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WKCF GRANTS

\$16,368 Awarded



PHOTO: Grant check presentation for "Books for Babies," a collaborative program initiated by Finney County United Way.

From left to right: Renee Hulett (St. Catherine Hospital), Conny Bogaard (WKCF), Susan Escareno (Finney County United Way), Valerie Schuetz (St. Catherine Hospital) and Jeanne Billings (Russell Child Development Center).

In March, Western Kansas Community Foundation awarded 6 local nonprofit organizations grants totaling \$16,368 from the Community Betterment Fund and various other

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)**THE AWARDS ARE:**

Cimarron City Library "Story Walk"	\$2,168 for outdoor displays along a half-mile long story walk at Cimarron Crossing Park.
Finney County United Way "Books for Babies"	\$1,000 for books that will be given to each baby born at St. Catherine's Hospital along with educational material for families with newborns.
GC Buffalo Robotics "Summer Robotics Camp"	\$3,200 to expand the previously funded summer camp so that it may now include 9th-12th graders and drone design, as well as refurbishment of robots used last year.
Kansas Children's Service League "To See, or Not to See"	\$4,500 to purchase an additional vision screener that can detect vision problems in children as young as 6 months old.
KS Food Bank "Food 4 Kids"	\$2,500 to purchase easy-to-prepare, kid-friendly foods that will be packaged and distributed to 31 schools in the WKCF service area for students in need.
Tumbleweed Festival 'Friday Night Kickoff'	\$3,000 to support the costs of the Friday Night Kickoff musical entertainment at the 2017 event.

"Each one of these grant awards represents a different need in our region," WKCF Program Officer Stacie Hahn explains. "Ranging from trainings to help educate families how to break the cycle of poverty, to technology for students to spark their interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) courses, these organizations and programs are designed to help improve the quality of life for our communities. WKCF is dedicated to assisting non-profits in our region by strengthening their reach by collaborating dollars and resources."

Staff of Western Kansas Community Foundation always welcomes visiting with donors or those interested in contributing to the unrestricted funds so we can help with more community projects and programs. To learn more about the application process and grant guidelines visit the WKCF website at www.wkcf.org, call at 620-271-9484 or stop by at the office at 402 N. Main Street in downtown Garden City.

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FEATURED GRANT PROGRAM



BOOKS FOR BABIES

Pictured: Stacey Montgomery (RCDC) who painted the cart, Katrina Lowry (RCDC), Renee Hulett (St. Catherine's), Susan Escareno (Finney County United Way) and Valerie Schuetz (St. Catherine's).

The Finney County United Way received a \$1,000 grant from WKCF to start the "Books for Babies" Project at St. Catherine Hospital. Russell Child Development Center (RCDC) is assisting with this project as well.

The Finney County Library donated the cart and Stacy Montgomery at Russell Child Development Center donated her time to paint and decorate it, so that all of the WKCF grant would go to books. Each newborn at St. Catherine's will receive a new book. Reading books are available in English or several other native languages (Spanish, Burmese, Somali, Arabic). In addition, the parents receive a packet with resources and information that are helpful to parents of newborns.

The Finney County United Way, Russell Child Development Center and St. Catherine's are most grateful for the grant. "We were able to purchase 470 books with the grant dollars," said Susan Escareno, Director of Finney County United Way. "Reading to your newborn is so important in developing listening skills. It enhances brain stimulation, creates a bonding time between parent and child, and starts the process of your child being school ready. We look forward to continuing with this project for years to come."

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WOMEN OF PURPOSE FUND AWARDS

City on a Hill receives \$4,000 grant



Miranda Unruh, City on a Hill

Recipient of 2017 Women of Purpose Grant

On April 5th, the Women of Purpose (WOP) awarded its annual grant, providing City on a Hill with \$4,000 that will be used to provide, improve and build upon the services the organization offers to women.

This year marked the seventh grant provided by Women of Purpose since its inception in 2010. City on a Hill was chosen from a pool of nine other applicants, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Finney and Kearny counties, International Rescue Committee, Magic's HOPE Therapeutic Horsemanship Program, Oasis of Peace, Peace House Ministries, Russell Child Development Center, St. Catherine Hospital and Wichita County Celebrate Recovery.

Women of Purpose has granted approximately \$30,000 to various organizations so far, benefiting local women in 15 counties.

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City on a Hill, said at the Award Luncheon. “With this grant money, City on a Hill plans to continue services and improve services and build on the services that we already do provide to women.”

Unruh said City on a Hill now operates four facilities in Garden City, and she hopes to continue building relationships with other community members and services to expand the organization’s reach to other area women who can benefit from City on a Hill’s services.

