organization’s application.

CAA Faith Ministry, Inc. - $2,500
CAA Faith Ministry, Inc. has been producing and donating fresh garden vegetables to the Rural Accent Food Pantry in Bowie and the Willcox Food Pantry for several years. Their goal is to extend this service by beginning fruit production. They would like to build a screened fence enclosure to begin growing berries and grapes. These fruits are currently scarcely available to the low income residents in the area and providing berries and grapes in addition the fresh garden vegetables would provide beneficial nutrition to recipients.

Flowers & Bullets - $5,000
Flowers and Bullets is a grassroots collective that began in 2012 and includes 23 families in the Barrio Centro/Julia Keen neighborhoods (south of 22nd, west of Alvernon, north of Aviation Hwy, east of Tucson Blvd.). On January 1, 2017, the collective will begin leasing the vacated Julia Keen Elementary School to creative a collaborative community center. They plan to develop a portion of the 9-acre property into a demonstration garden that will provide access to fresh produce as well as nutritional and gardening education for the community.

Iskashitaa Refugee Network- $5,000
Iskashitaa Refugee Network harvests unused fruit in Tucson’s backyards while educating Southern Arizonans about local food production, native foods, food waste, food sovereignty, and hunger alleviation and uses food as an entry point for immigrants and refugees. Their citrus harvesting program has been coordinated and overseen by temporary volunteers, but with increasing demand, has become increasingly more challenging. They plan to hire a harvesting coordinator for the peak citrus season and are in the process of securing additional funding sources to keep this position permanently.

San Xavier Cooperative Association - $5,000
The San Xavier Cooperative Association’s Wild Foods Community Harvest Program works with Tohono O’odam community members in the San Xavier District to learn how to harvest, process, and prepare traditional wild Sonoran Desert foods in a cultural and environmentally healthy way. Currently, this program provides training on cholla buds in the spring and mesquite pods in the summer. They plan to extend this education into the fall with a prickly pear program which will include harvesting, training on how to incorporate prickly pear into the diet, and provide an opportunity for individuals to sell processed juice and other prickly pear items for extra income.

Southwest Community Center - $500
The Southwest Community Center primarily serves the Drexel Heights neighborhood through the distribution of food boxes to nearly 10,000 families per year. They seek to provide an opportunity for community members to have access to gardening education to reduce food insecurity by encouraging urban gardening. They plan to implement a community garden that will be used as an educational tool to teach neighbors how to start and maintain a backyard garden.

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED: $18,000