



Kansas
Welcomes You!

McDonald's Grocery

LOGAN COUNTY

2 TICKETS

Choylin Preschool Kagan \$12,500.00
Twice Throat Fire

WELCOME
to
Downs
Celebration

GRANT RECIPIENT
USD 327
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

2024
ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER NORTHWEST
KANSAS
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
WE ARE OUR AFFILIATES

Foundation Relationships

Host Foundation



GREATER NORTHWEST KANSAS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Affiliate Foundations



Agency Foundation



Supporting Organizations



Foundation Relationships

Host Foundation

GNWKCF is a public charity, a non-profit organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. GNWKCF manages a variety of fund types for individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and community foundations. Fund types include: administrative, designated, donor-advised, field of interest, organization, and scholarship.



Affiliate Foundations

GNWKCF provides the legal 501(c)(3) structure for all foundations with an affiliate status. These local foundations receive our full services and benefits, including administrative, accounting and investment services, donor relations and legal guidance, foundation staff and board training, and more.

Agency Foundation

GNWKCF provides accounting and investment administrative services for all select established funds. Our back-office support allows the local foundations to focus on their mission as they build donor relations to help donors achieve their philanthropic goals. They are independent 501(c)(3) foundations.

Supporting Organizations

GNWKCF provides guiding oversight for these organizations who are unable to meet the IRS public-support test for being an independent 501(c)(3); our supported relationship allows them to meet specific IRS requirements. Funds are managed by GNWKCF and their full assets are compiled and accounted for on our 990, but the supporting organization is responsible for filing their own independent 990 as well. Supporting organizations have their own governing board of directors and receive similar accounting and investment support and services from GNWKCF as an Agency Foundation.

Agency Partners

GNWKCF recognizes one foundation as a partner. They are an independent 501(c)(3) foundation, but the only funds we currently manage for them are their Hansen-initiated funds that this foundation oversees for their respective county. We also recognize some organizations as Agency Partners, we reference those who have established at least one endowed organizational fund under GNWKCF directly (not under a county or community-specific foundation). GNWKCF provides accounting and investment administrative services on endowment funds of these organizations and foundations.

We are our Affiliates!

"We are our Affiliates!" is not just a slogan, it is what drives and fuels our passion to empower them to become the best foundation serving their communities.



VISION

Our vision is to strategically guide our Affiliates to:

- Inspire Donors To Give
- Prudently Grow Contribution
- Connect Gifts To Causes



CORE VALUES

Integrity: Earning the trust of those we serve by operating ethically and transparently.

Excellence: Always striving for higher standards and quality performance.

Community: Collaborating around a common goal or interest.

Visionary: Finding potential and opportunity with progressive ideas to forge new paths forward.

Resilient: Having the ability to adapt to dynamic circumstances and gain strength through transformation.



MISSION

Our mission is to empower our donors, affiliates and charitable partners through education, stewardship and regional collaboration, to create thriving communities and impact present and future generations.



WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

A community foundation provides a philanthropic vehicle to receive donations and bequests for their local geographic area. Both endowed and non-endowed funds are developed to provide financial support to 501(c)(3) and other qualifying charitable non-profit organizations including government, education, and religious entities.



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Our Impact

+\$111,432,883
asset growth in 15 years.

+\$22,585,790
impact in 15 Years.

Celebrating 15 Years of Growth, Giving, and Impact

In 2024, we proudly marked our 15th anniversary—a milestone that reflects the dedication, generosity, and unwavering commitment of our affiliates, donors, and partners. What began with a vision to strengthen our rural communities has grown into a powerful movement of philanthropy that now reaches across 15 counties in Northwest Kansas.

Our foundation started the 2024 year with \$90,127,242 in assets, and thanks to the tireless efforts of our affiliates, we closed 2024 with \$111,432,883 in assets. This growth directly translates into greater impact, with every dollar reinvested into the communities we serve. Over the past 15 years, together we have awarded more than \$22 million in grants and scholarships, creating lasting change across our region.

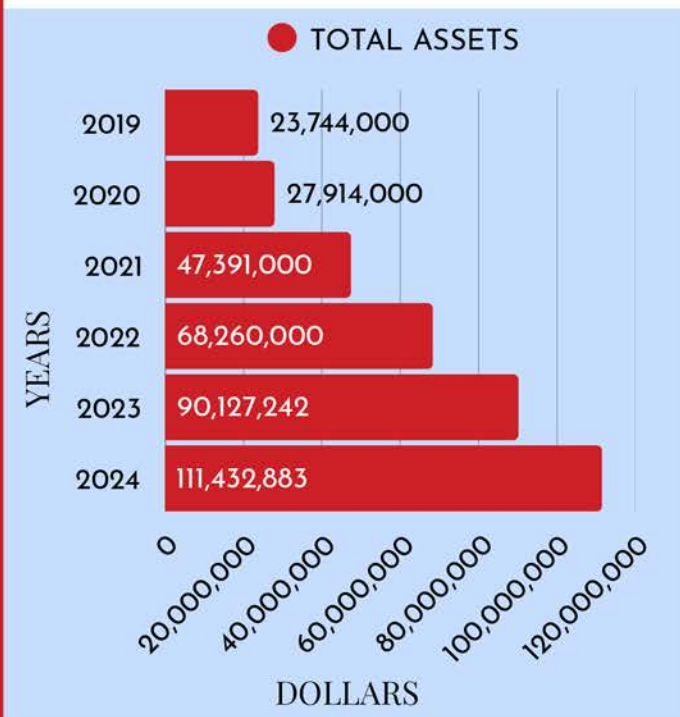
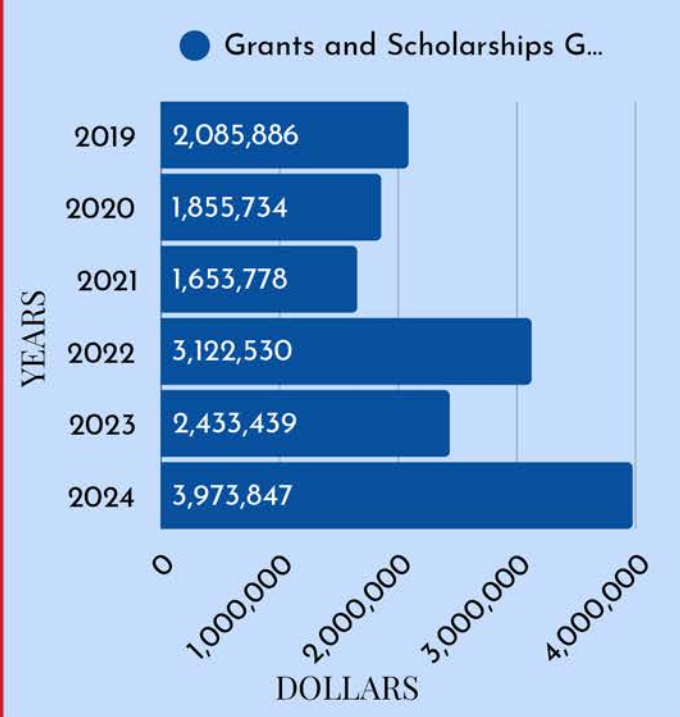
Beyond financial impact, we have strengthened our foundation's capacity to serve. Since the launch of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation's part-time staffing initiative in 2021, followed by the Hansen/Patterson Family Foundation's full-time staffing initiative in 2024, the number of managed funds has surged 155%, growing from 284 in 2022 to 438 today. Nearly all of our affiliate foundations now have a full-time staff member, ensuring that philanthropy continues to thrive at the local level.

This success is made possible by our affiliate and partner staff members—who are the heart of this movement. As we look back on 15 years of impact, we also look forward with excitement. Imagine what we will accomplish in the next 15 years!

Together, we are building a legacy of generosity, transformation, and hope for Northwest Kansas. Here's to the next chapter of making a difference—because together, we can achieve so much more!

GNWKCF DIRECT FUNDS

TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS	TOTAL ASSETS
41	\$8,276,449	\$15,958,689



*Preliminary (unaudited) financials as of December 31, 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position
Year-Ending December 31, 2024

\$111,432,883.49	\$15,598,347.75
TOTAL ASSETS	Cash & Cash Equivalents
\$ 725,136.61	\$ 77,180,330.05
TOTAL LIABILITIES	Investments
\$ 110,707,746.88	\$ 18,294,205.69
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	Other Assets

Message from Our Hero in Chief

As we look back on the past year, we can sum up 2024 as a year of significant growth and milestones.

In 2024, we welcomed four new affiliate foundations – Graham, Logan, Norton, and Wallace – bringing our total to 13 affiliates within our 15-county service region. We saw an increase of 70 new funds, and our assets grew to \$110 million—a remarkable rise from \$13 million in 2015.

Our foundation staff and board members participated in a comprehensive SWOT analysis in early 2024, strengthening our operational structure as we prepared for anticipated affiliate growth. In March, the Hansen and Patterson Foundations announced their co-developed Full-Time Staffing Grant Initiative, providing all our affiliate foundations with the opportunity to secure full-time directors. This impactful initiative will help advance philanthropic activity throughout Northwest Kansas. By the end of the year, we had 26 W-2 employees (GNWKCF direct staff and affiliate staff), a significant increase from 14 in 2023.

Founded in 2009, Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation (GNWKCF) celebrates its affiliates, partnerships, donor relationships, dedicated staff members, visionary board members, and the many success stories created over the past 15 years. To acknowledge both the growing pains and achieved accomplishments, GNVKCF marked its 15th anniversary with a special celebration for our affiliated staff members, featuring a day of team-building activities and learning. See photos of this event below. With strong leaders and committed staff driving our success, our team remains our greatest asset.

As we celebrate this year's achievements and our 15-year milestone, we invite you to explore our annual report to learn more about GNVKCF, our affiliated partnerships, and the many accomplishments shared in these pages.

A heartfelt thank you to all our donors – you are helping us make a lasting impact in building a stronger future for Northwest Kansas.

Darci Schields

Executive Director/CEO



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

our board superheroes

MIKE POSSON
Board Chair
Independent (Norton County)

CHUCK MOORE
Board Member
Thomas County Community Foundation

RAELENE KELLER
Board Member
Logan County Community Foundation

JOAN MCKENNA
Vice Chair
GROW Decatur County Foundation

HARRY JOE PRATT
Board Member
Independent (Sheridan County)

TRAVIS RICKFORD
Board Member
ACE Foundation (Rawlins County)

TOM KELLER
Treasurer
Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation

TONY HAFFNER
Board Member
Friends of Cottonwood Ranch (Sheridan County)

JOHN O FARMER IV
Board Member
Russell County Area Community Foundation

MITCH GILLESPIE
Secretary
Gove County Community Foundation

KRISTYN YOST
Board Member
Independent (Sherman County)

2024 GNWKCF STAFF

our staff superheroes



DARCI SCHIELDS
Executive Director/CEO



ANDI CULWELL
Director of HR and Affiliate Relations



CAROL SLOPER
Director of Grants & Scholarships



JANE YOUNG
Director of Finance



GENNIFER GOLDEN-HOUSE
Director of Donor Services



COLEEN JENSEN
Office Manager



MAKAYLA NORRIS
Affiliate Relations Coordinator



DORIS CLINGENPEEL
Grants & Scholarships Coordinator



JANA LABARGE
Accounting Clerk

2024 AFFILIATE STAFF

CF staff superheroes



JOELLYN ARGABRIGHT
Executive Director
ACE Foundation



JESSICA MATTHIES
Director
Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation



