



# The Charitable Connection

*THE PITTSBURG AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION*

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## **PACF Welcomes Chris Ward as New Executive Director**

The Pittsburg Area Community Foundation welcomes Chris Ward who will begin working with the PACF as the executive director on June 7th.

"I have been following the progress of the PACF since its inception, and I am excited about the opportunity to help educate and further the growth of endowments through planned giving in Crawford County," Ward says. According to Lynda Wilkinson, PACF President, Chris will bring many valuable skills and experiences to the PACF. "We are very fortunate and excited to have found someone with Chris's abilities to step in after the retirement of Judy Scudamore," Wilkinson said. "Chris has a broad understanding of Crawford County, strong communication skills and the ability to work well with people. She and her husband Steve have been actively supporting the

For Chris's entire adult life, she has been committed to improving the quality of life in the Crawford County area. Stepping into the PACF executive director's position seems a natural progression of this commitment. She will be working with the Board of Trustees and the community to connect donors to charitable issues they care about as well as to the changing needs in our community and to enhance the quality of life in our area.

Chris has been a teacher with the Pittsburg Community Schools for the past 27 years. She was responsible for implementing the HOSTS reading program where adult volunteers worked with students to improve reading skills. She is a member of the National Education Association, Kansas and Pittsburg Education Associations, Phi Delta Kappa, PEO Chapter CP, Pittsburg Kiwanis, and Pittsburg State and



**Chris Ward, New Executive Director**

Pittsburg High School Alumni Associations.

Chris and Steve have two sons, Jason who is an associate professor in the Commercial Graphics Department at Pittsburg State and Craig who is the National Service and Revenue manager for Sport's Authority based in Denver.

Chris invites everyone to drop by the PACF office at 117 West Fourth Street to say "hello." She would visit with organizations and groups about the PACF.

## **PACF Hosts Seminar for Professional Advisors**

Area accountants, attorneys, bank personnel dealing with trusts, insurance agents, stock brokers, and financial advisors participated in a four-hour "2004 Estate Planning Update" seminar on May 27 hosted by the PACF.

The seminar addressed three important areas in estate planning. The first was federal and state planning developments including significant legislation, judicial decisions, and tax rulings and notices at the Federal and State levels having an impact on estate planning. The second was the new Kansas Durable Power of Attorney Act including the impact on existing powers of attorney and advisable drafting strategies. The third area covered estate planning techniques to maximize Medicaid benefits for single and married clients, as well as other family members who are beneficiaries of their estates. In addition, the impact of the recent Miller v SRS Kansas Supreme Court decision and amendments made by the 2004 Kansas legislature were reviewed.

Presenters included Timothy P. O'Sullivan and Stewart T. Weaver, both partners with the Foulston Siefkin Law Firm in Wichita, and John Mitchelson and Kevin Mitchelson, attorneys with Wheeler & Mitchelson, Chartered. O'Sullivan and Weaver specialize in the areas of estate planning and probate, trust law, elder law, and taxation. John Mitchelson and Kevin Mitchelson specialize in the areas of estate planning, business law, and taxation, as well as other areas.

## **A Letter to All PACF Friends and Supporters from Judy Scudamore**

As I retire as PACF Executive Director, I naturally think about what has happened during the first three years of the PACF. These have been exciting times for our area and for me.

In the beginning, the Kansas Health Foundation offered the Pittsburg area \$300,000 in matching funds to establish and operate its own community foundation. A 26-member Board of Trustees was approved, and the PACF was incorporated. At that early stage, probably none of us fully realized all the advantages of a community foundation, but the Board had caught the vision of the enormous potential that the Pittsburg Area Community Foundation had for our area in future years and it went to work.

In the three years since February 2001, the PACF grew to \$1.9 million in assets and continues to grow. Over \$126,400 in grants, made possible by generous donors, have been made through the PACF. The PACF was the "organizer" for collecting donations for the September 11, 2001 tragedy and, more recently, the May 2003 tornado disaster. Eighteen funds have been established. In 2004, a new \$250,000 endowed fund—The Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund—will be established with a matching grant from the Kansas Health Foundation because the PACF met the challenge of raising \$500,000 in endowed funds in 2002 and 2003.

What accomplishments these have been thanks to an outstanding Board of Trustees, the 15 affiliated funds, and the generous supporters and friends of the PACF.

The notable beginning years of the PACF are characterized by energy, service to donors, and commitment to building a pool of permanent assets to enhance the quality of life in our area now and in the future.

The PACF is positioned to continue to grow and fulfill its potential to benefit donors and our county-wide area. The Board has set a goal of \$7 million in assets by the end of 2007. Conservatively, this level of assets could provide over \$100,000 in grants each year. As the PACF continues to grow, the potential for enhancing the quality of life in our area grows.

To have been a part of the beginnings of the PACF has been very exciting. The Board, donors, supporters, and organizations involved with the PACF are forward thinking, generous, and committed to making the future better for our area. My opportunity to work with these dedicated, philanthropic individuals and groups has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my career.

The new PACF Email address is [pacfexecdir@mobill.net](mailto:pacfexecdir@mobill.net). Please change your Email address book.

If you have questions about the articles in this newsletter or would like more information, please contact the PACF office at 620-231-8897 or [pacfexecdir@mobill.net](mailto:pacfexecdir@mobill.net).

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