



# Promise

Summer 2016  
Western Kansas Community Foundation

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**Western Kansas**  
Community Foundation

## Interview with WKCF Co-Founders Judy and Martin Nusser

In 1996 Judy and Marty (Martin) Nusser were part of a group of local residents and businesses that took the initiative to start WKCF. They both served on the board of directors whereas Judy is also a founding member of the Women of Purpose Fund. A native of Garden City, Marty grew up on a farm just outside town where he and Judy still live. Marty farmed for 20 years before following his wife in the real estate business. Apart from their professional careers, Judy and Marty deeply care about the community they call home. WKCF staffers Melissa Gallegos, Stacie Hahn and Conny Bogaard sat down with the couple and asked them to reflect on the work of the Foundation, the changes they have witnessed in the past twenty years, the satisfaction from giving back to the community, and the future of philanthropy in Southwest Kansas.

### How did you become involved with WKCF?

**Marty:** We were friends with Phil Dick, he was a partner in Lewis, Hooper & Dick [public accountants], and he was a classmate of mine in High School. He urged us to consider investing for the purpose of then reinvesting in the community.

**Judy:** What we saw—and Phil brought that very much to the forefront—was that we have to take care of ourselves in Southwest Kansas, no one else is going to take care of us. Even though it was a stretch at the time because the investment wasn't a small investment for any of us, we all felt that there was a definite need because if we didn't do it, it wouldn't get done.

### What attracted you the most to the work of the Foundation?

**Judy:** The granting aspect was always a good idea, keeping the money in Southwest Kansas, and reinvesting in ourselves, and making a more solid foundation for us and also a method by which our voice is heard.

**Marty:** And what is attractive is that you can get into the basics of the Foundation. A good endowment, the way it's done at the WKCF, is you can't get into the body of the money. Then you can trust the fact that in ten years from now, or ten years after we're gone, it will be there doing some good.

*continued on page 4*

I promise

to nurture our  
future leaders



Jonas Cruz  
Real Men Real Leaders

# Grants and Programs

## Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center: Superheroes Among Us

When you think of the term superhero, what comes to mind? Superman? Ironman? Perhaps, Captain America? Instantly, an image appears of a figure donning a cape, large muscles at-the-ready to take on any dire situation. Now, picture a young professional woman named Mandie. Can you see her? Not someone you would typically view as a superhero; but to one child, Mandie certainly is.



*Melissa Gallegos  
Assistant Director*

Mandie is employed by the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center (WKCAC) in Scott City, KS, which serves children of 30 counties in western Kansas who are victims of abuse. Established in 2004, WKCAC's mission is to heal the trauma of child abuse to children and families through prevention, support and services. This is no simple undertaking! 30 counties is a large area, and the challenge arose how to service these children

and families effectively and efficiently. With the assistance of grant funds, WKCAC was able to acquire a fleet of mobile units, called Mobile Child Advocacy Centers, to meet the victims where they are as well as a set of anatomically correct dolls to clearly tell their story. As much as we would like to deny this happening in our part of the world, this issue is ever prevalent. In 2014, WKCAC saw their record year, serving over 381 children and traveling countless miles to provide necessary, caring services to victims and their families. "Our ability to provide comprehensive psychological, medical, and forensic services is dependent upon us having a reliable,

working motor home to use as our Mobile Medical Unit," Director Kelly Robbins writes.

Western Kansas Community Foundation is a supporter of WKCAC and their mission. Since 2010, Western Kansas Community Foundation has provided them nearly \$30,000 in grant funds. Projects and programs funded were aiding with Forensic Training for staff, assisting with the purchase of the anatomically correct dolls, and providing financial support in the emergency of one of their mobile units breaking down. The Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center is truly an advocate for abuse victims by being in the trenches with them all the way through the healing process.

While at court with one of her child abuse victims, a conversation was overheard between her client and a friend, "Who is the lady that is with you?" The child responded, "That is Mandie, whenever I need her I call her, and she shows up." The friend asked, "Like a superhero?" The little girl said, "Yes, just like a superhero!"