KAREN STORRS
Director
GROW Decatur County Foundation



SHEYENNE DILLAHEY
Director
Gove County Community Foundation



CRYSTAL BEHANNA
Director
Graham County Community Foundation



KERRI TRAYNOR
Executive Director
Logan County Community Foundation



BETHANY SHIRK
Executive Director
Norton County Community Foundation



MINDY MILLER
Executive Director
Osborne County Community Foundation



SHELLEY NUEMANN
Administrative Asst
Osborne County Community Foundation



ANGELA MULLER
Executive Director
Russell County Area Community Foundation



KARL PRATT
Executive Director
Sheridan County Community Foundation



KERISSA PAYNE
Program Officer
Sheridan County Community Foundation



SOFIA WHITE
Special Projects Coordinator
Sheridan County Community Foundation



TINA WOLAK
Director
Sherman County Community Foundation



COLBY RICHARDS
Executive Director
Smoky Hills Community Foundation



AMBER BROWN
Director
Wallace County Foundation

Foundation Funds



Direct Funds of GNWKCF

Carol and Douglas Sloper Family Fund
Coleen and Jay Jensen Family Fund
Dane G. Hansen Fund for Logan - Endowment Fund
Dane G. Hansen Fund for Logan - Grant Fund
Domsch Family Fund
Douglas M. and Mary L. Albin Family Fund
DSNWK - Alfred & Barbara Rietcheck and Sons Endowment Fund
DSNWK - Andy Betzen Memorial Endowment Fund
DSNWK - Jim and Rose Blume Endowment Fund
DSNWK - Joey Weber Endowment Fund
DSNWK - Live with Purpose Fund
Erma and Bob John Memorial Scholarship Fund
Frontline Workers Fund
G.H. Lippelmann, Jr. Educational Trust #1 Scholarship Fund
GNWKCF Affiliate Services Enhancement Fund
GNWKCF B & L LLC
GNWKCF Land LLC
GNWKCF Pass-Thru Fund
GNWKCF Planned Giving Initiative Fund
GNWKCF Operating Endowment Fund
GNWKCF Operating Fund
Greeley-Wallace County Healthcare Foundation Fund
John and Rhonda Goddard Family Fund
Kale and Darci Schields Family Fund
Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation Fund
Lillian Lawson Memorial Fund
McDonald Community Development Fund
Morland Community Foundation Fund
Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund
Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth Endowment Fund
Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth Program Fund
Northwest Kansas Museum Coalition Fund
Nutri-Tech Ag Scholarship Fund
Opal and Adolph Harris Estate Scholarship Fund for Hill City
Richard and Darlene Brubaker Fund
Ryan and Andrea Culwell Family Fund
Special Olympics Kansas Fund
The Northwest Kansas Early Childhood Endowment Fund
Tri-County Leadership Fund
Wingfield Scholarship Fund

BCCII - Division of Funds



BCCII Operating Fund
Bird City 150th Celebration Fund
BCCII Business Incubator Fund
BCCII Community Initiative Income Fund
BCCII Scholarship Income Fund- Edgar and Mabel Robertson
BCCII Unrestricted Fund
Bird City Real Estate Fund LLC
Bird City Real Estate Fund LLC - Loan Interest Activity
Bird City-Cheyenne County Clinic Fund
C.W. & Sandra Antholz Fund
Cheylin Early Childhood Development Fund
Cheylin E-Community Fund
Cheylin Schools Foundation Fund
Helen Brubaker Immanuel United Methodist Church Outreach Fund
Jim and Cindy Leach Family Fund
Norman and Marguerita Magley Memorial Scholarship Fund
Robert Brubaker Family Fund
Roland Hoffman Memorial Scholarship Fund
Thresher Association Endowment Fund

ACE - Division of Funds



ACE Foundation Operating Endowment Fund
ACE Foundation Operating Fund
Algoth O. and Elma Lee Erickson Scholarship Fund
Andy Hanson Memorial Fund
Andy Hanson Memorial Scholarship Fund
Atwood Ambassadors Community Fund
Atwood Ambassadors Scholarship Fund
Atwood Jayhawk Theater Fund
Atwood Swim Team Fund
Atwood Swimming Pool and Park Project Fund
Atwood Township Fund
Barbara Creighton Reading Fund
Charles and Wilda Walker Family Scholarship Fund
Childcare Fund for Rawlins County
Connie Argabright Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donald A. Crane Scholarship Fund
Ed and Lee Keirns Athletic Fund
Frankie and Theresa Chvatal Scholarship Fund
Gary Reinert RCHS Wrestler Scholarship Fund
God's Little Saints Preschool Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Rawlins Co.
HomeTown Competitiveness Fund
Horton Family Scholarship Fund
Keith and Shannon Ross Memorial Scholarship Fund
Knights of Columbus Council #3033 Fund
Knights of Columbus Council #3033 Scholarship Fund
Kurt Dillon Foundation of Ag Scholarship Fund
Lillie Solko Conservation Fund
Megan Leitner AED Fund
Music Education Fund
Rawlins County 4-H Foundation Fund
Rawlins County Amusement Fund
Rawlins County Firemen's Fund
Rawlins County Future Fund
Rawlins County Math and Science Education Fund
Rod Beamgard Masonic Temple Fund
Ryan Bergling Memorial Fund
Ryan Bergling Memorial Scholarship Fund
Scott Chvatal Community Fund
United Methodist Church Endowment Fund
USD 105 Buffalo Strong Fund

CCKCF - Division of Funds



202 On Washington Fund
CCKCF Operating Endowment Fund
CCKCF Operating Fund
Cheyenne County Historical Society Fund
Cheyenne County Hospital Enhancement Fund
Cheyenne County Impact Fund
Cheyenne Co KS Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund
Cheyenne County Village Fund
David and Deanna (Gerver) Nelsen Family Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Cheyenne Co.
Junior and Deloris Knorr Family Fund
LRO Family Fund
St. Francis Educational Foundation Fund
St. Francis New Generation Fund
Vic Oelke Memorial Scholarship Fund

FOCR - Division of Funds



Friends of Cottonwood Ranch Fund
Friends of Cottonwood Ranch Grant Fund

GDCF - Division of Funds



Charles and Diane Frickey Fund for the Benefit of Decatur County
Decatur Community Fund for Recruitment and Retention of Health Professionals
Flora Elizabeth Boutz Edwards Endowment Scholarship Fund
Flora Elizabeth Boutz Edwards Scholarship Award Fund
Gateway Friends Foundation Fund
Grafel Family Fund
GROW Decatur County Community Initiative Fund
GROW Decatur County Foundation Fund
GROW Decatur County Foundation Operating Endowment Fund
GROW Decatur County Foundation Operating Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Decatur Co.
OES Playground Fund
TMJ Family Fund

GCCF - Division of Funds



Fund for Grainfield Fund
Gove County Community and Economic Development Fund
Gove County Community Foundation Operating Endowment Fund
Gove County Community Foundation Operating Fund
Gove County Community Foundation Opportunity Fund
Gove County Fair Board Scholarship Fund
Gove County Medical Center Education and Scholarship Fund
Grainfield Daycare Fund
Grow Gove County Fund
Grow Gove County Investments, LLC
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Gove Co.
Mitch and Carlene Gillespie Family Fund
Quinter Community Development, Jay Johnson Public Library Fund
Youth Project Fund

GRCCF - Division of Funds



Graham Co CF Operating Fund
Graham Co CF Operating Endowment Fund
Graham County Endowment Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Graham Co.

LCCF - Division of Funds



Bob J. and Edith L. Clark Family Fund
Cale Evins Memorial Fund
Charley & Roberta Salmans Scholarship Fund
Farmers State Bank Community Fund
Farmers State Bank Junior Bank Board Scholarship Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Logan Co.
Kevin and Kezia Uhrich Family Fund
Logan Co CF Operating Endowment Fund
Logan Co CF Operating Fund
Logan County Endowment Fund
Logan County Initiative Fund
Lowe Family Fund
Oakley Educational Foundation Fund
Oakley Parks Improvement Project Fund
Responding to Responders Fund
Stan Clark Family Memorial Education Fund
Tim Kowalski Second Chance Scholarship Fund
Wild West Historical Foundation Fund

NCCF - Division of Funds



Candace Gay Scholarship Fund
Colette and Mick Miller Family Fund
Crayons for Classrooms Fund
Deines - Smiley Scholarship Fund
Della Connell Scholarship Fund
Della Connell USD 211 Fund
DSNWK - Norton County Fund
Durham Family Scholarship Fund
Economic & Entrepreneurship Impact Fund
Empower Norton Fund
Gladys M. Harper Scholarship Fund
Glenn & Wilda Bowman Family Scholarship Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Norton Co.
James and Barbara Johnson Family Fund
Jim and Lida Sharp Family Fund
Leap of Faith Foundation Fund
NCCF Operating Fund
NCCF Operating Investment Fund
NCCF Property Investment Endowment Fund
NCHS Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
Norton Area Child Care Association Endowment Fund
Norton County Arts Council Endowment Fund
Norton NCCF Operating Endowment Fund
Norton County Community Service Assoc Endowment Fund
Norton County Endowment Fund
Norton County Health Department Fund
Norton County Historical Society Endowment Fund
Norton Flower Fund
Norton Mini Speedway Fund
Norton Rotary Scholarship Fund
Norton Theatre Endowment Fund
Promoting Norton County Initiative Fund
Secure Sebelius Lake Fund
Youth Skilled Therapy Assistance Fund

OCCF - Division of Funds



Brush Family Foundation Fund
Bull City Community Foundation Fund
Downs Community Connection Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Osborne Co.
Midway Coop Ag Fund
Osborne County Ag and FFA Programs Fund
Osborne Co CF Operating Endowment Fund
Osborne County CF Operating Fund
Osborne County Community Fund
Osborne Public Library Fund
Osborne United Methodist Church Fund
Poore Family Farms Fund
Rothenberger College Scholarship Fund
Rothenberger Scholarship Fund
Sims Family Fund
Totten Family Memorial Fund
Welch Family Memorial Fund

PCCF - Division of Funds



Hansen Community Grant Fund for Phillips Co.
Phillips Co CF Operating Endowment Fund
Phillips Co CF Operating Fund
Phillips Co Unrestricted Endowment Fund

RCACF - Division of Funds



Anthony and Rosanna Witt Fund
Bill Gilpin Fund for Russell County Youth Activities
Boehler Student Aid Fund
Boxberger Family Fund
Bronco Foundation Fund
Bronco Vocational Training Fund
Catholic Church, St. Mary's of Russell Kansas Endowment Fund
Catholic Church, St. Mary's of Russell Kansas Fund
Coronado Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America Fund
Crnic Memorial Charity Fund
David Goddard Fund for the Russell Boy Scouts
David M. Shumaker Memorial Geology Fund
David Ochs Memorial Scholarship Fund
Dean C. Banker Fund for the Russell County Historical Society
Derril and Marvel Castor Fund
Dick Phinney and Joy Phinney Jillson Russell Regional Hospital
Equipment Enhancement Fund
Dolores Y. and Robert L. Earnest Fund
Don H. & Sandy Krug Fund
Doran Bina Dole Scholarship Fund
Dr. Charles and Barbara Stinchcomb Fund
Dustin Poche Fund for the Arts
Edwin W. Olson Family Fund
Elaine Hilger Scholarship Fund
Ervin and Denzell Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship Fund
Ethel A. John Fund for Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma, KS
Ethel A. John Fund for the Natoma Community Center
Franc E. Wagner Fund
Fred and Joan Weigel Fund
Friends of Deines Cultural Center Emma M Gaines Fund
Fund for a Better Russell County Area
George and Cooper Gier 4-H Memorial Fund
Gerald W. Stoppel Academic Scholarship Fund
Girl Scouts of Russell, Kansas Fund
Grassroots Art Center Endowment Fund
Grassroots Art Center Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Russell Co.
Hazel A. Olson Trinity United Methodist Church Fund
Helen A Hampl Student Aid Fund
Helen Polcyn St. Mary's Catholic Church, Gorham Cemetery Fund
Henry and Marjorie L. Pohlman Donor-Advised Fund
Jay & Micki Sweeney Fund
Joel Stull Memorial Agricultural Scholarship Fund
John and Heather Fletcher Foundation Fund
Joshua Scholarship Fund
Kansas Health Foundation Fund For Russell County
Kay Shank Fund
Keep the Dream Alive Fund
Kenneth V. Dumler Memorial Scholarship Fund
Leon Huxman Donor Advised Fund
Marcie Adler Swimming Pool Memorial Fund
Mary's Kids Fund
Matt Driscoll Fund
Max & Whilmetta Horn Fund
Michael S. and Nancy G. Holland Fund
Michael S. Holland Fund for Russell Regional Hospital
Murphy Family Donor-Advised Fund
Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund
Myers Family Memorial Fund
Natoma Heritage Seekers Pohlman Building Fund
Natoma Presbyterian Church Preservation fund
Patrick R. and Elaine M. Hilger HOPE Fund
Paul E. Ruggels Memorial Scholarship Fund
Pay it Forward Scholarship Fund
Pohlman Family Scholarship Fund



