

GNWKCF & AFFILIATE TIMES

July 2026 Newsletter

A RECORD-SETTING DAY OF GENEROSITY IN NORTON COUNTY

Norton County Community Foundation's Match Day was a powerful example of what happens when community generosity, local leadership, and strong affiliate support come together.

The event generated a total impact of \$390,555 for NCCF funds, with 293 donors, 908 gifts, and 36 fund participants. Donations raised totaled \$240,555, with an additional \$150,000 matching pool provided by the Sharp Family and PFF. The final match value was 66.8 cents per donated dollar, extending the impact of every gift made during the event.

The event was not only financially successful, but also highly engaging. Of the 293 donors, 82 were first-time donors, representing 28% of all donors. Additionally, 54 donors contributed \$1,000 or more, and 127 donors gave to multiple funds, showing strong cross-community support and interest in a wide range of local causes.

Giving happened through multiple channels, with 39% of gifts made online, 56% given in person, and 5% received by mail. This combination of online, in-person, and mailed gifts helped make Match Day accessible to donors with different giving preferences.

Social media also played a major role in building awareness and momentum, with approximately 31,000 views, an increase of 75%, and engagement up 155% from the previous month, reaching 2,813 engagements. The event also received newspaper coverage, helping expand visibility even further.

Beyond the numbers, Match Day created a meaningful opportunity for people to come together in support of local needs. One of the greatest strengths of the day was the ability to bring people into the same room, build community, raise awareness, and connect donors with the people, projects, and organizations working to make a difference.

Match Day is more than a fundraising event. It is a strategic opportunity for participating funds to raise money, recruit volunteers, grow donor lists, build awareness, increase social media engagement, and strengthen long-term community support. Each fund comes into the day with its own mission, but together, the 36 participating funds helped build momentum for one another and for Norton County as a whole.

The result was a record-setting day of generosity and community connection, one that celebrated local giving while strengthening the future of NCCF funds and the communities they serve.

With GNWKCF being present at Match Day, this provided a valuable opportunity to engage directly with affiliate staff, board members, donors, and community members, helping them better understand the role GNWKCF plays beyond the back-office support we provide. We were able to strengthen relationships, increase visibility of GNWKCF, and reinforce our commitment to supporting affiliates in a meaningful and personal way. "It was a great day, and I felt honored and proud to be part of it. Seeing the community come together to support local causes was inspiring, and I was proud to represent GNWKCF and support our affiliate foundation during such a meaningful event," shares Jane Young, Director of Finance, GNWKCF.



nortoncountycommunityfoundation



Seamless Match Day & Giving Day Integration

Imagine your Giving Day participants sharing personalized donation links, donors watching fundraising goals climb throughout the day, and your staff finishing the event with totals already entered and reconciled with little to no administrative work.

This summer, the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation (GNWKCF) successfully piloted the full CSuite Grant Catalog integration during the Norton County Community Foundation (NCCF) Match Day that resulted in just that! The results were outstanding.

It went off without a hitch! Bethany Shirk, NCCF Executive Director, commented that participants loved watching donations roll in through real-time fundraising progress updates, and staff appreciated eliminating hours of administrative work. There were no bulk upload spreadsheets to build, no stacks of checks to copy, and final totals were recorded online by the end of the day. Simply put, it was a win for donors, nonprofits, and staff alike.

We're Bringing This Opportunity to Affiliates.....At No Cost!

To help Affiliates create a more engaging and efficient Giving Day experience, GNWKCF is now offering complimentary on-site support during one-day Match Day or Giving Day events (available on a first-come, first-served basis) when this system is used.

Our team will enter donations in real time as they are received, allowing your event to seamlessly connect with the CSuite Grant Catalog. The result is a dynamic online fundraising experience featuring:

- Live donation tracking and fundraising thermometers
- Organization photos or logos
- Customized participant profiles and stories
- Real-time online donation processing
- Individual participant pages with unique QR codes and URLs
- Event-wide and participant-specific fundraising totals displayed automatically

Thanks to ongoing collaboration between the software vendor and our marketing team, the Grant Catalog now offers expanded branding and customization options, making it easier than ever to showcase your community's impact.