"This is what keeps us on the road and willing to travel thousands of miles each year. Without the mobile response, there wouldn't be a "Superhero" when a rural child abuse victim needs help." – Kelly Robbins, WKCAC Director.



*Taylor and Erin, employees at Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center*



## Women of Purpose: Strength in Numbers

On April 5th, 2016 the Women of Purpose gathered to award their annual grant. This would be the last grant focused on financial literacy, Women Wise: Money & Finance, a three-year initiative to empower women with the confidence to achieve financial independence for themselves and their families. The premise of this focus stemmed from encountering women who were struggling to budget their already limited funds, escaping domestic violence situations, and to build a safety net of savings for emergencies.

Through this three-year initiative, the Women of Purpose have been able to support programs through Family Crisis Services, Kansas Children Service League, and most recently, Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas. Each program unique, offered women the opportunity to learn budgeting strategies, begin a savings account and build their own self-confidence as they manage their family's financial resources.

Kansas Children Service League offered their program in Garden City, Liberal and Ulysses, in which they had around 50 participants. Each participant left with a calculator, a notebook to assist with financial record-keeping, and a \$25 match for those who opened a savings account. They also partnered with K-State Extension to offer their participants a workshop called Eat Smart, Pay Less which also promoted affordable healthy eating habits. "Over 60% of our families are considered

to be living at the poverty level as defined by the Federal Government and many are single parent households," Christie Reed, Director of KCSL, states.

The 2016 grant recipient, Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas, will be working closely with low-income families throughout the next twelve months. Each family will receive support from a case manager on a weekly basis as they build an individualized case plan, create a family budget, receive financial literacy education, and open a bank account. "Our experience has shown us that few low-income women have the ability to establish and maintain an emergency fund allowing them to maintain financial stability as unexpected expenses impact their family budget," Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas Director, Deborah Snapp, writes. An issue that will be addressed as the main outcome of this particular program is for each participant to have built a savings account of \$600 at its conclusion.

The Women of Purpose continue to be a driving force in their mission to engage, empower and support women in our area by building confidence, even at the home level. By targeting financial literacy, the knowledge will strengthen women in our region which will change the dynamics of our communities. More often than not, when a woman is uplifted, the ripples affect generations to come.



*Women of Purpose Executive Committee with WKCF staffs  
Stacie Hahn and Melissa Gallegos*



*Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas receiving the 2016  
Women of Purpose Grant*

## WKCF to Co-Sponsor Grant Writer's Academy

The Western Kansas Community Foundation along with Finnup Foundation and Finney County United Way will be hosting a two-day Grant Writer's Academy this summer. Facilitated by Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute, this two-day workshop will teach the skills necessary to effectively write a proposal with multiple funders in mind. Learn how to research grantors and search for resources to boost your organization's program potential. Participants will also learn how to write for programs which will generate specific, measurable results that reflect their organization's impact within the community.

**June 30th 8am – Noon AND  
July 14th 8am – Noon**

Registration starts at 7:30 am. The first session is a prerequisite for the second session. Registration fee is \$40 which includes both days. To register, email [melissa@wkcf.org](mailto:melissa@wkcf.org) or call 620-271-9484.

# Interview with WKCF Co-Founders Judy and Martin Nusser

*continued from cover*

## Was the idea to serve fifteen counties always on people's minds?

**Judy:** I think it was probably always in the mind of the people who began the Foundation, because they could envision that it could grow. If you would have told me then that it would grow to the degree that it is right now, I'm not certain I would have believed it. It has been a wonderful growth, but that's because it has had good management.

**Marty:** And I think Griffin is an amazing asset. He is not in there for a fee, he is non-threatening in that way because he is already paid, no matter what size of your estate, it doesn't cost you a thing, zero.

**Judy:** I would think also that after twenty years that it would be good for people to have a review of what they did twenty years ago because their circumstances may have changed. They may decide that WKCF is here for the duration, and they may reevaluate their priorities and redirect more benefits toward the survival of Southwest Kansas.