Continued

Robert and Melinda Olson Fund
Rotary Club of Russell Fund
Russell Area Youth Activities Fund
Russell Backpack Fund
Russell City Cemetery Fund
RCACF Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund
RCACF Operating Endowment Fund
RCACF Operating Fund
Russell County Area Pass Through Fund
Russell County Disaster Relief Fund
Russell County Historical Society Legacy Endowment Fund
Russell County Historical Society Legacy Fund
Russell Co Historical Society Legacy Restricted Endowment Fund
Russell High School Class of 1952 Scholarship Fund
Russell Public Library Endowment Fund
Russell Public Library Fund
Russell Regional Hospital Endowment Fund
Russell Regional Hospital Fund
Russell Schools Apple Seed Fund
Saint John Lutheran Church, Russell, Endowment Fund
Saint John Lutheran Church, Russell, Kansas Fund
Saint John Lutheran Church, Restricted Endowment Fund
Sean Paul Banks Memorial Scholarship Fund
SPARC Fund
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Gorham, Building and Grounds Fund
USD 407 Fund
USD 407 Schools Improvement Planning Fund
V. Frankie and Reba M. New Fund
Wallace N. Weber MD Donor Advised Fund
Warren and Angela Gfeller Family Foundation

SDCCF - Division of Funds



SHERIDAN COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Bainter Family Fund
Cultivate Sheridan County Fund
Gerald A. & Darlene R. Schaffer Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Sheridan Co.
Hoxie Cemetery Fund
Hoxie Community Fund
Kathy Bergin-Schiltz Memorial Fund
Main Street Arts Council Fund
Opal and Adolph Harris Estate Scholarship Fund for Hoxie
Pheasants Forever Memorial Scholarship Fund
SCCF Benefit Fund
SCCF Properties, LLC
Selden Community Fund
Sheridan Co CF Operating Endowment Fund
Sheridan Co CF Operating Fund
Sheridan County Arts & Culture Fund
Sheridan County Childcare Fund
Sheridan County Community Initiative Fund
Sheridan County Health & Wellness Fund
Sheridan County Health Complex Fund
Sheridan County Historical Society Fund
Sheridan County Youth & Education Fund
Youth on the Move
Youth on the Move Scholarship Fund

SCCF - Division of Funds



Arts, Music and Culture Fund
Brianna Linin Memorial Scholarship Fund
Elizabeth Laing House Fund
FFA - Career and Tech Ed Fund
Fort Hays Tech - Northwest Fund
Gennifer Golden House Family Fund
Goodland Activities Center Fund
Goodland Beautification Fund
Goodland Kiwanis Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Sherman Co.
House-Chatfield Family Fund
Kim and Kevin Rasure Fund
Preserve the Pavilion Fund
Sherman Co CF Operating Endowment Fund
Sherman Co CF Operating Fund
Sherman County Childcare Coalition Fund
Sherman County Community Foundation Endowment Fund
Sherman County Community Initiative Fund
Sherman County Community Services
Sherman County Leadership Fund
Topside Manor Fund
Topside Trail Project Fund



SHCF - Division of Funds

Caryle Jean Bender Memorial Scholarship Fund
Charles and Velma Westerman Scholarship Fund
Dawn L. Pruitt Scholarship Fund
Delmar Kohls Memorial Scholarship Fund
Ellsworth Childcare & Learning Center Endowment Fund
Ellsworth Childcare & Learning Center Fund
Ellsworth County Cancer Fund
Ellsworth County Cancer Organization Fund
Ellsworth County Historical Society Endowment Fund
Ellsworth County Historical Society Fund
Ellsworth Senior Center Endowment Fund
Ellsworth Senior Center Fund
Geneseo Public Library Fund
Gladys M. Wagner Memorial Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Ellsworth Co.
Helen and Will Shanelec Fund
J.H. Robbins Memorial Library Endowment Fund
J.H. Robbins Memorial Library Fund
Joyce Nagel Health, Education and Recreation Fund
Kansas Health Foundation Fund for Smoky Hills
Lila Jean (Warta) Young Memorial Scholarship Fund
Miss Czech Slovak Kansas Pageant Fund
Smoky Hills CF Operating Endowment Fund
Smoky Hills CF Operating Fund
Smoky Hills Community Fund
Smoky Hills Healthy Living Fund
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Holyrood KS Designated Fund
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Holyrood KS Endowment Fund
The Eleanor Hunter Scholarship Fund
The Eugene Malir Designated Fund
The Fran Malir Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Geraldine L. Anschutz Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Heinze Endowment Fund
The Jack R Janousek Scholarship Fund
The Mary Hanzlicek Memorial Scholarship Fund
USD 112 Central Plains Fund
USD 327 Student Benefit Fund

TCCF - Division of Funds



15th Judicial District Scholarship Fund
Ambassadors of Kindness Scholarship Fund
Chuck Dempewolf Community Service Scholarship Fund
Cory R. Wang Memorial Scholarship Fund
Education Empowerment Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Thomas Co.
Joyce Gatlin Family Scholarship Fund
Ken and Courtney McCarty Single Parent Assistance Scholarship Fund
Lena J. Patterson CNA Nursing Scholarship Fund
Phoebe Harkins Memorial Scholarship Fund
Teri L. Morris Memorial Scholarship Fund
Terry Strutt Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Fonda Archer Moore & Alfred Moore Scholarship Fund
The Patrick and Sally Toth Scholarship Endowed Fund
The Sacred Heart Church Scholarship Fund
Thomas County CF Operating Endowment Fund
Thomas County CF Operating Fund
Thomas County Hansen Matching Endowment Fund
William H. Beck Outstanding Music Award Fund

WCF - Division of Funds



Allen & Berna (Cox) Scott Endowment Fund
Blaesi Family Fund
Fort Wallace Memorial Association Fund
Fox Still Memorial Scholarship Fund
Hansen Community Grant Fund for Wallace Co.
Harold and Eileen Frasier Memorial Fund
Legacy Track and Field Fund
Lisa Scott Scholarship Fund
Mac and Bill Jones Family Scholarship Fund
Ruth Jackson Memorial Scholarship Fund
W. Paul Kirkham Memorial Scholarship Fund
Wallace County Foundation Amusement Association Fund
Wallace County Foundation Grant Project Fund
Wallace County Foundation Operating Endowment Fund
Wallace County Foundation Operating Fund
Wallace County Foundation Unrestricted Fund
Wallace County Hansen Endowment Fund
WCF Properties, LLC



FUND TYPES

Donor Advised Funds

Donor's family can have ongoing involvement in the use of a gift. Advisors work with our professional program staff, identifying ways to use dollars from the Donor Advised Fund. Address the issues and needs the fundholder cares about most. Advisor's recommendations are submitted for approval; we then distribute grant dollars.

Unrestricted Funds

Gifts can address ever-changing community needs – including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time the gift is made. We evaluate all aspects of community well-being – arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health and human services, neighborhood revitalization, and more. The flexibility of unrestricted gifts enables each community foundation's program experts to respond to the community's most pressing needs, today and tomorrow.

Field of Interest Funds

Gifts can be targeted to address needs in an important area of community life. Arts, Food Bank, Youth Activities, Healthcare. Identify personal interest areas when making gifts; a grant committee awards grants to qualifying community organizations and programs that are making a difference in the selected area.

Designated Funds

A donor may direct gifts to a specific charitable nonprofit organization - either for unrestricted use or with guidelines. One may designate funding for a senior center, museum, church, or any qualifying nonprofit charitable organization. The named designee is the sole recipient of all grant funding.

Organizational Funds

A qualifying non-profit organization who meets the IRS requirements, this includes 501c3 public charities, education, government, and religious entities, may establish an organization "savings" account for its own benefit. Organization funds may be established as non-endowed or quasi-endowed, where only organization dollars are accepted for contributions directly into the established fund. Alternatively, it may also be established fully endowed, thus allowing outside donors to assist in growing the fund, designated for the organization's benefit. The named organization is the sole recipient of all grant funding.

Scholarships

Gifts can be invested in a community's future and show students they are cared for, all with the guidance and personal services of the community foundation. Donors determine the criteria students must meet to receive the Scholarship. With this type of assistance, students achieve their academic and career-oriented goals – from preschool to postgraduate work.

Establish a fund in your name!

Any of these funds can be established in the donor's name, or in the name of a family member, an organization, or in honor of someone. All grants distributed from the fund established— today and in the future— are then awarded to charities in the name of that fund. It's a great way to always be involved with, and remembered for, community investment.

Qualifying organizations to receive grant funding include 501c3 public charities, education, government, and religious entities.

Celebrating Generosity: **The Poore Family Farms Fund**

The story of the Poore Family is one deeply rooted in the soil of Osborne County. Seven generations have tended the ground on this site homesteaded in 1882 near Alton, Kansas. Since then, the Poore Family has passed down their love for agriculture and dedication to the land through generations. While farming practices have evolved from raising crops, milk cows, hogs, and chickens to 100% no-till crops with a cow/calf operation, the Poore Family's dedication to the land and farming remains unchanged. What began as a modest family farm has grown into a legacy of hard work, community involvement, and a commitment to cultivating the future.

In 2024, the Osborne County Community Foundation (OCCF) proudly welcomed a new addition to its family of funds: the Poore Family Farms Fund. This endowed fund was established to honor the legacy of Emery Poore and his family's deep connection to agriculture and education.

Emery Poore is more than a farmer; he is a visionary and a community leader who has instilled in his family a profound respect for the land and the value of education. A lifelong resident of Alton, Emery actively supported local initiatives and cherished his involvement with Future Farmers of America (FFA) during his youth. His legacy continues through his son, grandson, and great-grandchildren, all of whom have followed his path in agriculture and FFA, carrying forward the traditions he holds dear.

Craig Poore, Emery's grandson who played a key role in establishing the fund, shared his thoughts on its importance. "This fund is a way to honor my grandfather's lifelong dedication to farming and education. It's about giving back to the community that has been such a big part of our family's story and ensuring the next generation has the resources to succeed," he said.

The fund will support USD 392 Osborne County School's FFA program, including:

- Equipment to support vocational training programs to ensure students have access to state-of-the-art tools and technology.
- Essential materials and supplies to enhance hands-on learning experiences.
- Professional development for vocational teachers and student development via conventions, judging opportunities, and other initiatives.

Anyone who shares the Poore Family's passion for agriculture and education is encouraged to contribute to the fund. Every donation, no matter the size, strengthens its impact and helps cultivate a brighter future for local students. Contributions can be made through the OCCF website or by contacting the foundation directly.

The Poore Family Farms Fund stands as a beacon of community spirit, celebrating a rich agricultural heritage while fostering growth and opportunity for the next generation. Emery Poore's legacy will continue to grow, just like the fields he once farmed, ensuring that the values of hard work, education, and community endure for years to come.



2024 Scholarship Awards

Scholarship Name	Total
ACE Foundation	
Algoth & Elma Lee (Bearley) Erickson Scholarship (USD 294)	\$3,000.00
Algoth & Elma Lee (Bearley) Erickson Scholarship (USD 105)	\$3,000.00
Atwood / Beardsley Knights of Columbus Scholarship	\$2,000.00
Atwood Ambassador Scholarship	\$500.00
Barney Horton Family Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Charles and Wilda Walker Family Scholarship	\$500.00
Donald A Crane Scholarship	\$777.38
Frankie and Theresa Chvatal Scholarship	\$3,000.00
Gary Reinert RCHS Wrestler Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Keith and Shannon Ross Memorial Scholarship	\$500.00
Kurt Dillon Foundation of Ag Scholarship	\$500.00
Ryan Bergling Memorial Scholarship	\$1,600.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Bird City Century II Development Foundation	
BCCII Business Development Scholarship	\$4,000.00
Edgar & Mabel Robertson Scholarship	\$10,000.00
Norman & Marguerita Magley Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Roland Hoffman Memorial Scholarship	\$3,700.00
Roland Hoffman Memorial College Scholarship	\$1,850.01

Scholarship Name	Total
Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation	
Vic Oelke Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Gove County Community Foundation	
Gove County Fair Board Scholarship	\$2,000.00

