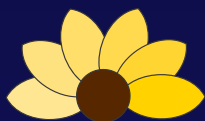


Special Edition 2020

The
CHARITABLE CONNECTION
newsletter of the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas

Grant
Celebration
2020

In this issue: President's Welcome • Introduction • GBL Grants • Elm Acres Grants • Rita J. Bicknell Women's Health Fund Grants • General Funds Grants • Future Fund Grants • Match Day 2020 • Agency Funds • Closing Thanks



communityfoundation
of SOUTHEAST KANSAS

Table of Contents

Welcome to the CFSEK 2020 Grant Celebration	1
Introduction to Our 2020 Grants	3
Dylan Meier Get Busy Livin' Foundation Youth Volunteerism	4
Featured: Parsons Recreation Commission	5
Grant Recipients	6
Elm Acres Foundation	7
Featured: Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters	8
Grant Recipients	9
Rita J. Bicknell Women's Health Fund Women's Giving Circle	10
Featured: Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas	11
Grant Recipients	12
Rita J. Bicknell Women's Health Fund Circle of Friends	13
Featured: Labette Health Foundation	14
Grant Recipients	15
General Funds – Basic Human Needs	16
Featured: Caney Valley Agape Network	17
Grant Recipients	18
General Funds – Youth Activities	20
Featured: Cherokee County K-State Research & Extension/Riverton PRIDE	21
Grant Recipients	22
Future Fund Giving Circle	24
Featured: Chicopee Foundation/Cato Historical Preservation Association	25
Grant Recipients	26
Get Ready for Match Day 2020!	28
The Power of Agency Funds	29
Closing Thanks	30

Welcome to the CFSEK 2020 Grant Celebration

by **Ron Rhodes**, President, CFSEK Board of Trustees



Welcome to the CFSEK 2020 Grant Celebration!

In a normal year, I would be welcoming you in person at the PSU Wilkinson Alumni Center, where we have held our Grant Celebration every year since 2012. But, for all its charms, 2020 has been anything but normal. Because of the ongoing risks posed by large, in-person gatherings, the CFSEK Board of Trustees prudently chose to cancel this year's in-person Celebration.

But we're still celebrating! In place of

our usual event, CFSEK staff came up with the idea for a multimedia format. This special-edition newsletter serves as the core of this year's Grant Celebration. Here, you'll find a brief summary of all the projects funded through CFSEK's 2020 grant cycles.

Similar to our usual Grant Celebrations, we've asked two recipients from each fund to provide more information about their projects. Some of those submitted a written story to be included in this newsletter. The others made brief videos that you can watch on YouTube.

Celebrating Continued Good Works in SEK

CFSEK is a public non-profit organization founded in 2001 by a group of citizens who shared an interest in encouraging charitable giving and a commitment to strengthening local ● ● ●

President's Welcome (cont.)

communities.

Since that time, we've reached a number of milestones that have enabled our granting to grow annually as we continue our mission to improve the quality of life in Southeast Kansas. Currently, we host 166 funds and manage \$47 million in assets.

