disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. For forty years, my work in Congress has supported these local efforts at the State and local level, including in Hamilton County, to fund a range of renovation and construction grants, and Jewell’s tremendous success in downtown restoration through Main Street Iowa grants. Among the highlights:

**Main Street Iowa:** One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn’t just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa’s heart and soul is providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Jewell to use that money to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Jewell to use that money to revitalize downtown business districts. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and communities.

**School grants:** Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That’s why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $320 million have helped school districts improve their facilities and increase prevention and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Hamilton County has received $308,341 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Hamilton County have received funds that I designed to help Star Schools for technology totaling $65,000.

**Agricultural and rural development:** Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—more than 10 years as chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that included initiatives to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State.