## Do you have a particular grant story that you like to share?

**Judy:** Not a specific one. There were so many especially in outlying communities, where the funding was not there for some reason. I liked to help children - and being a parent, that was always something that pulls at your heart -, and also, to give a hand up to women in need. And in that granting process you have to be very cautious that you don't become a line item for one group, because that is not what the grant process is about. Because it is so easy, then, to depend on and that was not the idea behind it. I think that's the only caution. But it was amazing to go through them.

## How do you envision the Foundation twenty years from now?

**Judy:** We are more transient than we have ever been. I think there are some concerns with new people coming in; they are not going to embrace WKCF because they may only envision themselves to be here for a short period of time. So your search area is those people who have longevity here.

**Marty:** Judy is right. The Sheriff's Department or Police Department, their leaders will tell you, we are an excellent training ground. They come here, they learn, and they go on to bigger and better. Some of those people will never get involved with WKCF.



## How would you instill in young people that same sense of philanthropy that inspired you?

**Judy:** I think that's an issue. I think it's really important to instill in them that you give back to the community which is what WKCF is all about. Some young people are not experiencing the feeling of satisfaction within their life because they don't know that element that is going to fill that void; it is not all about self-gratification. Someone somewhere has to start again that feeling of responsibility to not only yourself but to your family, to your community, to your church, to an institution, or program.

## Where would you like to see the Foundation go in the next twenty years?

**Judy:** To grow, and to embrace those things that we haven't yet, as far as individuals, as far as sources, and to increase the giving. I watched it the last ten years in our own state. They keep taking this out, that out, and absorbing this fund from this department and that department, which means that they have the same mandates but they have no financial means meeting those mandates so our responsibility is going to grow.

**Marty:** The whole trick is you have to keep growing your base. And it's not so much "look at us, we were here and now we are there." The whole purpose is having a really good Grant Committee that now can take the increase of funds and reach a larger area and more people. That's the basics to the whole system. You're not growing to accumulate dollars and talk about how much you have; you're growing to be able to grant for them.

**Judy:** To serve the area.

**Marty:** And that's the story that needs to be told. The purpose is to give back, and we can give back more if you see a fit to invest in western Kansas.

**So you see building our unrestricted funds as a big goal?**

**Marty:** Right!

**Judy:** A common question of the era is "what's in it for me"? What's in it for them is that the Foundation will be able to pick up where someone else has shut down. And they have to see the benefit for them. And I agree with you Marty, the amount of money we have isn't the goal. The goal is how much can we give which coincidentally is based on how much money we have. But that should be less of a topic than what we're giving, where we are giving to, and what we are doing in the communities.

**Get WKCF News in Your Inbox**

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

**Sign-up today at [WKCF.org](http://WKCF.org) Or email [Stacie@WKCF.org](mailto:Stacie@WKCF.org)**

## 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 is offered once a month except for July and December. Appointments are made on first-come first-served basis. Contact the Foundation now to set an appointment!



## Chairman's Perspective

*Neil Hawley  
Chairman of the Board*

I hope this Newsletter finds you in good health and even better spirits. We are excited to be in the midst of the Western Kansas Community Foundation's 20th anniversary year. Having weathered many peaks and valleys in that time, I am happy to report to you that we are in excellent condition. We are well staffed, busy, and enthusiastic about the next twenty years, especially with the market slowly ratcheting up.

The upcoming Match Day project will be the big news for this year, as it will be new to us, and full of potential. On November 29, WKCF will host a fundraising campaign to support participating nonprofit endowments. The match pool we make available is our anniversary gift to area nonprofits! Please watch our communications for more information on Match Day possibilities.

I'd like to mention something fun. If you are familiar with us, then you know about our Women of Purpose fund that does great work with women's issues. You may also know past WCKF Chairman Tom Walker. If you would like to pass along a little help to the Women of Purpose endowed fund, and you would like to see Tom wear a skirt to their annual banquet, then join me in making a donation to Women of Purpose! Make sure you write Tom Walker on the "for" line. We are shooting for at least \$2,500, and are more than half way there already!