Scholarship Name	Total
GROW Decatur County Foundation	
Flora Elizabeth Boutz Edwards Endowment Scholarship	\$4,500.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation	
Adolph & Opal Harris Scholarship - Hill City	\$3,000.00
G.H. Lippelmann, Jr. Educational Trust #1 Scholarship	\$1,400.00
Nutri-Tech Ag Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Wingfield Scholarship	\$4,000.00
Wingfield Scholarship College Renewal	\$3,000.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Logan County Community Foundation	
Charley and Roberta Salmans / Roberta Salmans Christie Scholarship	\$4,500.00
Farmers State Bank Junior Bank Board Scholarship	\$3,000.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Norton County Community Foundation	
Della Connell Scholarship (College Students)	\$6,900.00
Della Connell Scholarship (High School Students)	\$9,000.00
Candace Gay Memorial Scholarship	\$500.00
Durham Family Scholarship	\$500.00
Glenn & Wilda Bowman Family Scholarship	\$1,000.00
NCHS Alumni Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Norton Rotary Scholarship	\$1,200.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Osborne County Community Foundation	
Rothenberger College Renewal Scholarship	\$1,250.00
Rothenberger Scholarship	\$2,500.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Sherman County Community Foundation	
Brianna Linin Memorial Scholarship	\$4,500.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Sheridan County Community Foundation	
Adolph & Opal Harris Scholarship	\$3,500.00
Youth on the Move Scholarship	\$500.00
Pheasants Forever Memorial Scholarship	\$500.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Smoky Hills Community Foundation	
Caryle Jean Bender Memorial Scholarship	\$5,344.60
Charles & Velma Westerman Scholarship	\$4,257.50
Dawn L Pruitt Memorial Scholarship	\$1,671.66
Eleanor Hunter Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Fran Malir Memorial Scholarship	\$900.00
Geraldine L Anschutz Memorial Scholarship	\$1,200.00
Jack R Janousek Memorial Scholarship	\$839.61
Lila Jean (Warta) Young Memorial Scholarship	\$1,090.39
Mary Hanzlicek Memorial Scholarship	\$4,000.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Thomas County Community Foundation	
15th Judicial District Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Ambassadors of Kindness	\$1,000.00
Chuck Dempewolf Community Service Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Cory R Wang Memorial Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Fonda Archer Moore & Alfred Moore Scholarship	\$61,400.00
Joyce Lauritsen Gatlin Scholarship	\$5,000.00
Lena J Patterson CNA Nursing Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Sacred Heart Church Scholarship	\$500.00
Terry Strutt Memorial Scholarship	\$4,000.00
William Beck Outstanding Music Award Scholarship	\$1,000.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Wallace County Foundation	
Lisa Scott Scholarship	\$500.00
Mac and Bill Jones Family Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Ruth Jackson Memorial Scholarship	\$250.00
W. Paul Kirkham Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00

Scholarship Name	Total
Russell County Area Community Foundation	
Adolph Boehler Student Aid Scholarship	\$3,000.00
David Ochs Memorial Scholarship	\$4,700.00
Doran & Bina Dole Scholarship	\$12,500.00
Elaine Hilger Scholarship	\$2,000.00
Ervin & Denzell Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship	\$900.00
Gerald W. Stoppel Academic Scholarship	\$4,800.00
Kenneth Dumler Memorial Scholarship	\$900.00
Murphy Memorial Scholarship	\$900.00
Paul E. Ruggels Memorial Scholarship	\$2,300.00
Pohlman Family Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Sean Paul Banks Memorial Scholarship	\$1,200.00
Joshua Scholarship	\$25,500.00

scholarship superhero

SPOTLIGHT

LISA SCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Honoring a Legacy: The Lisa Scott Memorial Scholarship

A Tribute to Lisa Scott

In February 2020, Berna Scott, mother of Lisa Scott, and Virgil Scott Jr., Lisa's brother, established the Lisa Scott Memorial Scholarship through the Wallace County Foundation to honor Lisa after she passed away on September 25, 2019. The inaugural scholarship was awarded in May 2020 to Haylee Hennick. Since then, a \$500 scholarship has been granted annually to a graduating senior or former graduate of either Wallace County High School (USD 241) or Weskan High School (USD 242).

Lisa Scott was born on September 29, 1964, in Tribune, Kansas, to Virgil Allen Scott and Berna June (Cox) Scott. Raised on the family farm south of Wallace, she attended Harrison Flats School, Sharon Springs Elementary School, and graduated from Wallace County High School in 1982. Lisa faced many significant health challenges, having open heart surgery when she was 18 months old in 1966, again when she was 17 years old, and being diagnosed with schizophrenia when she was 23. After furthering her education at Garden City Community College, Lisa was a certified nurse assistant and certified medical assistant for a few years, at nursing homes in Sharon Springs, Minneola, and Garden City.

In honor of Lisa's memory, her family—Allen and Berna Scott of Sharon Springs, KS; sister Paula (Joe) Korbe of Garden City, KS; and brother Virgil Jr. (Diane) Scott of Broomfield, CO—created this endowed scholarship fund. The scholarship provides a lasting legacy to help students from Wallace County pursue secondary education.

Year	Recipient	High School	Institution & Major
2020	Haylee Hennick	USD 241	Kansas State University – Feed Science Management, double minor in Animal Science & Agribusiness
2021	Drayton Pletcher	USD 241	Fort Hays State University – Computer Science
2022	Calley Stubbs	USD 241	Butler Community College – Animal Science
2023	Gabriel Johnson	USD 241	K-State Polytechnic at Salina – Professional Pilot Program
2024	Breanna Medina	USD 241	Fort Hays State University – Social Work with a minor in Psychology

The Lisa Scott Memorial Scholarship continues to provide vital support to students pursuing higher education, ensuring that Lisa's legacy of kindness and resilience lives on.



LISA SCOTT



Honoring a Legacy of Giving: The Dean and Betty (Balloun) Boxberger Family Fund

In 2023, the Russell County community lost two of its most devoted and beloved members, Dean and Betty (Balloun) Boxberger. Married for 69 years, Dean and Betty's lives were a testament to the values of faith, family, and service. Their deep commitment to their community continues to live on through the newly established Boxberger Family Fund, a charitable fund dedicated to supporting causes close to their hearts.

Dean and Betty were lifelong residents of Russell, Kansas, where they built a life centered on faith and service. They were actively involved in their church, St. John Lutheran Church, and dedicated countless hours to community initiatives, including 4-H and various volunteer efforts. Betty, known for her warmth and devotion to children, worked in education as a paraprofessional, while Dean, a hardworking farmer and rancher, also served in the Kansas National Guard and local government. Together, they set an example of stewardship, generosity, and love for their family and neighbors.

The Dean and Betty (Balloun) Boxberger Family Fund, established by their family, will continue their legacy by providing grants to support charitable causes in Russell County and beyond. The fund ensures that Dean and Betty's lifelong dedication to service and faith will make a lasting impact for generations to come.

Community members are welcome to contribute to the fund through tax-deductible donations at any time. Contributions help sustain the values they cherished, preserving their vision of a strong, supported, and connected community.

How do you want to be remembered? How will you leave your mark on the community?

As you make plans for the future, these are important questions to consider. And if you are like many others in our community, developing a planned gift may be part of your response. Planned giving offers you a way to make a gift to your local Community Foundation during or after your lifetime. These gifts are created to help you meet your personal, philanthropic, financial and estate planning goals.

From simple to very complex, **there is a planned giving option for every situation.** We encourage you to have a conversation with the community foundation and your professional advisor to select the best solution for your goals.

Leave a Legacy

Looking to give back to your Northwest Kansas community through a charitable gift in your will?

Let Us Help You:

DEVELOP AN OUTLINE: Meet with estate planning attorney, John Griffin with Stewardship Counseling at no charge, to design a plan that includes your charitable wishes. He'll help you outline your overall estate plan, not just the charitable aspect.

COMPLETE THE DOCUMENTS: You will meet with your own attorney, to finalize the legal documents.

FINAL REVIEW: John reviews your final documents before signing and will connect with your chosen attorney, if needed. During this process, you will meet with your local community foundation to complete paperwork on the charitable gift component.

Ready to make a difference?

Contact your local community foundation to initiate the conversation about leaving a lasting impact.

Contact Gennifer Golden House at gennifer@danehansenfoundation.org for more detailed information on utilizing Stewardship Counseling's services.

Dane G. Hansen Foundation Partnership



Dane G. Hansen Foundation impacting change in 26 Counties

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation (DGH), established in 1965, has been a partner to GNWKCF since 2015. DGH has provided support through a number of initiatives for its 26-county territory to expand charitable activities in Northwest Kansas to: build a sustainable pool of dollars available to meet ongoing and future needs; empower community members to confidently plan for the future of their hometowns; and increase community knowledge and visibility of local community foundations. GNWKCF works with 15 of the 26 counties, and Greater Salina Community Foundation works with the remaining 11 counties.

Dane G. Hansen, through his generous estate gift, has enabled the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to establish and maintain a huge footprint in the "Magic Corner" of Kansas. You too can leave a legacy that lasts forever by remembering your community foundation in your estate plan! Contact GNWKCF today to find out how. (785) 734-2406

2024 Community Foundation Initiatives:

Community Grant Funds: Dane G. Hansen Foundation gives \$25,000 twice a year promised through 2026; provided the respective communities actively participate in the Strategic Doing process.

Matching Endowment Funds: Dane G. Hansen Foundation matches \$1 for \$1 up to \$50,000 during a community foundation declared Match Month, promised through April 2029. Also as of May 2022, offers incentive grants of \$45,000 for the local foundation's operational endowment fund and \$5,000 for their general operating fund. On top of that, the Patterson Family Foundation matches \$1 for \$1 up to \$70,000 during a community foundation declared Match Month.

NWKansas Gives: This initiative was introduced in 2019 to offer technical assistance and education to area community foundations, by Dane G. Hansen Foundation, to capture the transfer of wealth occurring over the next few decades. Through this program, donors wishing to make a charitable gift that impacts Northwest Kansas have access to estate planning attorney, John Griffin of Stewardship Counseling, to help design a plan.

Staffing Grants: Dane G. Hansen Foundation is offering optional operational grants to the 26 county-wide community foundations. Foundations may apply for a \$10,000 grant per year (in years 2021-2025) to provide funding for a part-time staff or consultant position to assist the foundation with general operations. In 2024, Dane G. Hansen Foundation and Patterson Family Foundation partnered to provide the community foundations the opportunity for full-time staffing grants, up to \$60,000, promised through 2026.



Patterson Family Foundation Partnership



The Patterson Family Foundation, based in Kansas City, Missouri, is a family-led foundation that extends the legacy of Neal and Jeanne Patterson. The Foundation's mission, "Working together to help rural communities thrive," is carried forward through strategic grantmaking and other collaborative initiatives that serve rural counties across Kansas and western Missouri.

The Patterson Family Foundation, believes that thriving rural communities aren't just about the numbers—they're about the people who choose to live there. A strong and engaged community is built on essentials like access to good jobs, quality healthcare, educational opportunities, and a sense of belonging. But keeping rural communities strong doesn't happen on its own—it takes all of us working together. That's why they focus on working with local leaders, businesses, and organizations to invest in the areas that matter most, ensuring that rural places don't just get by but thrive for generations to come.



ACE Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS
\$3,034,640

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS
\$626,543

TOTAL FUNDS
41

In June of 2024, the Dane G. Hansen Foundation staffing initiative allowed ACE to hire a full-time Executive Director, JoEllyn Argabright. JoEllyn's primary focus surrounds asset growth and increased visibility of the Community Foundation. The ACE Foundation is committed to the betterment of Rawlins County and looks forward to deepening its impact under this new leadership model.



In addition to supporting community projects and initiatives, the ACE Foundation is spearheading the Strategic Doing Process. Increased leadership and support of emerging leaders was identified as a need across the county. ACE promoted the Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth Internship program, proudly increasing the number of participating businesses to ten! ACE Foundation and Rawlins County Economic Development are partnering to implement the Main Street Program through Kansas Department of Commerce in Atwood. This framework provides technical assistance, access to financial support, and initiatives to promote a thriving and sustainable downtown area.

GRANT FUNDING PURCHASES AERATOR - The Lillie Solko Conservation (field of interest) Fund was established in 2017 to support the betterment of soil health or conservation of the Earth. In 2024 the Rawlins County Soil Conservation District was able to purchase a Ranchworx aerator, supported in part by a \$10,000 community grant and the Lillie Solko Conservation Fund!

Grants Funded in 2024:

- Ambassador Community Meeting Room & Storage Demo Project
- Herndon Community Signs
- City of McDonald Street Signs
- Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas Teaching to Save Lives Program
- Grass Roots Institute of Kansas Community Kitchen Equipment
- Bufaloes to Bufaloes Head Start Community Program
- Rawlins County Food Pantry Updates
- Main St. Arts Council Aladdin Production
- McDonald Community Development Clean Up on Decatur Ave.
- NW Kansas Foundation for HOPE
- Rawlins County Conservation District Aerator Purchase
- Rawlins County Economic Development Programmatic Support
- Rawlins County Health Center X-Ray Room Equipment Upgrade
- Special Olympics Kansas Clinic & Wellness Program
- Worship by the Water 2024 Event



Production of Aladdin by
Main Street Arts Council



Rawlins County Conservation District received grant funds from the Lillie Solko Conservation Fund to purchase an aerator.