Why Affiliates Love the CSuite Grant Catalog + On-Site GNWKCF Support

✓ Create Excitement with Live Results

Nothing motivates donors and participants like seeing progress happen in real time. Every gift immediately moves the fundraising thermometer as a whole and on a fund by fund basis, creating momentum throughout the day.

✓ Save Affiliate Hours of Staff Time

No more building bulk upload spreadsheets or manually preparing data after the event. One-touch data entry means less work and fewer opportunities for mistakes.

✓ Simplify Online Giving

Credit card donations are processed and coded directly through CSuite, eliminating manual handling and reconciliation.

✓ Streamline Check Processing

Checks can be scanned and deposited as they're received, automatically creating both printed and electronic records.

✓ Faster Banking and Reconciliation

Deposits can be prepared throughout the day and immediately delivered to the bank in batches, reducing end-of-day bottlenecks.

✓ Better Donor Experience

Donors can browse all participating organizations and project goals in one place, monitor live results, and give directly to the causes they care about.

What You Miss Without It

Choosing not to use the CSuite Grant Catalog and GNWKCF's on-site support means:

- No real-time reporting for offline gifts
- Manual spreadsheet creation and validation
- Manual copying and organization of checks
- Additional tracking and deposit responsibilities for Affiliate staff
- Time-consuming uploads and reconciliation after the event
- More opportunities for data entry errors and delays
- Delayed final totals

Staff Success Day

When: September 15th

Where: LA Quilt Co.

307 Center Ave.

Oakley, KS 67748

Please join us on Tuesday, September 15th for an Affiliate Staff Success Day at LA Quilt Co. in Oakley, KS.

We are diligently working to plan a fabulous day together, full of learning material and interactive workshops.

Please note that we will be sending out a Google Form to keep the conversation going on what educational topics you'd like to cover at the remainder of our Staff Success Days. We want to ensure we make the most of our time together!

Stay tuned! We can't wait to get together again soon!

Community Calendar

Osborne County and Sheridan County Community Foundations both offer "community calendars" to their communities.

A community calendar, when utilized like Osborne County Community Foundation, is as simple as posting a calendar either online or somewhere physically for community members to pencil in special events going on in town for the month. (pictured right)

The Sheridan County Community Foundation utilizes their "Community Calendar" as a way to celebrate local citizens' birthdays and anniversaries. It is also being used as an annual fundraiser, currently helping establish and grow a new fund for economic development activities in the county. This could be just as helpful for a community foundation when looking for a good opportunity to get in touch with potential donors.

**July-August 2026**
osborne county community calendar

All Year:
CINNAMON ROLLS, COFFEE, & FELLOWSHIP | Tuesdays 7:00-9:00 AM | American Legion, Natoma
NATOMA HERITAGE MUSEUM | Fridays | Natoma
FIND IT IN THE STACKS | Every Day | Osborne Public Library
GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP | Sundays 2:00 PM | Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Downs

July:
07/12: Alton Independence Day Celebration | Starting at 6:00 PM | Alton Fire House
07/12: Scott Noel Memorial 3 Man Scramble | 8:00 AM | Shady Bend Golf, Osborne
07/12-16: Wonder Junction VBS | 6:00-8:45 PM | Grace Brethren Church, Portis
07/12-17: Totus Tuus Grades 1st-6th | 9:00 AM-3:00 PM | St. Aloysius Parish Hall, Osborne
07/12-17: Totus Tuus Grades 7th-12th | 7:30-9:45 PM | St. Aloysius Parish Hall, Osborne
07/14: Mommy & Me Tea | 6:00 PM | Second Street Cafe, Natoma
07/15: Dinner Club at the Second Street Cafe | 7:00 PM | Natoma
07/18: Free Swim at Downs Pool | Sponsored by First Christian Church
07/18: St. Aloysius Fun(d) Fest | More info to come | Osborne
07/22-25 Osborne County Fair
07/24: VFW Homemade Ice Cream and Pie | 5:00-7:00 PM | Veterans Building, Osborne
07/25: Free Swim at Downs Pool | Sponsored by the Rexroat Family
07/26-30 First Christian Church VBS | 5:00-8:00 PM | Downs

First part of August:
08/01: Free Swim at Downs Pool | Sponsored by Shoes etc. and Stonz Jewelry
08/01: Free Snow Cone Day at Downs Pool | Sponsored by Eleanor Berkley/Shady Grove Cabins
08/07: Coffee & Donuts | 10:00-11:00 AM | Downs Care and Rehab
08/08-09: Shady Bend 2-Day Tournament | 9:00 AM | Osborne
08/08: Free Swim at Downs Pool | Sponsored by Cheryl Berkley Jamison

**OSBORNE COUNTY**
Community Foundation
An Affiliate of Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation



For times, locations, and details, check out the Osborne County Calendar at bit.ly/3pzRwIE.
New events constantly added.

