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wkcf.org

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By Stacie Hahn
Program Officer

Great Men Are Not Born Great: Real Men Real Leaders

Chris Hadfield, the first Canadian to walk in space, was once quoted as saying "...leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine." If you have ever seen the mentors and young men that participate in the Real Men Real Leaders program of Garden City, then you know they are the living embodiment of everything Hadfield was speaking of.

Real Men Real Leaders was founded in 2009 with the mission of "reaching out to our youth across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic lines and guiding them so they may fulfill their potential in becoming caring, giving, productive and responsible citizens." The program, which is free to participants, was started by concerned community members who realized that young men, and particularly young Hispanic men, are in a state of dilemma. A study done in 2014 stated that roughly 44 percent of Latino men are arrested at least once, on non-traffic-related crimes, by the time they turn 23. The statistics on graduation rates and employment are just as staggering.

In an effort to combat the statistics, fifth and sixth grade boys from Charles O. Stones Intermediate Center, Bernadine Sitts Intermediate Center, and St. Mary's Catholic School are matched with an adult male mentor from the community who volunteers with the program. The mentors build a bond of trust with each boy and guide them through life skill training using the Botvin Life Skills program. The Botvin curriculum defines six steps of success, or six character traits, that have been determined from a group of community leaders and successful business people as important traits to be successful. These traits have also been found to be the foundation of great men and leaders throughout history. The six traits are knowledge, preparedness, trustworthiness, dependability, respect, and honor. A portion of the curriculum is also designed to create well

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WKCF Non-Profit of the Year

On March 9th Western Kansas Community Foundation received the Non-Profit of the Year award at the Garden City Area Chamber Annual Banquet. The non-profit category is one of four categories that the Chamber awards every year. Other categories include: Small Business of the Year (1-20 employees), Business of the Year (21 employees and more), Emerging Business of the Year (in existence 1-4 years).

New Board Members



Pam Berlier was born and raised in Colorado. She received her Bachelors of Education with an emphasis on Early Childhood from the University of Northern Colorado. She also received her Masters of English as a Second Language from Newman University. Pam taught in the Lakin Grade School for 20 years and GCCC Adult Education for 2 years. She has been on numerous boards and committees for both USD 215 and Lakin United Methodist Church. Pam has a son, daughter and a granddaughter. She enjoys traveling, entertaining and all time spent with family and friends.



Janna DeLissa is an attorney who has served as the Wichita County District Magistrate Judge for the past twenty years. Her interest in the law started at Lakin High School, when she debated the topic of prison reform. She received a BA in American Studies from Oklahoma Baptist University. In 1985 she was awarded a JD and MBA from

the University of Kansas, where she became a loyal Jayhawk basketball fan. For ten years prior to being appointed a Judge, she was engaged in the general practice of law, served as both the Wichita County and the Leoti Municipal Attorney and taught Business Law and Legal Research at area colleges. She is active in both professional and community organizations.



Marsha Grisell is a lifelong resident of Kansas and has called Garden City home for the last 37 years. She was born and raised in Marysville, KS and graduated from Emporia State University in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Since 1980, Marsha's career has been in banking and after 22 years at

Commerce Bank, she retired as Sr. Vice President in June, 2016. Marsha has served as Treasurer of Society of Human Resource Management, a CASA volunteer and is currently the President of Crime Stoppers of Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. For the last 8 years, she has been a 'Big Sister' with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Marsha and her husband Randy have one son, Clark.



Denise D. Pass was born in Fort Worth, TX, but the family moved to Denver in 1971, making Colorado home. As a single mother, Denise raised her two children in Littleton until 2003 when they moved to Princeton, NJ so that she could attend Princeton Theological Seminary. She graduated with a M.Div. and is an ordained Minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She served

a congregation in the Cincinnati, Ohio area (where her children still live) before coming to Garden City. Giving back to the community is an important part of her life as a citizen, not just as a pastor. Since moving back to the High Plains in 2010, (where you can see the horizon!) Denise has been President and member of the Garden City Ministerial Alliance, an Emergency Night Chaplain for St. Catherine Hospital, member of LiveWell Finney Co., WKCF Women of Purpose, and Board member of the Noon Lion's Club.