McDonald Community Development received some grant funding to assist with the structures in McDonald.



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Lori Marintzer
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CHEYENNE COUNTY KANSAS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Building the Foundation of Tomorrow

Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS

\$2,938,818

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$523,567

TOTAL FUNDS

15

CELEBRATING LONG TERM LEADERSHIP - Farewell to Tom Keller and Tom Smull

We would like to take a moment to honor two incredible men who have dedicated countless hours to the Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation. Tom Keller and Tom Smull, who have served as vital pillars of our organization for many years, have now transitioned to emeritus committee members. Their visionary leadership and tireless dedication have helped shape the foundation into what it is today. We celebrated their retirement with a special evening of tribute, but no event could truly capture the depth of our gratitude for their contributions. Though their absence from meetings will be felt, we look forward to their continued involvement and the lasting inspiration they leave behind. Thank you, Tom and Tom, for everything you've done!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT - A Lasting Impact on Cheyenne County

Born and raised in St. Francis, KS, one of five children of Ed & Rachael Keller, is Bill Keller. Bill loved growing up in St. Francis; and, as he has gotten older, he has an even greater appreciation for the experiences growing up in St. Francis, going to school there, and having an opportunity to be involved in many activities and organizations. Bill's wife, Cindy, also grew up in a small town, Pratt, KS. Both have an appreciation for the value of the lessons learned and experiences lived by growing up in a small town. Bill's home just northwest of St. Francis was his official home from 1950 until 1975, when he went out into the big world, taking a job in Kansas City. Bill and Cindy have lived in Pratt since 1982. Bill and Cindy both feel fortunate to have parents who were very active in their communities in supporting charitable and community causes. The Kellers believe very strongly in continuing the tradition of giving back that they learned from their parents. Contributions of time and treasure are particularly important for smaller communities because of the limitations they face with a small population base. Small towns have always been an important part of the success of the nation, and they want that influence and value of small towns to continue. Bill and Cindy are proud to be able to contribute to the Community Foundation in St. Francis because they know that it is doing great work in helping the community survive and thrive. "St. Francis will always be Bill's hometown, and we are honored to support such a great community." - Cindy & Bill Keller



Junior Board Member Projects

Kierra Penka's Teacher's Lounge Revamp at St. Francis Elementary

Kierra Penka, a senior at St. Francis Community High School, led our very first junior board member project. Kierra, alongside her fellow interns, developed a plan to give back to the teachers who play such a vital role in our community. She wrote a successful grant proposal, and, through the St. Francis New Generation Fund, USD 297 St. Francis Public Schools was awarded \$1,900 to revamp the upstairs teacher's lounge. Kierra's creativity and leadership have made a significant impact on the educational environment at St. Francis Elementary. Thank you, Kierra, for your dedication!



Emily Serrano's "Snacks for Students" at Cheylin Public School

Emily Serrano, another one of our inspiring junior board members, took the initiative to support her school community. Emily spearheaded a project to bring a new vending machine to USD 103 Cheylin Public School, which was made possible through a \$1,900 grant from the Cheyenne County Impact Fund. The "Snacks for Students" project has already made a positive difference, providing students with easy access to snacks during the school day. Emily's commitment to her community is truly inspiring!



Jessica Matthies
Executive Director

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Tom Smull
Tim Burr
Cliff Leach
Gaby Carmichael
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Gove County Community Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

2024: A Year of Growth, Impact, and Record-Breaking Success at GCCF

TOTAL ASSETS
\$2,213,012
TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS
\$641,855
TOTAL FUNDS
14

In 2024, the Gove County Community Foundation (GCCF) celebrated a year of extraordinary milestones, transformative grants, and record-breaking achievements. Thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and community, we've continued to build a brighter future for Gove County.

One of the highlights of the year was our incredible success during Match Month, where we completely exceeded our goal and raised a record-breaking \$288,975. This achievement is a testament to the generosity of our community and the incredible matching initiatives from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and the Patterson Family Foundation. Their support inspires us to reach new heights and create lasting change in Gove County.

Another major milestone this year was the hiring of Sheyenne Spresser as our first full-time director. This step was made possible by the generosity of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and their grant supporting full-time employees for community foundations. Sheyenne's leadership has already brought renewed focus and energy to our work, including the relaunch of the Youth Board. Under her guidance, we are empowering local students to engage in philanthropy and leadership, ensuring that the values of generosity and community stewardship continue to thrive in Gove County.

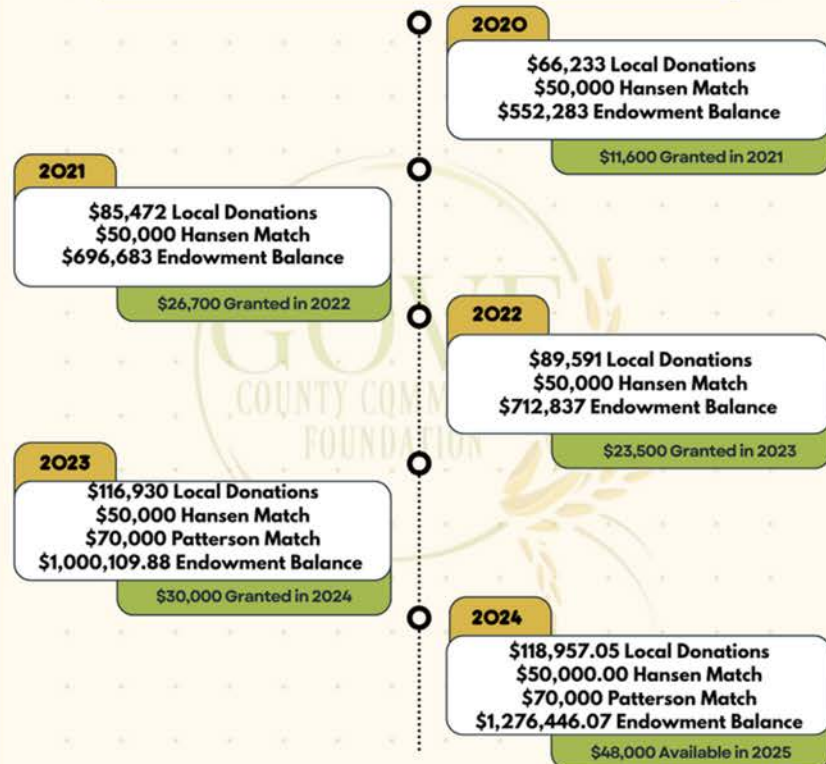
As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2024, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who has supported GCCF. Together, we have built a stronger, more vibrant Gove County, breaking records and making an enduring impact. Thank you for believing in the transformative power of philanthropy and for being an integral part of this journey.

Throughout the year, GCCF awarded over \$42,000 in grants to local organizations and initiatives. These grants supported impactful projects such as the Gove County Economic Development Land Bank Seed Fund, critical roof repairs for the American Legion Post 301, playground improvements at Grinnell Grade School, and a new reading intervention program at USD 292 Grainfield Public Schools.

We also funded a historical photo panel project by the Quinter Historical Society, supported Gove County Elder Care programs, and contributed to the Hays Medical Center Education Foundation to enhance healthcare education and resources in our region. Additional grants were awarded to Revitalize Gove County for new Christmas decorations on the City of Gove's Main Street, spreading holiday cheer and fostering community pride, and to Wheatland-Grinnell Grade School's Summer School program, supporting continued learning opportunities for local students.

Our Youth Foundation also played a significant role this year by granting funds to Wheatland-Grinnell High School students to attend the Broadway musical Dear Evan Hansen in Hays. This opportunity allowed students to experience a world-class performance, enriching their education and fostering a deeper appreciation for the arts.

GROW GOVE COUNTY MATCH MONTH TIMELINE



Sheyenne Spresser
Executive Director

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GROW Decatur County Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS

\$3,068,248

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$903,568

TOTAL FUNDS

13

A Word from the ED

2024 has been a year of growth, generosity and community impact for GROW Decatur County Foundation. With the hiring of a new director and continued support from donors, GROW has strengthened our role in building a brighter future for Decatur County.

This year GROW awarded \$135,413 in grants to support a variety of local projects, including public safety, education and community development. From funding new playground equipment and classroom resources to providing essential safety gear for local fire departments, these grants reflect GROW's commitment to making a lasting impact.

Access to quality healthcare is essential for the future of Decatur County, the Decatur Community Fund for the Recruitment and Retention of Health Professionals was created to ensure long-term solutions for attracting and keeping medical professionals in our community. This fund was established by a forward thinking donor and marks a significant step toward strengthening local healthcare and ensuring that Decatur County remains a place where residents can receive the care they need close to home. This fund stands as a testament to the power of forward thinking philanthropy and community driven solutions.

The GROW Decatur County Foundation is proud to support the safety of our communities and the first responders who protect them. This year, we awarded grants to local fire departments to ensure they have the essential equipment needed to do their jobs safely and effectively. The Jennings Fire Department received \$10,000 to replace outdated helmets with modern, lightweight and more comfortable helmets, enhancing firefighter safety and performance. The City of Oberlin Fire Department was awarded \$15,000 to purchase an air compressor filling station, new air tanks and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) masks- critical tools for emergency response.

GROW is committed to supporting local schools and ensuring that students have the resources they need to learn and thrive. This year, we awarded \$25,000 to Oberlin Elementary School to help fund a new playground with ADA-compliant equipment, creating a safe and inclusive space for all children to play. Additionally, Decatur Christian Academy received \$7,500 to equip it's newly built school with desks, technology and a new outdoor playground, providing students with essential tools for learning and growth.



Thank You,

Karen Storrs

Executive Director



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Graham County Community Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS

\$889,682

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$231,394

TOTAL FUNDS

4

The Graham County Community Foundation remains committed to fostering community engagement, building strong relationships with donors, and supporting local initiatives that make a tangible difference. This year, we have been privileged to continue our support for several impactful projects that contribute to the growth and well-being of Graham County.

One of our significant efforts has been with Carrie's Rehab Critters, an organization dedicated to rehabilitating wildlife. Through our support, we have helped further their mission to rescue, care for, and release native wildlife, ensuring these creatures have a second chance at life in their natural habitat.

In addition, the accessible playground project has reached an exciting milestone. The next phase is complete, and the children at Hill City Grade School are now benefiting from the newly installed, inclusive play equipment. This playground provides all children, regardless of ability, with the opportunity to play, socialize, and develop essential skills, creating a more inclusive environment for our younger generations.

We also provided a grant to the Graham County Library, which funded the Mad Science Program. This program brought an exciting blend of fun and learning to local children, offering hands-on activities that sparked curiosity and inspired a love for science and exploration.

Through these initiatives, the Graham County Community Foundation continues to strengthen the fabric of our community by supporting projects that enhance education, accessibility, and environmental care. We are proud of what we've accomplished together and look forward to continuing our work to make Graham County an even better place to live.



Crystal Behanna
Executive Director

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Sonya Cap
Zach Thompson

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Logan County Community Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS
\$2,670,401

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS
\$567,525

TOTAL FUNDS
18

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2024 has been a remarkable year of growth and achievement for the Logan County Community Foundation (LCCF). We're grateful for the continued support of our community and donors.

I'm thrilled to have joined the Logan County Community Foundation as the new Director this past June. I'm excited to bring my passion for community development and my commitment to strengthening our community to LCCF.

This year, we hosted a Funding Success Workshop to equip local nonprofits with the tools they need to secure grant funding. We also hosted a community tea, providing a space for residents to share ideas and connect with one another. We're excited to see the new projects that emerge from these initiatives.

LCCF is excited to usher in the new year with a fresh look, unveiling a new logo that reflects its core values and mission. The redesigned logo symbolizes the interconnectedness and unity of the five vibrant communities within Logan County, underscoring the Foundation's commitment to collective progress and shared prosperity. We'll be launching new initiatives, hosting workshops, and continuing to support our community. One particularly special moment will be the awarding of the first Cale Evins Memorial Scholarship. Cale was an extraordinary individual, and we're honored to carry on his legacy through this scholarship.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our donors, volunteers, and the entire Logan County community. Your support makes a difference. Together, we're building a brighter future for our county.



Sincerely,

Kerri Traynor

Executive Director

We want to extend our sincere gratitude to Raelene Keller for her six years of dedicated service to the Logan County Community Foundation. Her hard work and commitment have made a significant impact on our community. As Raelene embarks on new adventures, we wish her all the best. Thank you, Raelene!