Consider how this tool may help your community connect on a deeper level!



SHERIDAN COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MEET KELSEY!

I am the wife of a sports broadcaster, and mother of two sons. I am the family's biggest cheerleader and supporter of all activities. I was born and raised in Hoxie, KS. Moved away for college and a social work career, but quickly knew I wanted to raise my family in my hometown. I ran a successful home child care business for 10 years in Hoxie while raising our own boys. I was one of the driving forces of Sheridan County's Child Care Coalition Committee and helped start USD 412 Hoxie school daycare, as well as the community's duplex daycare project.

I spend my time at all of my son's sporting events throughout the year. In the summertime you will find me in our camper and on our boat at the lake, or spending time with family and friends at home for special occasions. It is my dream to spend half the year at a lake being a camp host, and to spend the winter months at home hosting family for the holidays.

I love working at Sheridan County Community Foundation because I get to be a part of making an impact in our communities. I partner with donors and community members to help them see the vision and bring it to fruition with resources made possible by their generous gifts. We all play a part in impacting our community. I love building relationships, being a doer and improving our communities!



KELSEY EPP

*Executive Director,
Sheridan County
Community Foundation*

The NWKL Art Show-Visiting Artist project brought visiting artist Andi Burnum to Sharon Springs to present artwork and conduct workshops for area students at the Northwest Kansas League art show. A \$300 grant from the Wallace County Foundation covered Andi Burnum's presentation to grades 6-12 and reading to K-2nd graders, along with travel, materials, and planning time. USD 241 high school students assisted with setup and takedown, the Wildcat Booster Club provided refreshments, and the Lyle Finley Trust funded personal sketchbooks for students. The project achieved overwhelmingly positive outcomes, including increased student confidence from seeing a successful artist from a small town, a supportive creative environment, and active participation from league teachers in workshop exercises.

GRANT HIGHLIGHT



OUR INTERN: AVERY JENSEN

Spending my summer as an intern at the GNWKCF has been an experience that I will always be grateful for. Throughout the summer, I had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects that gave me a behind-the-scenes look at how a community foundation operates. Every day was different, allowing me to learn new skills while contributing to meaningful work that directly impacts communities across northwest Kansas.

One of the most valuable parts of my experience was seeing firsthand how generosity can transform a community. I learned that every scholarship awarded, every grant distributed, and every relationship built represents someone choosing to invest in the future of northwest Kansas.

The people at GNWKCF made this experience even more meaningful. From my very first day, I felt welcomed, encouraged, and trusted. They took the time to answer my questions, teach me new skills, and help me understand not only what they do, but why they do it. Their passion for serving others is contagious, and it inspired me to approach every task with purpose and enthusiasm.

As I prepare to begin college, I know the lessons I've learned this summer will stay with me. I've gained confidence in a professional environment, improved my communication and organizational skills, and developed a greater appreciation for the importance of giving back to the communities that shape us.

I am incredibly thankful to everyone at the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation for investing in me this summer. This internship has been an unforgettable opportunity, and I will always look back on it as a season of learning, growth, and inspiration. I am excited to carry these experiences with me as I begin the next chapter of my life.



LOGAN COUNTY JOB & GROWTH FUND

The Fund, held at the Logan County Community Foundation, was established to provide economic development, business, entrepreneurial support, and/or job recruitment assistance to charitable organizations during a given calendar year.

A fund like this gives charitable organizations access to resources that support business growth, entrepreneurship, and job recruitment efforts in their communities. By investing in local economic development initiatives, the fund can help create opportunities, strengthen the local economy, and contribute to a more vibrant and sustainable future for the community.