

**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

A group of women in Imperial feel fortunate for their circumstances and lives. They want to share that with others.

Called "The Giving Circle," the group, which formed in May of 2008, meets once a month to discuss projects that benefit either the city or individuals. They then give financial assistance to the project voted upon.

The group was initiated by Leslie Carlholm, who had read of a similar project in another town. She and Jo Leyland put their heads together to come up with who might be interested, Leyland said.

Word of mouth also has added to the list of those participating, which now numbers 43 women.

Each member donates whatever amount of money she wishes to, and all of the money goes to one project per month. That project is decided by a vote of the members present at the meeting.

Projects have included paying for gas for cancer patients, toilet paper and soap dispensers at the city park restrooms, painting playground equipment, purchasing a flag pole for Schroeder Park and contributing toward supplies for the area foster care program.

The group meets the third Monday of each month, at 5:30 p.m. in various locations around Imperial. For more information contact Leyland at 882-5468.