LCCF is excited to have awarded a grant to USD #275 - Triplains to support the establishment of a Small Engine Training program within their industrial arts curriculum. *"The Small Engine coursework will enable students to learn about careers as well as skills in small engine maintenance and repair."*

It is our hope that exposing students to careers in agriculture will increase the likelihood of students staying in the area"
- Lamar Bergsten.



We're thrilled to announce that LCCF, alongside the Bob J. and Edith L. Clark Family Fund, is contributing to the Oakley FFA School Farm! Unfortunately, after a fire that caused unsafe electrical issues the farm hasn't been able to be used. Last fall, a light pole fell down and electricity had to be shut off. In May 2024, the FFA Chapter finished cleaning up trash and debris. Now, the only thing missing to finish this project is electricity.

BOARD MEMBERS

Carrie Evins, President
Angie Moore, Vice President
Jeffrey Huffman, Secretary
Raelene Keller, Treasurer
Aimee Zimmerman
Christi Schertz
Will Clark

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nortoncountycommunityfoundation

Norton County Community Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS

\$3,846,569

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$1,243,443

TOTAL FUNDS

34

2024 was a big year for NCCF. Highlights include affiliating with GNWKCF and having a record number of new donors during November's Match Month! From June - September, we offered a Match Program for new and existing funds to raise \$5,000 and receive an equal match. Not only did we open 6 new funds as a result, but participants raised almost \$148,000 for their funds! Our gallery - the Gloria A. Nelson Cultural Arts Center - which is on the main level of the historic Heaton Building, hosted several wonderful exhibits this year, including nationally acclaimed fish illustrator Joseph Tomelleri, and Kansas artist/educator Kevin P. Kelly.

A new pop of color may catch your eye as you drive down Main Street in Almena! Utilizing a grant from the Johnson Family Fund, held at Norton County Community Foundation, community volunteers repaired the wall on the south side of the Prairie Dog Press building and painted/installed 8 new barn quilts with Kansas symbols. What a great example of working together to take action and solve a problem!



NCCF's Hansen Community Grant Fund awarded \$2,064.76 to Eisenhower Elementary School (USD 211) to support library upgrades, including the installation of an outdoor Story Walk and open-faced bookshelves.



Bethany Shirk
Executive Director

The Norton Mini Speedway is a great example of how a few dedicated people can make a BIG difference. Go-kart racing is a growing regional activity as it engages people of all ages and provides family-fun entertainment. For years, several families in Norton County have been traveling across the region to participate in races. In 2024, they developed a plan to build a racetrack in Norton, where they could practice and host races. They raised local funds, including a grant from NCCF's Hansen Community Grant Fund, and donated their time and labor to form the track inside the car racetrack at the Elmwood Park in Norton. In September, when we announced our 5 for 5 Match Program, they decided to take advantage of the opportunity and began building their fund. This fund will grow with them as they continue to make advancements to the facility and their vision of bringing spectators to Norton for race nights!



Volunteers building the track

BOARD MEMBERS

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Brock Miller, Vice-Chair
Mike Haresnape, Treasurer
Taryn Graham, Secretary
Nancy Kent
Troy Collins
John McClymont
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OSBORNE COUNTY
Community Foundation

Osborne County Community Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS

\$2,164,467

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$639,766

TOTAL FUNDS

17

OCCF in 2024

The Osborne County Community Foundation (OCCF) has long been a cornerstone of charitable giving and community growth in Osborne County. Established in 2017, our goal is to connect generosity with community needs, ensuring a brighter future for generations to come. Through our grants, partnerships, and donor-supported funds, OCCF plays an active role in addressing local needs and fostering positive change. Whether it is supporting youth programs, enhancing public spaces, or investing in education and the arts, our work reflects the values and aspirations of Osborne County residents.

This year, OCCF has been particularly active in engaging the community. From hosting events like legacy dinners that celebrated local agriculture and philanthropy, to connecting with local organizations and awarding grants for projects that strengthen our communities, we worked to make a difference.

Throughout the year OCCF worked with donors and local organizations to establish nine new endowed funds that will benefit Osborne County in perpetuity. In addition, 35 grants were awarded for community projects. From new housing initiatives to local community events, these grants infused money in projects that enhanced our county.

Legacy Dinner Series

In Fall 2024 OCCF hosted its first Legacy Dinner Series, a special series of farm-to-table events held in Osborne, Downs, and Alton. The dinners brought community members together to celebrate local agriculture, connect with neighbors, and learn about the transformative power of philanthropy. Each event highlighted our mission of supporting Osborne County through charitable giving, and attendees were treated to locally sourced meals that underscored the richness of the region.

A highlight of the series was the opportunity to hear from Betsy Wearing, Coordinator of Programs, Communications, and New Initiatives at the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. Betsy shared valuable insights into the intergenerational transfer of wealth, a pressing topic for rural communities like ours. She emphasized the importance of planning for the future, encouraging families to consider how their legacy could support the causes and communities they care about most. Her message resonated deeply, sparking conversations among attendees about the ways philanthropy can preserve our community values and ensure a thriving future for Osborne County.

OCCF Fun Facts

- \$2,179,335.16 in endowed funds since 2017
- Four grant cycles with 35 grants awarded in 2024
- First executive director hired in June 2024
- Nine new funds established in 2024



Mindy Miller
Executive Director



Shelley Neumann
Administrative Assistant

Alton's Centennial Garden: A Community Effort

The future is bright for a community project dating back generations.

In March 2021, the revitalization of Alton's Centennial Garden began as a project through Alton PRIDE. The effort was supported by the generosity of Solomon Ridge Farms as the primary donor and a contribution from the Sarver Charitable Trust, along with community members who purchased the large juniper trees.

Ginger and Doug Howell led the efforts to tear out the old landscaping and install new greenery, transforming the space into a refreshed and inviting garden for the community. Community volunteers played an essential role, helping to plant, weed, and maintain the garden to ensure its ongoing success.

Garden's Roots Run Deep

The origins of Centennial Garden stretch back decades when it was created prior to the 1970 Bull City Centennial. It featured flowers that were planted and tended by Violet Holtslander, Maryellen Boland, Leola Clausen, Nadine King, Sylvia Tyler, and others. Later on, Alsa Hartzler became the flower garden's caretaker until her death in 2006.

These women, with their green thumbs, hand-watered and planted annuals from seed each year, creating a flourishing centerpiece for Alton. Their legacy inspired the recent revitalization and continues to guide the community's vision for the future.

New Life for Garden Project

After the initial garden transformation was completed community volunteers have donated time and funds to maintain the project. Seeing the need for a sustainable stream of income for this project, Mike and Lori Adams established the Welch Family Memorial Fund through the Osborne County Community Foundation this year.

The new fund honors Lori's mother, Marilyn Welch, and provides a sustainable, annual stream of income to the City of Alton for maintaining and enhancing Centennial Garden. This ensures that supplies like annuals, bulbs, and mulch can be purchased every year without financial strain. Community members and supporters can help grow the fund, ensuring its sustainability and enabling future improvements. Expanded landscaping, pathways, benches, and even a professional sprinkler system could become a reality as the fund grows. This flexibility ensures that Centennial Garden will not only be maintained, but can also evolve to meet the community's vision, serving as a vibrant and cherished space for generations to come.



BOARD MEMBERS

Ginger Howell, Chair
Sarah LaRosh,
Secretary
Jill Koelling, Treasurer
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Alyssa Carswell
Heather Hancock
Roger Hobrock
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Russell County Area Community Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS
\$28,076,090
TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS
\$1,928,897
TOTAL FUNDS
94

Dear Friends,

The Russell County Area Community Foundation (RCACF) is excited to share some of our favorite stories about grant-making in the places we call home. As you look through this annual report, we hope you will be inspired and reflect on how you can make a difference with your charitable legacy.

RCACF was founded in 2001 by donors who wanted to invest locally in hometown schools, parks, arts, recreation and people. Because of their generosity, RCACF has grown to award **\$3,548,001** in scholarships and grants since 2022. Supporting the community foundation ensures that the things you love about the Russell County area live on for generations to come.

We are here to help you leave a legacy.

Angela Muller
RCACF Executive Director



DONOR STORY: MATT DRISCOLL FUND KEEP THE BEAT GOING

Every February, the Matt Driscoll Fund helps save lives in Russell County by offering free Coronary Artery Calcium Scans at Russell Regional Hospital to help identify heart health issues and prevent future damage to your heart.

Honoring the legacy of Matt Driscoll, his family established a charitable fund in his memory to benefit the Russell County area. Matt grew up in Russell and was active in school and community affairs, an honor student and an Eagle Scout. He attended the University of Kansas and then traveled to New York where he was employed by Sotheby's. After the events of September 11, Matt wanted a change and to be closer to Kansas. He graduated from Le Cordon Bleu culinary institute and taught at NCK Technical College. Matt was also employed at the Driscoll Law Office and a member of the Russell City Council.



Matt's zest for life and intrepid adventures are reflected in the grants his fund supports, including free movies at the Dream Theatre, Thanksgiving and Christmas meals at the food pantry, underwriting musicals in the Ad Astra Festival, and free heart health screenings so others may live a full and healthy life. His attitude of 'never be boring' and his genuine care and concern for others is Matt's legacy. Grants from the Matt Driscoll Fund will continue to support his favorite charitable causes.

RCACF HELPS PUT SMILES ON FACES

RCACF awarded a \$100,000 grant to Russell Regional Hospital to maintain dental services in Russell County. When the community foundation heard that potential buyers for retiring dentist Dr. Michael Jones fell through, the board met with the hospital and local leaders to discuss the possibility of maintaining local services. A grant from the Strategic Partnership for the Advancement of Russell County (SPARC) made the purchase possible, aligning with RCACF's mission to foster a vibrant and thriving Russell County area. It's something to smile about.



BOARD MEMBERS
Mallory Davis, Chair
John O. Farmer, IV Vice Chair
Chasen Katz,
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SHERIDAN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS

\$2,627,074

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$844,783

TOTAL FUNDS

23

"IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME"

In October 2024, the Sheridan County Community Foundation celebrated the completion and opening of the Sheridan County Daycare Duplex Facility in Hoxie's Sunrise Addition. This milestone was the result of a three-year effort to expand childcare options in the county.

The Foundation, led by Executive Director Karl Pratt, began addressing childcare shortages in 2021. Their solution: building a duplex facility to house two private daycare businesses. With land donated by Sheridan County and funding from various partners—including \$200,000 each from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and Kansas Children's Cabinet—the project included construction, landscaping, play areas, and fully furnished interiors. The facility was built by Bainter Construction, with outdoor play areas completed by Campbell Construction. Each unit features fenced yards, turf and rubber play zones, and storage sheds. In November 2024, the first tenants, Jordan Ewers of The Jungle Gym and Caitlin Schwagerl of Kingdom Kiddos, began operating their daycares.

To ensure long-term support, the Foundation created the Sheridan County Child Care Fund, an endowment to maintain the duplex and eventually provide grants to other local daycare providers.

This project complements earlier efforts, including Hoxie First Steps Daycare, a school-owned facility launched in 2022 to serve USD 412 staff and the community. Through collaboration and vision, the Foundation is making Sheridan County a more family-friendly community, meeting critical childcare needs, and investing in its future.



"TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!"

With funding from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and the Patterson Family Foundation, the Sheridan County Community Foundation secured a grant for the Executive Director position, filled by Karl Pratt. This allowed the Foundation reallocate funds to create two new positions: Program Officer and temporary Special Projects Coordinator.

In August 2024, Kerissa Payne was hired as Program Officer. Payne, her husband Charlie, and their children Sadie and Harper relocated to Hoxie from Ohio in 2023. They own Covey Rise Farms, LLC, specializing in dry-aged beef and farm-to-table products shipped nationwide. Payne now leads economic development initiatives to foster sustainable growth in Sheridan County.

Sofia White joined as Special Projects Coordinator in November 2024. A native of Atwood, she previously worked in Hoxie as a chef at The Elephant Bistro and Bar before opening her own food truck, Blue Blaze Pizza. White and her husband, Jeremiah, returned to Hoxie in 2023 with their children, with their children, Astrid and Atticus, after time in Atwood. She co-leads the Foundation's Strategic Doing efforts, serves as a liaison between project committees and the Foundation, and supports marketing and graphic design initiatives.

Pratt, the Foundation's first staff member since 2018, has transitioned to focus on donor relations, planned giving, and supporting local organizations with training and resources.

The Foundation team recently moved to Bottle KAP Studios at 721 Main Street in Hoxie, offering a collaborative space for meetings and small events.