Liz Scheopner has been a proud supporter of the WKCF since its inception and is proud to be listed as a founding member. She has owned Scheopner's Water Conditioning since 1979 and believes very strongly in giving back to the community which has been so good to her. Currently she is president of the board for Genesis Family Health. She also currently serves on the executive boards of the Women

of Purpose Fund at Western Kansas Community Foundation, Garden City Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce. While no longer on the board of Finney County United Way, she is still very involved in helping them each year. Her biggest joy in life is her family, which consists of four children, their spouses and 13 grandchildren.



Irene Velasquez is co-owner of Border-Line, Inc. in Ulysses, KS. She and her husband Ray have owned and operated this oil & gas business for almost forty years. Together they have raised six children and resided in Ulysses and southwest Kansas most of their lives. Irene has a strong passion for community service and has served on various boards including Grant County

Library Board, Southwest Kansas Library Systems, Grant County Chamber of Commerce, USD #214 Board of Education and Kansas Association of School Boards. She currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Grant County Community Foundation and State Chair Woman of the Kansas American GI Forum. She is also active in her Catholic Church, Mary, Queen of Peace and serves on the Dodge City Diocese Dechant Foundation Board.

Real Men Real Leaders

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rounded and productive citizens. Through the program, students are exposed to experiences they may never have had before. Golfing, bowling, swimming lessons, field trips to the local museum, college football game or the Art Center on Main are some of the fun experiences Real Men Real Leaders shares with the young men in the program.

In November, Real Men Real Leaders was awarded a grant from the Western Kansas Community Foundation for their "What Christmas Means to Me" project. Approximately 40 young men were given a disposable camera to take home over Christmas break and they were tasked with capturing what Christmas means to them. Upon return from Christmas, the photos were developed and the boys took a trip to the Art Center on Main where they created a poster board with their photos, stamps, and marker drawings to display what their Christmases were like. In February, WKCF staff was invited to participate in judging of the projects. An afternoon snack was provided for all the boys, and before they ate one of the mentors prayed over the group. Then the presentations began. Jonas Cruz, Executive Director of the program, gave instructions to each boy before they stood in front of the panel. "Stand tall, look them in the eyes, speak clearly and confidently, tell them your name, what school you go to and about your project." Nearly every poster seen that day had a photo of the Real Men Real Leaders group. There is no mistaking the reason why. Real Men Real Leaders has a profound impact on the young men that come through the program with values learned and friends made. The program doesn't stop at education or when the boys age out. There is a system in place to track students



through elementary school and into high school to ensure students graduate, pursue, and achieve their goals and dreams.

The mentors of the Real Men Real Leaders program were asked to define what makes a "real man." Each had a different answer, but they all resounded around a few simple aspects.

A "real man" is a man who is ready to serve God, his family and his community. He respects his wife and family, and supports them in good times and bad. He takes responsibility for his decisions, words and actions and is a positive influence to others.

Becoming a man and having the responsibilities that go along with that title doesn't just happen upon reaching a specified age. The title of man has to be earned. The mentors of Real Men Real Leaders are working hard to impact the lives of our young men and training up leaders, and by all accounts they are succeeding.

[Cutline goes here](#)



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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Conny Bogaard
Executive Director

On March 9th, Western Kansas Community Foundation received the Non-Profit of the Year award from the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce. This is a tremendous honor for all of us, WKCF board and staff. I have only been with the foundation for a year and a half so I cannot take much credit for it. I want to thank our board and staff, past and present, for making WKCF what it is today: A strong mission-driven organization that is not only building community resources and making grants but also convener, catalyst, and collaborator within the community. It is exactly those leadership qualities that the award signifies. Much of our success can be attributed to the partnership with the Commerce Trust. It has been a wonderful relationship and we value having local people looking out for our assets and interests. But really, this award belongs to the entire community, progressive business leaders, individuals and families who started this Foundation more than 20 years ago, because they believed in the power of community. More than anything, a community foundation is builder and caretaker of permanent community resources and that is as much needed today as it was 20+ years ago. I believe we should all be very grateful for their initiative as it has greatly enhanced the quality of life in this area.

New Operations Director



Tyson Sterling is a Garden City native and graduated from Garden City High School in 2005. Tyson went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and minor in Music Performance at Washburn University (2010) and a Master's in Health Care Services Administration from the Kansas University Medical Center (2012). Tyson served as a healthcare I.T. consultant with Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri, before accepting the Chief Executive Officer role at Wichita County Health Center in 2013. In 2015, he served as the Chief Operations Officer for Scott County Hospital. In all roles, he gained valuable experience into hospital operations, rural health care issues, social determinants of health, and financial stewardship.