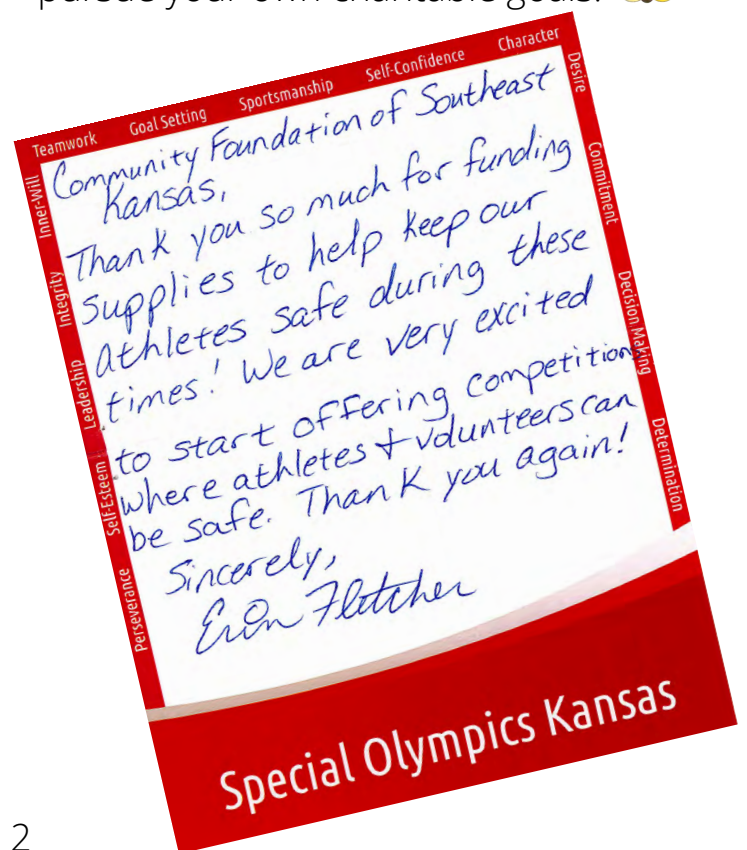
On a daily basis, CFSEK is privileged to work with numerous individuals, organizations, and non-profits to improve our region. As a foundation, we are committed to being good stewards of their charitable dollars. Through our partnerships with others, we are helping to build a successful and sustainable future for the Southeast Kansas area.

One of the roles of a foundation that we particularly enjoy is that of grantmaker. As Sherri will explain in more detail momentarily, this year CFSEK granting funds awarded \$229,538 in total. Our affiliate foundations in Girard and Fort Scott provided an additional 29 grants totaling \$69,073. And CFSEK will be giving a further \$40,000 to local organizations participating in Match

Day on December 1, National Giving Tuesday. (You can read more about Match Day 2020 on [page 28.](#))

Of course, none of this would be possible without the contributions of our founders, our past and present trustees, and our donors. We have a note of thanks for each of these groups on the last page of this newsletter.

Finally, thank you to our readers for taking the time to participate in our Grant Celebration and explore the good works being done by the many organizations recognized here. We hope you will be inspired to give back in support of your community and pursue your own charitable goals. 🌻