City on a Hill offers outpatient substance abuse treatment, as well as special programs for pregnant and postpartum women, adolescents and DUI/DWI offenders.

The Women of Purpose Fund awarded its first grant in 2010 to the Garden City Community College’s Business and Industry program. Since then, the organization has given the following grants: in 2011, \$3,000 to the Shift Center; in 2012, \$3,500 to the Garden City Family YMCA; in 2013, \$5,000 to the Garden City Recreation Commission; in 2014, \$6,000 to Family Crisis Services; in 2015, \$5,000 to Kansas Children’s Service League; in 2016, \$4,000 to Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas.

WKCF wants to thank The Commerce Trust for underwriting the Women of Purpose Annual Luncheon and Award event.

WOMEN OF PURPOSE LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

2016-2017 WOP Executive Committee

Pictured (left to right): Carol Nanninga, Sara Robinson, Liz Scheopner, Jeanne Cottrell, Emme Miller, Audrey Law, Janie Welsh, and Alice Banning



At the Annual Grant Award Luncheon, the Women of Purpose Executive Committee said farewell to Emme Miller and Janie Welsh. Emme and Janie served as the Co-Chairs of the Executive Committee for the 2016/2017 season and had been members of the Committee since the inception of Women of Purpose Fund in 2010. Audrey Law will be taking their place as Chairman of the Executive Committee for the 2017/2018 year. The Executive Committee is also welcoming three new members: Jan Kleysteuber, Susan Escareno and

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ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

In June, Western Kansas Community Foundation awarded 13 scholarships totaling \$114,100 at its Annual Scholarship Reception. The scholarships are distributed from various scholarship funds administered by the Foundation.

WKCF scholarships are awarded once a year. In addition, the Foundation distributes from various other funds for the purpose of scholarships. This year, a total of \$22,423.32 in scholarship money will go to the Garden City Community College Endowment Association. These distributions are taken from the Mildred Henselman Fund (\$9,865.32), the Henry & Nellie Hall Fund (\$4,768), the K.O. & Ruth Powell Fund (\$2,530), and the Erdene Corley Scholarship Fund (\$5,260). Pending other distributions, one scholarship has been awarded from that pool so far. The Henry and Nellie Hall Scholarship will be awarded to Nahum Juarez of Garden City.



WKCF's Program Officer, Stacie Hahn, presents a scholarship award to Marie-Isabel Lemke.



WKCF's Board Chairman, Don Linville, talks with scholarship recipients and their families.

WKCF Scholarship Funds and their 2017 recipients

Anne Campbell Memorial Scholarship, for graduates of Finney or Scott County, KS, who wish to pursue a nursing degree (\$250)

Erica Ramos, Garden City, KS

Conestoga Energy Partnership Scholarship, for participants in Liberal, KS "Youth Entrepreneurs" (\$2,000)

Priya Bhakta; Maurilio Coronado; Stephenee Crotinger; Kaitlyn Franz; Luis Mljares, all of Liberal, KS

Charles Helfrich Memorial Scholarship, for graduates from a Gray County High

Bernadette Shaughnessy, Cimarron KS

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John & Mary Herndon Trust Scholarship, for graduates of Wichita County High School (\$500)

Jorge Luis Gallegos-Ornelas, Leoti, KS

Katherine C. Jones Scholarship, for graduates of Holcomb High School (\$700)

Gracen Haar-Becker, Garden City, KS

Katherine C. Jones Continuing Education Scholarship, for graduates of Holcomb High School who have completed at least one year of post-secondary schooling (\$550)

Courtney Nemecheck, Holcomb, KS

Jan McLeland Memorial Scholarship, for graduates of Satanta High School (\$400)

Joni Peters Loepky, Satanta, KS.

Duane Nichols Memorial Scholarship, for graduates of Holcomb High School and Norwayne High school in Creston, OH (\$300)

Madeline Ball, Sterling, OH; Gracen Haar-Becker, Garden City, KS; Megan Roth, Holcomb, KS; Wyatt Wyckoff, Burbank, OH.

Cecil & Francis O'Brate Family Scholarship, for graduates of Ingalls High School (\$3,000)

Alexzandria Aldridge, Montezuma KS; Shyann Cox, Ingalls, KS; Chambre Droste, Cimarron KS; Mary Huelskamp, Garden City, KS; Larra Lacy, Cimarron, KS; Brandon Linn, Ingalls, KS; Michaela Loewen, Ingalls, KS; Gabriel McFall, Dodge City, KS; Josephine Neely, Cimarron, KS; Ty Poer, Ingalls, KS; Madelyn Sandoval, Ingalls, KS; Colton Schmidt, Ingalls, KS; Chris Sondergaard, Garden City, KS; Austin Teeter, Ingalls, KS; Christopher Wendel, Ingalls, KS.