Thank you for helping the Western Kansas Community Foundation do the good work of philanthropy for so many in our part of Kansas. It's amazing how many people we help, through your generosity.

## From the Desk of the Executive Director



**Conny Bogaard**  
Executive Director

**After 20 years, the needs have not become any less urgent, but we have a solid mechanism in place to channel support.**



Anniversaries prompt us to reflect on past, present and future. We look back in gratitude and marvel at the success of the Foundation. As co-founder Judy Nusser remarks elsewhere in this Newsletter: "If you would have told me then that it would grow to the degree that it is now, I'm not certain I would have believed it." Needless to say, this growth could not have happened without the generosity of the many donors, volunteer boards, and community leaders that have worked with us. After 20 years, the needs have not become any less urgent, but we have a solid mechanism in place to channel support.

Foundations face many challenges today including advancing innovative ways of investing in social change and promoting rural development. Studies show that by 2020, \$79 billion will change hands from one generation to the next in Kansas. If we capture a portion of this wealth — even just 5% — by setting up endowments, we could provide a permanent source of funding for local organizations and causes that will greatly improve the lives of Kansans.

Recently we welcomed three new agencies that started an endowment fund with us: Finney County United Way, Finney County Historical Society and Miles of Smiles Therapeutic Horsemanship. They now qualify to participate in our Match Day event scheduled for November 29 ('Giving Tuesday'). On this day, WKCF will provide a proportional match to donations made to an organization's endowment that is held at the Community Foundation. It is a great way to promote endowment building – WKCF's core activity – and celebrate our 20th Anniversary with the community we serve.

We are excited as we look forward to new opportunities to make an impact. To cite Martin Nusser, "The purpose is to give back, and we can give back more if you see a fit to invest in western Kansas." It is in this spirit of philanthropy that the Community Foundation was founded, and it is our task to keep that spirit alive for the next twenty years, and far beyond.

**Finney County  
United Way**



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Therapeutic Horsemanship Program



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# News from our Affiliate Organizations



## Wichita County Community Foundation

Wichita County Community Foundation has been working to multiply the impact of charitable giving to brighten the future of Wichita County. They are presently conducting a \$360,000 capital campaign to raise money for their endowed funds. This pool of endowed funds is a

“community savings account” that allows them to address needs and opportunities as they arise in the community. Money raised will be matched with the Kansas Health Foundation GROW II grant their foundation has been awarded.

One of the outcomes of this capital campaign is a newly established endowed fund named, “JoAnn’s Fund”, which will help provide needed dental care for children of our community. A broad based health fund has also been established with the help of individual donors and a Midwest Energy grant.

WCCF had the opportunity to provide an avenue for the community to raise money for a new track facility for the schools with a temporary WCHS Track Fund. On April 14, 2016 the first track meet was held with a ribbon cutting celebration of the two-year project.



## Grant County Community Foundation

A Free Cancer Screening Clinic sponsored by Grant County Women of Purpose was held on April 30th. Recognizing the sweeping impact cancer has on the lives of so many people, the Women of Purpose directed their 2015 grant of \$5,000 toward prevention. The Grant

County Health Department and the Leave a Legacy Foundation collaborated to organize and host the event. For two hours, scores of people participated in the screenings in a number of areas including exams for PAP, breast, prostate, oral, skin and lab testing. Additional funding from the 2016 winter sports Pink Out allowed the screening to be offered free to the whole community. Women of Purpose stepped up to promote the event as well as provide volunteers and hospitality rooms. The screenings were provided by local volunteer health care providers as well as several medical providers from the KU Medical Center.

**“It was wonderful to see so many people turn out for the screenings, and the local volunteers made the whole event run smoothly to serve as many people as possible.”**

*—Becky Alexander, board member of Leave a Legacy Foundation  
and chairman of the Grant County event*



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Mail this form with your check to 402 N. Main, Garden City, Kansas 67846. A receipt will be sent for tax purposes.

**I would like information about:**

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- Someone to speak to my group
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