Introduction to Our 2020 Grants

by **Sherri Stephens**, CFSEK Program Coordinator

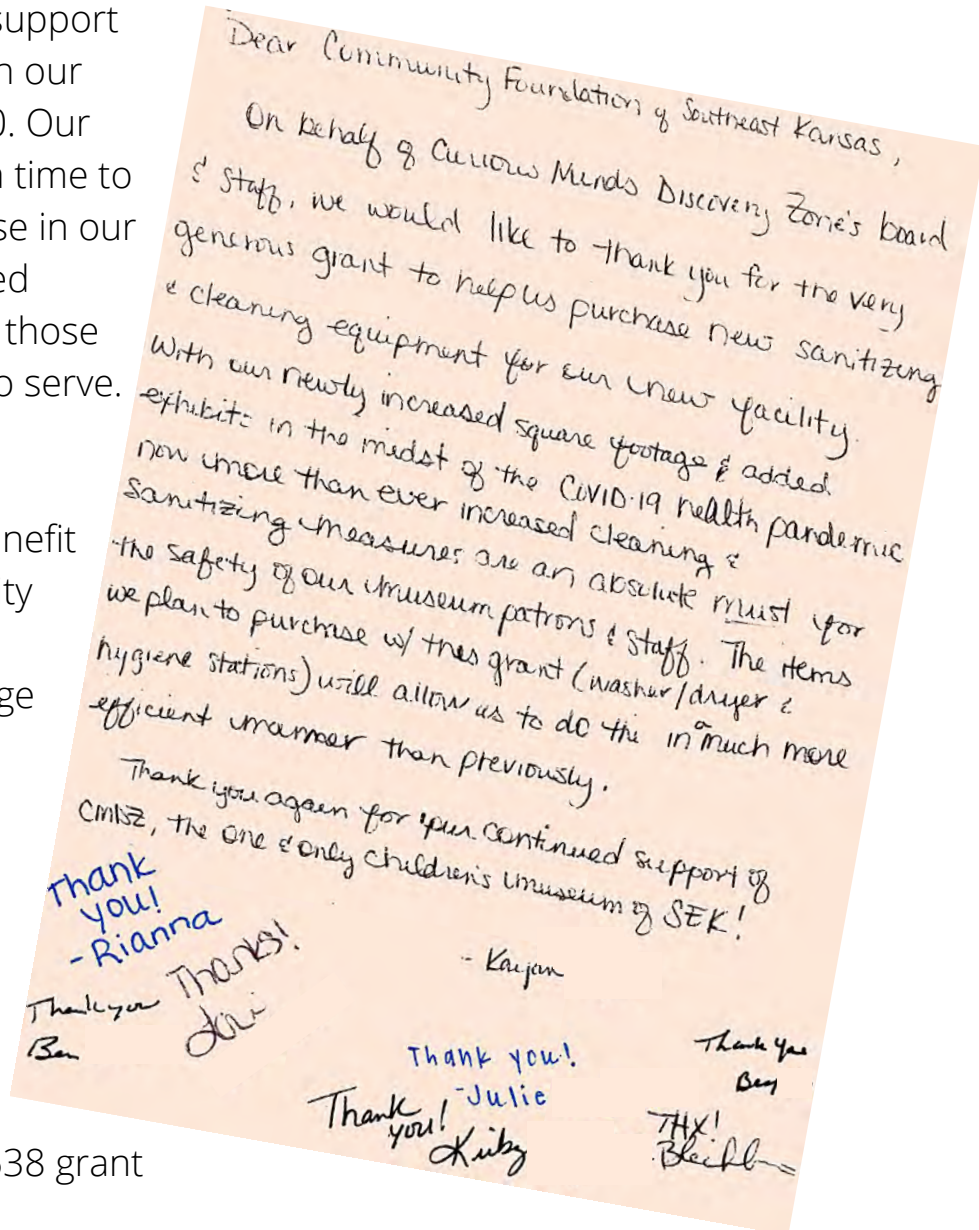


A unique year brings a unique celebration. Even though we miss our opportunity to meet in

person, we are pleased to still be able to celebrate all the organizations who we have been privileged to support and collaborate with through our competitive granting in 2020. Our annual grant celebration is a time to acknowledge and thank those in our communities who are blessed enough to be generous and those who are generous enough to serve.

As a community foundation, CFSEK has the mission to benefit the common good and quality of life in Southeast Kansas. Competitive granting is a large part of who we are and why we exist. This year we celebrate SEK non-profit organizations, schools, churches, and government entities that represent 65 organizations, 89 projects, 21 communities and 10 SEK counties totaling \$229,538 grant

dollars in 2020. Please take a moment to read through the 2020 list of CFSEK grant recipients and their grant projects. We think you, too, will be proud of the work being carried out by these caring, hardworking service providers. It is good to be from Southeast Kansas! 🌻



Dylan Meier Get Busy Livin' Foundation Youth Volunteerism

The Dylan Meier Get Busy Livin' Foundation offers grants in support of youth volunteerism.

At a glance

- **Grant Recipients:** 9
- **Total Granted:** \$4,500
- **Featured:** [Parsons Recreation Commission](#)
- **Video:** [Cherry Street Youth Center](#)





Parsons Youth Clean Up Local Parks

by CFSEK Staff

Following an extended off-season for local sports earlier this year, the parks in Parsons, Kansas, were in need of a good cleaning to prepare them for upcoming games and events.

The Parsons Recreation Commission put out a call for volunteers to local youth and sports organizations, and the response was loud and clear.

In mid-June, 180 young people were dispatched to five locations in Parsons to help clean them up. The youth represented three local high-school sports teams, the boys shelter, and the Parsons Babe Ruth League. Participants picked up trash, pulled