Cecil & Francis O'Brate Family Youth Entrepreneurs Scholarship, for participants in Garden City, KS "Youth Entrepreneurs" (\$3,000)

Kyra Bellows; Tyler Cloud; Rebecca Doll; Emily Greene; Aileen Gurrola; Sabaha Hassen; Lexi Hogan; Marie Isabel Lemke; Ashly Lopez Reyes; Goretti Mendez-Vallejo; Alex Nelson; Long Nguyen; Hasin Patel; Hannah Schultz; Emily Unruh, all of Garden City, KS.

Cecil & Francis O'Brate Family Youth Entrepreneurs Summer Partnership Scholarship (2016 Juniors), awarded to Juniors who participate in Garden City, KS Youth Entrepreneurs Summer Partnership

Sarafin Claro; Emily Greene; Zac Karlin; Marie Isabel Lemke, all of Garden City, KS.

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Ron Peek Memorial Scholarship, for Finney County, KS graduates who are children/stepchildren of employees of Finney County Police Departments, Finney County Sheriff's Department, Finney County Fire Departments, Finney County EMS, or State Troopers who reside in Finney County (\$1,500)

Lincoln Biera; Lauren Evan, both of Garden City, KS.

Bernadine Sitts Scholarship, for Garden City High School graduates who attended Bernadine Sitts Intermediate Center (\$1,000)

Erik Chapparo; Erica Ramos; Marcus Tula, all of Garden City, KS.

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WKCF STAFF UPDATE



Liz Sosa

Recently we welcomed Adrienne Stevenson who was hired as Office Assistant for the summer. Liz Sosa was contracted for financial and bookkeeping services. WKCF is currently seeking to fill the full-time Operations Director position. For more information contact WKCF Director Conny Bogaard at 620-271-9484, or email at conny@wkcf.org.

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Adrienne Stevenson

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Conny Bogaard



Many people think of a Community Foundation as a granting organization, and it's true that providing grants and scholarship is an important aspect of our work. Yet it is easily overlooked that the money we distribute comes from many donors—local businesses, families and individuals—who started a fund with the WKCF with the purpose to do good in the community.

We are tremendously grateful for the opportunity to be the vehicle to make their charitable wishes come true, by supporting worthy projects in the 15 counties we serve.

A special "Thank You" to the members of our Grant Committee: Susan Williams, Rosa Rivera, Irene Velasquez, Liz Scheopner, Janna DeLissa, Denise Pass, Brenda Reeve and Don Linville for their hard work. The Committee meets 4 times a year to review numerous grant and scholarship applications – they're always more than we can reward - and they have to make some tough decisions. Their role is not only to ask what is being proposed, where and when the program will take place, and how much it will cost, but also, is the program practicable, reasonable, and sustainable?

Not all measures of success can be tied to quantitative outcomes; in the nonprofit field, it can take years sometimes to see the results. I am grateful for our Grant Committee and Board to acknowledge the bold, mission-driven goals our nonprofits seek to achieve.

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CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Don Linville



As reported in this newsletter, WKCF recently announced scholarship awards to more than 50 students from southwest Kansas. The funds from which the scholarships were awarded came from the foresight and generosity of individuals and organizations who want to invest in our future. They have done so by investing in the promise of our youth. They have done so by creating scholarship funds which will support scholars for generations to come.

At the reception recognizing and honoring the scholarship recipients on June 23rd, it was my true pleasure to meet some these young people and discuss their plans and goals. I met future entrepreneurs, nurses, ag specialists, educators and scientists. As we talked about their dreams and hopes, it confirmed the fact that today's youth hold immense promise; indeed, they hold our future. And I am convinced that our future is in good hands!

I am grateful for those who have recognized and understand the needs and the potential, and have created scholarship funds with WKCF. These scholarship funds are a gift and an investment that will keep on giving. Thank you for supporting our youth and our future.

FREE ESTATE PLANNING DESIGN

Western Kansas Community Foundation partners with John Griffin, JD of Stewardship Counseling, LLC to provide estate planning design services free of charge. The draft plan can then be given

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to schedule
your first appointment
(620) 271-9484**

beneficial especially when significant life changes have occurred. No products are sold or endorsed through this counseling process, only the opportunity to gain ideas.

The Stewardship Counseling program has been made possible thanks to generous support from Garden City Community College Endowment Association and The Commerce Trust Company. Stewardship Counseling is offered once a month except for July and December. Appointments are generally scheduled on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at a first-come-first-served basis. Next dates: August 29, September 26, October 25 (Wednesday) and November 21. Call the office at 620-271-9484 to set an appointment!

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