Pictured: Sofia White, Karl Pratt, and Kerissa Payne

BOARD MEMBERS

Michelle Foote, Chair
Danielle Schiltz, Vice Chair
Jodi Rogers,
Secretary/Treasurer
Christy Preston
Janelle Cooper
Jason Weimer
Erik Gaede
Tennille Giancola

HIGH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

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As Sherman County looks back on 2024, it's clear the community has plenty to celebrate. This year brought big wins, exciting changes, and significant milestones for the foundation.

2024 was a year to remember, filled with growth, generosity, and optimism for the future. Whether through donations, volunteer efforts, or community support, everyone played a part in making these successes possible. Here's to an even more impactful 2025!



Tina Wolak,
Executive
Director

• **Making Magic with Grants**

The foundation awarded 81 grants totaling a whopping \$280,693. These funds supported everything from sprucing up classrooms to boosting community events, spreading joy and opportunity throughout Sherman County—one grant at a time.

• **A Big Welcome to New Funds**

In 2024, the foundation added 11 brand-new funds. Each fund represents a unique commitment to addressing local needs and fueling progress. By creating new funds, donors are able to help support diverse causes and ensure that resources are available for future generations.

• **Going Full-Time Fabulous**

This year marked a milestone with the foundation's first full-time executive director. Tina Wolak joined SCCF in July of 2024 as their first full time director. Having someone dedicated to the role full-time ensures that operations remain focused, ideas keep flowing, and the foundation's impact continues to grow.

• **Home Sweet Office**

The foundation settled into its new office at 106 East 11th Street. The SCCF board felt it was super important to have a presence in downtown Goodland. The welcoming space will be a hub for collaboration, meetings, and dreaming big for Sherman County's future.

• **Match Day/Month Momentum**

The community's generosity shone brightly in 2024. Between Match Day and Sherman County Shares Month, over \$187,000 was raised. Thanks to a 3-to-1 match, from Dane G. Hansen and Patterson Family Foundations, these contributions created an even bigger impact, strengthening the Sherman County Strong Endowment Fund and supporting local projects.



In September 2024, USD 352 was awarded \$10,000 to fund their "Band Jumpstart Project. The school's band program has experienced an unprecedented influx of student participation, compared to the previous year. The new band director, Elliott Whisenant is serving 170 students a day! This surge reflects the students' increasing interest in music education and being a part of one of the biggest clubs at Goodland Jr Sr High. This created a significant challenge: the current inventory of instruments and supplies was inadequate to meet the needs of the expanded program. SCCF was happy to step in and help fund this project.

In August 2024, the Goodland Senior Center was granted \$8,000 to purchase a new range for their commercial kitchen. The old range was over 40 years old and while working, it wasn't efficient and needed an upgrade. Pictured right are some Plumbing Technology students from Fort Hays Tech Northwest who help move out the old range, move in the new range, and gained some hands-on experience with the installation. This is a great collaboration that SCCF is happy to be a part of.



BOARD MEMBERS
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Melanie Daise, Treasurer
Jeff Deeds, Secretary
Dale Schields
Jeff Bhend
Jessica Cole
Tyson Livengood
Dax Ruhs

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Smoky Hills Community Foundation

AN AFFILIATE OF GNWKCF

TOTAL ASSETS

\$5,280,981

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$425,695

TOTAL FUNDS

37

More in 2024!

This year marked a transformative chapter for the Smoky Hills Community Foundation as we strengthened our foundation to meet the growing needs of Ellsworth County. In 2024, we hired our first full-time Executive Director, Colby Richard, bringing leadership and vision to expand our impact. With a new office, a streamlined website for donors, and an improved application process for grants and scholarships, we are setting the stage for a more connected and accessible future. Our new motto, "Invested in Home," encapsulates our commitment to ensuring that every effort and every dollar contributes directly to making Ellsworth County a better place to live, work, and grow.

Why Give to the Smoky Hills Community Foundation?

Your contributions to the Smoky Hills Community Foundation go beyond charity—they are an investment in home. Every dollar supports local organizations, every project improves lives, and every grant builds a stronger Ellsworth County. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our families, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for believing in this mission.

We are, and always will be, *Invested in Home*.

Colby Richard, Executive Director



Why Your Support Matters

Over the past two years alone, the Smoky Hills Community Foundation has granted nearly \$300,000 back to Ellsworth County. These funds have supported critical projects that meet pressing needs, strengthen local organizations, and improve lives. This year alone, several impactful initiatives were made possible:

- Ellsworth Health and Recreation Center: A \$12,307 grant for energy-efficient lighting and climate control upgrades, enhancing the facility for everyone.
- Feeding the Children of Central Kansas: A \$5,000 grant for infrastructure improvements, helping expand their capacity to support local families in need.
- Ellsworth EMS - Project Lifesaver: A \$17,210 grant to acquire two EleGARD heads-up CPR machines, a game-changing addition to our emergency medical services that significantly improves cardiac arrest outcomes.

These projects reflect the heart of what we do: investing in our community to create lasting, meaningful change.

51% INCREASE IN DONORS!



WE MET OUR MATCH!

This year's Match Month was amazing! We're thrilled to announce a **51% increase** in community donors! Together, with our matching partners, we raised an incredible **\$247,427** to uplift our community!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this impactful opportunity. Every donation brings us closer to a brighter, stronger future for Ellsworth County.

TOTAL RAISED WITH MATCHING FUNDS

\$247,427



SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO OUR MATCHING PARTNERS!



Match Month 2024 - Connecting Generosity with Impact

This year's Match Month campaign was a testament to the power of collaboration. Thanks to the support of our matching partners, donors embraced our simple yet powerful message: "Your \$100 = \$400 for Ellsworth County!" The results were extraordinary: \$247,427 raised and a 51% increase in donors compared to 2023. This campaign showed how small actions, multiplied by community spirit, can create incredible impact for our hometown.

Legacy Stewardship - Building for the Future

As we invest in the needs of today, we are also preparing for the future through legacy stewardship. By focusing on new endowments, we are building a sustainable foundation that will support Ellsworth County for generations. Legacy gifts allow donors to leave an enduring impact, ensuring the resources we need to meet tomorrow's challenges are always within reach. This is not just a financial commitment—it's an investment in the long-term vitality of our community.

2024 Spotlight Grant - ECMC's New Inpatient Therapy Room

We are proud to feature our 2024 Spotlight Grant, a \$10,680.34 investment that helped Ellsworth County Medical Center create a dedicated inpatient therapy room, making rehab more accessible and convenient. Equipped with therapy mats, parallel bars, an upper/lower extremity bike, and tools for strength, balance, and mobility, this space is built for faster recovery and greater independence.

Having therapy right on the unit means patients get the care they need without the added stress of traveling. We are honored to contribute to ECMC's long-term vision, ensuring Ellsworth County's healthcare remains local, impactful, and a cornerstone of community well-being.



BOARD MEMBERS

Cheryl Rathbun - Board Chair
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 Allison Gonzalez
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A Year in Review: Celebrating Our Growth and Success

This year has been nothing short of remarkable for Wallace County! We've seen incredible progress, inspiring generosity, and exciting milestones that will leave a lasting impact on our community.

A Full-Time Director to Lead the Way

One of our most significant achievements was hiring a full-time director for the Wallace County Foundation. This has been a long-time goal for our community, and we are thrilled to welcome Caitlin to this role. Her leadership and vision will help us continue to strengthen and grow Wallace County for years to come.



Caitlin Hammond
Executive Director

Endowment Fund Reaches \$1 Million

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the support of matching funds from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and the Patterson Family Foundation, our Endowment Fund surpassed the \$1 million mark! This milestone ensures that we can continue to invest in Wallace County's future, supporting local projects, scholarships, and community initiatives.

Looking Ahead to an Even Brighter Future

As we step into the new year, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. From new community initiatives to continued investment in local projects, we look forward to working together to make Wallace County an even better place to live, work, and thrive.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year so special. Your support, generosity, and dedication continue to make a lasting difference. Here's to another incredible year ahead!

Grace Reinecker

Board President

The 2024 Wallace County Music Series exemplified the vibrant community spirit and dedication to the arts that define Wallace County. Hosted by Wallace County Community Development in collaboration with the Wallace County Visitors Bureau, Fort Wallace Museum, and the Weskan Community Improvement Association, this three-part concert series brought together locals and visitors to celebrate music, culture, and the unique charm of rural Kansas. Generously sponsored by the Wallace County Foundation and other local contributors, the series showcased the region's rich cultural heritage and commitment to fostering community pride. The series kicked off on July 25th in Sharon Springs during the Wallace County Fair with stellar performances by Kansas native Logan Mize and Missouri-based songwriter Forrest McCurren. Mize's heartfelt lyrics, deeply rooted in Midwest life, struck a chord with the audience, while McCurren's Americana storytelling added depth and color to the evening. The energy continued September 7th in Wallace, where the all-female Western group Gone With the West delivered a captivating, high-energy performance. Their blend of traditional and original Western music left the audience spellbound.

The series wrapped up on September 27th in Weskan with Lucas Maddy, a Western Kansas poet-turned-musician. Maddy's acoustic guitar and red-dirt roots resonated with the heart of the plains, creating a perfect conclusion to the series. In addition to enjoying exceptional music, attendees were encouraged to explore Wallace County's attractions, dine at local eateries, and shop at local businesses, creating a multifaceted experience that blended art, culture, and community engagement. The 2024 Wallace County Music Series was more than a concert—it was a celebration of rural Kansas life and the enduring spirit of Wallace County!



BOARD MEMBERS

Grace Reinecker, President
Dawn Allaman, Vice President
Kodi Hammer, Treasurer
Kim Van Laeys, Secretary
Virginia Popp
Christy Hammer
Austin Hawkins
Evan Stucky

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Thomas County Community Foundation

AN AGENCY FOUNDATION OF GNWKCF

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude for an incredible year of growth and community impact. This year, we proudly added five new funds, expanding our ability to support the needs and dreams of Thomas County. These new funds showcase the generosity and vision of our donors, strengthening our foundation for future generations.

Our April Match Month campaign was a resounding success, thanks to the awesome support of our community. Together, we amplified the power of giving, turning contributions into meaningful change.

2024 was also a year of memorable events. The piano concert brought music and joy to our community, while the ever-popular Santa's Workshop spread holiday cheer to families across the county. These events not only connected us but also reminded us of the importance of fostering community spirit.

Collaboration was another cornerstone of our success. We partnered with several community organizations to address shared goals and increase our impact. A highlight of these efforts was our involvement with the Kenton Krehbiel Park project, a testament to the power of teamwork and vision in creating lasting spaces for our community.

As we look to 2025, we are eager to continue building a brighter future for Thomas County. Thank you to our donors and volunteers for making this year extraordinary. Here's to another year of growth, giving, and community!

With gratitude,

Jada Tubbs

Executive Director



TOTAL ASSETS

\$1,706,823

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$375,729

TOTAL FUNDS

19



BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Jennings, President
Kaylin Wiens, Vice President
Tina Hansen, Treasurer
Tracy Rogers, Secretary
Deb Mariman
Quinnlyn Carpenter
Jenna Brunner
Susan Woofter
Melissa Schneider
Nick Hoover
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Phillips County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

"looking forward by giving back"

Phillips County Community Foundation

AN AGENCY PARTNER OF GNWKCF

The Phillips County Community Foundation (PCCF) experienced an extraordinary year of support in 2024 and is excited to carry this momentum into 2025, continuing its mission to strengthen all aspects of life in Phillips County.

The foundation wrapped up its most successful Match Your Money Month fundraising campaign in October. The community came together in an incredible show of support, with generous contributions from donors and sponsors, as well as enthusiastic participation in every fundraising event—surpassing the \$70,000 goal!

Growth in Grant Opportunities

PCCF saw remarkable growth in 2024 in the funds awarded, including the introduction of a new Mini-Grant program. This program provided up to \$1,000 in funding through a simplified application process. Twelve recipients benefited from Mini-Grants, supporting diverse initiatives such as youth sports programs and small local beautification projects.

In addition to Mini-Grants, PCCF funded several impactful projects in the latter half of the year, either wholly or in part. These included two new emergency vehicles—a new ambulance and a rural fire brush truck—to enhance the safety of Phillips County residents. Ensuring the well-being of local youth, PCCF also awarded a grant to replace and refurbish football helmets for the youth league. Additionally, a new Play Space was created, offering young families a safe and weather-protected place to gather and connect through play. Beautification projects, building updates, and event funding filled out the balance of the grants awarded.