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 to an attorney to formalize. Mr. Griffin will also review existing plans which can be 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 Commerce Trust Company of Garden City. Stewardship Counseling appointments are generally scheduled on the 3rd Tuesday of the month – except for July and December – at a first-come-first-served basis. Next dates: April 25, May 23 and June 27. Contact the Foundation now to set an appointment!

Emerging Nonprofit: Oasis of Peace Center



Human trafficking – or sex trafficking – is not making headline news. It is not even something people associate with southwest Kansas. Yet it's real and happening every day in our communities. In fact, remote rural areas make illegal activities such as sex trafficking easier to conceal. According to the Kansas Attorney

General's Office, 463 victims of human trafficking were identified during the state's 2016 fiscal year which ended June 30, an increase of 32 percent over fiscal year 2014.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a federal statute passed into law in 2000 by the U.S. Congress, defines sex trafficking as a commercial sex act 'induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.' The definition is applicable to U.S. citizens and non-citizens alike.

Southwest Kansas is at unique risk for human trafficking because of its varied demographic and location on the intersection of two major highways, US83 running north to south, and US50/400, running east to west. While the eastern half of the state has put systems in place to attempt to stop and minimize human trafficking, southwest Kansas is growing in its awareness and caring for the needs of trafficked victims. "We are unaware of any long-term transitional housing that is available for victims, and housing for the women who have minor children anywhere in Kansas" says Sister Trudy, O.P., a Catholic Dominican Sister of Peace working with local trafficked victims.

Sister Trudy works for the Oasis of Peace Center, a new initiative in Garden City that provides secure, confidential, extended transitional housing and life-skills training for women and their minor children who are victims of human trafficking. They help women renew their self-esteem, develop skills necessary to find employment, and provide a secure environment for women to transition from slavery to freedom. Women can come to the Center through referral from law enforcement and other agencies in the state directly involved with serving trafficked victims.

The Oasis of Peace Center is creating a safe home where victims can heal, learn job skills and become independent. The organization will provide housing, but they need help with start-up costs and ongoing maintenance and sustainability of this vital program. Donations to the Center can be dropped off at the following locations: Western Kansas Community Foundation, The Garden City Family YMCA, Garden City Recreation Commission, or your local church. Checks can also be mailed to: Oasis of Peace Center, 310 E. Walnut St., Suite 206, Garden City, KS 67846.

The Oasis of Peace Center is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization. Donations to the Center are tax-deductible. For more information contact Sister Trudy Tanner, O.P. at 319-677-6107 or ttop22butterfly@live.com.

Beginning in 2017, grant application deadlines will be changing:

Application Due Dates are March 1st, July 1st and November 1st
Grants Awarded in April, August and December



Chairman's Perspective

Don Linville
Chairman of the Board

Promises live here. This is much more than a slogan – it is the purpose of Western Kansas Community Foundation. We strive to bring a promising future to western Kansas. We do this by facilitating philanthropy which will improve quality of life and create opportunity for the future. Since the beginning in 1996, WKCF has granted an incredible \$10,000,000 to a wide variety of nonprofit and charitable organizations.

And we've only just begun – 2017 promises more excitement for Western Kansas Community Foundation:

- Six new board members have joined our governing body: Pam Berlier, Janna DeLissa, Marsha Grisell, Denise Pass, Liz Scheopner and Irene Velasquez. Read more about them on page two of this newsletter.
- Grant cycles have been restructured to better coordinate with needs of grant recipients.
- A new Development Committee has been established, charged with the challenge of growing permanent and restricted assets of the Foundation.
- Our first "Match Day" will be celebrated later this year.

Our board of directors continues to develop upon the vision, ensuring the causes that mean the most to the people of Western Kansas will thrive.

Get WKCF News in Your Inbox

To increase our reach, we're transitioning to a quarterly e-newsletter, with printed versions in April and November.

Sign-up today at WKCF.org
Or email Stacie@WKCF.org

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- Someone to speak to my group
- Personal estate planning services
- Using the Foundation to administer charity in my will or trust