Looking Ahead

Thanks to the generosity of Phillips County residents, PCCF continues to grow its endowment, ensuring a steady source of funding to support future community needs. This commitment to building a stronger, more vibrant community exemplifies the spirit of Phillips County. Together, we're making a lasting impact and paving the way for a brighter future.



Morris Engle
Executive Director



Lee Lower
Administrative Assistant



TOTAL ASSETS

\$1,209,364

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$229,078

TOTAL FUNDS

4

BOARD MEMBERS

Kera Willer, President
Jenny VanLoenen, Vice President
Colin Kirchhoff, Secretary
Carla Bruning, Treasurer
Tad Felts
Camlyn (Camie) Schneider
Nancy Turner
Bethany Schneider
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AN AGENCY PARTNER OF GNWKCF

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, Inc. (DSNWK), founded in 1967, has been a story about people: serving, advocating, supporting, educating, and simply helping people. In 1967, a group of spirited parents decided that their children who had intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) deserved normal lives. They banded together and started a movement.

This action is still visible today because of one element: its mission. The mission that graced the movement back in the 60s has undergone changes through the years; however, the purpose has remained the same: "To advocate with persons with disabilities and those who care about them by planning and supporting a life of dignity, interdependence and personal satisfaction in the community."

DSNWK has been a partner organization to GNWKCF since 2014 with the establishment of the Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas Fund. Today, this fund is known as the DSNWK - Live With Purpose Fund. In 2017, to celebrate 50 years, DSNWK launched a fundraising campaign to build the fund known today as the DSNWK - Jim and Rose Blume Endowment Fund which was established in February 2018. Also in 2018, the DSNWK - Andy Betzen Memorial Endowment Fund and the DSNWK - Joey Weber Endowment Fund were established. Each of these funds help support the continued DSNWK mission. For more information, visit the website: <https://dsnwk.giftlegacy.com>.

DSNWK offers support to meet the needs of individuals who experience lifelong mental or physical challenges that are diagnosed before the age of 22. Support includes instruction and help with self-care, skill building, communication, mobility, and employment so individuals can live and be active in their communities. DSNWK serves all age groups in the counties of: Cheyenne, Decatur, Ellis, Gove, Graham, Logan, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Russell, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego and Wallace. Visit its services website at: <https://www.mysnwk.org>

A Hoyer Portable Lift System was purchased thanks to the generous support of the Sheridan County Community Foundation (SCCF) and the Norton County Community Foundation (NCCF). These grant awards (\$1,931.99 from SCCF and \$2,753.29 from NCCF) support staff with the tools to better perform transfers of individuals in services who require lifting and transferring as they navigate their environment and better meet their daily needs.

Both the ACE Foundation (ACE) and the Russell County Area Community Foundation (RCACF) awarded DSNWK grants for the purchase of medical supplies and equipment for training. These grants (\$681.04 from ACE and \$1,000.00 from RCACF) will enhance the quality of the DSNWK training program and will better equip DSNWK employees to respond to emergency situations as they arise.

A \$1,528.99 grant from the Graham County Community Foundation was used to purchase a wheelchair drum scale. The scale directly benefits the individuals receiving services by simplifying their use of this device at Kobler Developmental Center in Hill City. The drum scale allows individuals with mobility issues to either use their wheelchair or walker while their weight is obtained.



For more information, visit us at www.mysnwk.org and dsnwk.giftlegacy.com



Greeley - Wallace County Healthcare Foundation

AN AGENCY PARTNER OF GNWKCF

The Greeley-Wallace County Healthcare Foundation is so pleased to have participated in the Matching Fund effort this year. This challenge allowed us

to develop new relationships with community members who chose to donate to our Fund. We were able to use the Matching Fund to educate about the work of our Foundation and partner with individuals and businesses who share our wish to improve healthcare resources in our area. We are grateful to the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation for their outstanding work in supporting local charitable organizations.

Thank you for your support

Matching Funds Opportunity

The Greeley-Wallace County Healthcare Foundation is so grateful for the generous donations to our Matching Funds Opportunity from the Patterson Foundation. We were able to add \$21,000 to the Healthcare Foundation fund which provides support to the healthcare activities in our communities.

Our Donors:

The Soloviev Foundation
Janice Fahrenholtz
Dan and Tammy Hild
Anonymous Donors

Our Thanks for this Matching Funds opportunity provided generously by the Patterson Family Foundation and the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation





McDonald Community Development

AN AGENCY PARTNER OF GNWKCF

McDonald Community Development, Inc. (McD) was active in 2024, pushing the boundaries with community development. Our exciting year featured three main events. First, the geothermal greenhouse entered its experimental phase in the latter half of 2024, when we tested a variety of fruits and vegetables for optimum growth. We learned the greenhouse will accommodate most plants long past the outdoor growing season. This experience provides us a basis for a grow plan in 2025, when we narrow the number of fruits and vegetables grown and begin distributing the harvest in a farmers' market format.

Second, McD was able to acquire, fundraise, and pay for the demolition of three dilapidated houses in the same block in McDonald. Clearing blight paves the way for new housing opportunities in the future. Third, McD participated in a matching campaign to grow our endowment fund. Thanks to several key donors, we were able to surpass our fundraising goal. McD has big plans for 2025, including planning for a playground and walking trail, exploring the feasibility of renovating a historic main street building, and developing a functional website.

Contact Us - (785) 365-9250



AN AGENCY PARTNER OF GNWKCF

CONTACT US AT PR@SOKS.ORG | (913) 236-9290

In 2025, Special Olympics Kansas remains dedicated to expanding opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities across Western Kansas. Through a variety of programs, competitions, and special events, we continue to create meaningful experiences that promote inclusion, health & fitness, and personal achievement.

During 2024, the West Region hosts several events, including State Basketball & Cheerleading where thousands of athletes, coaches, and their families travel to compete, as well as regional competitions including Basketball, Cheerleading, Track & Field, Bowling, and Cornhole. We even hosted an Athlete Clinic with Fort Hays Tech Northwest.

Beyond competition, we are also committed to engaging the community through fundraising and awareness events such as the Truck Convoy, which brings together athletes and supporters for an unforgettable experience.

We are excited to continue our individual athlete participation policy for non-team sports, which allows athletes in smaller communities to compete independently, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to get involved - no matter where they live.

These programs don't just provide competition; they build confidence, friendships, and lifelong skills. None of this would be possible without the incredible support of donors, volunteers, and community partners who help make these life-changing experiences a reality. Get involved and make a difference for inclusion in your community.



As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude for a year brimming with growth, opportunity, and impact. All of the unwavering support for our programs has allowed us to continue empowering the youth of northwest and north central Kansas, and we couldn't have done it without you.

This year, our Work Study Program reached new heights, with a record-breaking 61 students participating in the fall of 2024—doubling our spring enrollment numbers! These bright and motivated students had the chance to explore diverse careers, gain hands-on experience, and build skills that will shape their futures. Their stories are a testament to the incredible partnership we share with local businesses and organizations. We are also thrilled to share that 146 businesses are enrolled in our Summer Internship Program, including 56 new businesses! Internship applications will be open January 1 - March 1, 2025 and we look forward to another successful year.

Our Life\$kills Program made a tremendous impact as we hosted students across the region, reaching roughly 300 students for the 2024-2025 school year. Hundreds of students learned valuable lessons in budgeting, career readiness, and financial literacy. The enthusiasm and engagement of these young participants give us hope for bright futures ahead.

We also kicked off another year of Young AmeriTowne of Kansas. This program has already enrolled roughly 735 students for the 2024-2025 school year! This immersive program continues to teach vital skills in money management, teamwork, and leadership, laying the groundwork for future success. A heartfelt thank-you to our donors. Your generosity fuels our mission and inspires us to dream bigger each year.

2011-2025 PARTICIPATION BY PROGRAM

Career Fair & Career EXLOration	13,145
AmeriTowne	3,778
Entrepreneurship	1,647
Internships	1,160
WorkStudy	320
Life\$kills	324
TOTAL PARTICIPATION	20,374

Contact Us - www.nex-generation.org - youth@nex-generation.org - (877) 567-7872



Delaney Myers

Greater Northwest Kansas
Community Foundation
Summer Intern



Cristian Silva

Cheyenne County Kansas
Community Foundation
Summer Intern



Emily Serrano

Cheyenne County Kansas
Community Foundation
Summer Intern



Kierra Penka

Cheyenne County Kansas
Community Foundation
Summer Intern

Meet our 2024 Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth, Inc. Summer Interns

Bird City Takes a Big Step Towards a New Health Clinic

Bird City is on an exciting journey to enhance its healthcare infrastructure with the construction of a new health clinic in the coming year. Spearheaded by the Bird City Century II Development Foundation (BCCII) in collaboration with Cheyenne County Hospital, this project promises to bring significant benefits not only to the Bird City community but to Cheyenne County as a whole.

A Vision Taking Shape

The new health clinic is set to be a little bigger and more accommodating than existing facilities, addressing the growing needs of the community. This project has been meticulously planned and developed over the past four years, with both BCCII and Cheyenne County Hospital working tirelessly to turn this vision into reality. Community Effort and Support Fundraising efforts have been crucial to the project's progress, and the community's response has been overwhelmingly positive. So far, over \$447,244 has been raised, showcasing the strong support and commitment of Bird City's residents and stakeholders.

What to Expect

While specific details about the clinic's features and services will be unveiled soon, residents can look forward to a modern facility equipped to provide comprehensive healthcare services. The new clinic aims to improve accessibility, reduce travel times for medical care, and offer a welcoming environment for patients. Stay tuned for more updates on the Bird City Clinic Project. With continued community support and collaboration, Bird City is well on its way to achieving a healthier future for all.

Endowing Childcare: Building a Brighter Future for Bird City Families

In 2024, the Bird City Century II Development Foundation (BCCII) participated in the Patterson Family Foundation's Rural Community Foundation Match Program, which provided up to \$70,000 in matching funds to qualifying community foundations. This initiative, offered in partnership with the Kansas Association of Community Foundations (KACF), aims to inspire philanthropy and strengthen rural communities across Kansas and northwestern Missouri.

Thanks to this opportunity, BCCII secured \$70,000 in matching funds from the Patterson Family Foundation through Match Day fundraising. BCCII then matched this amount with an additional \$70,000, resulting in a \$140,000 endowment dedicated to supporting childcare services in the community. This endowment will help sustain and grow resources for Cougar Cub Daycare, ensuring access to quality childcare for generations to come.

Cheylin Gyms Get a Fresh Look with New Mats

The Cheylin gyms in Bird City and McDonald received a fresh upgrade in Fall 2024 with the installation of new floor mats, enhancing safety and improving the look of both facilities. The mats feature updated designs and added padding, ensuring better protection for athletes during practices and games.

This project was made possible with the support of the Bird City Century II Development Foundation (BCCII), which was pleased to provide grant funding for part of the upgrade. These improvements reflect Cheylin's continued dedication to maintaining quality athletic spaces for students and the community. The new mats will benefit a variety of programs, from youth activities to high school athletics. This upgrade is a great addition to the gyms and a testament to the community's commitment to supporting local schools. Stop by and see the new mats in action at the next Cheylin event!



STAFF

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Friends of Cottonwood Ranch

A SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION OF GNWKCF

When John Fenton Pratt started building Cottonwood Ranch in 1885, he had no idea that it would someday tell the story of his family. The ranch, located in the southern portion of the Solomon River Valley, along U.S. Highway 24, near the small town of Studley, in northwestern Kansas, has persevered time.



We Are Open...
May 1 - September 30 ...
Thur., Fri. & Sat.
9:00a-12:00p & 1:00p - 5:00p



Abraham Pratt

John Pratt

Our Video Series Cottonwood Connections... Featuring, The Legacy of Cottonwood Ranch, and other historical, episodic documentary videos. Presented by The Friends of Cottonwood Ranch; directed by Ed Lowry; featuring Don Rowlison, completed its 5th season in 2024. Watch on You Tube at Cottonwood Ranch Media.

These videos have been featured on Smoky Hills PBS, PBS Kansas (Wichita) and Topeka PBS.

TOTAL ASSETS

\$1,015,679

TOTAL 2024 DONATIONS

\$200,000

TOTAL FUNDS

2

BOARD MEMBERS

Tony Haffner, President
Don Rowlison
Shirley Popp
Charlene Meier
Lucas Goddard
Roger Aumiller
Cheryl Schwarz
Stacy Ruder
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