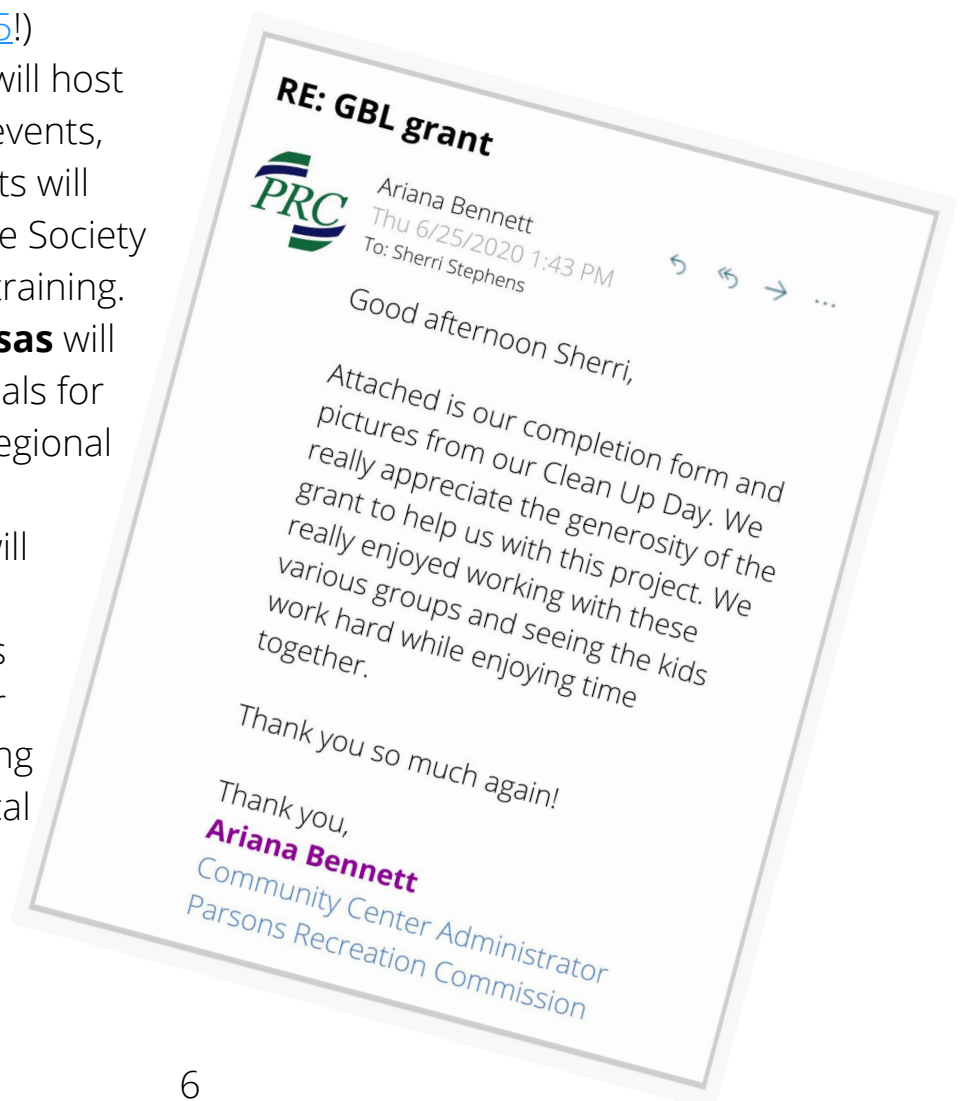
weeds, repaired fixtures, refreshed play surfaces, and otherwise maintained and beautified the selected spaces.

A Dylan Meier Get Busy Livin' Foundation youth-volunteerism grant was used to reimburse the cost of supplies.

According to Ariana Bennett, Community Center Administrator with the Parsons Recreation Commission, "The volunteer work the kids completed left them with an experience of teamwork as well as a sense that they can make a difference through their own effort and skills." 🌻



- **Cherry Street Youth Center** students volunteered at the Castaways Animal Shelter, making pet beds, toys, and treats for the animals. (Watch their video on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/gc2020-csyc>.)
- **Fostering Connections** hosted a Foster Parent Retreat Night, providing foster parents and children an opportunity to come together, bond, and create a fun family experience.
- **Homer Cole Community Center** purchased an iPad Pro on which volunteer youth can help HCCC guests FaceTime with their children or grandchildren.
- **Labette County Fair Board** hosted the Labette County Fair, during which **Boy Scouts Troop #10** volunteered to pick up trash.
- **Oswego Jr.-Sr. High School** students provided community cleanup for local businesses and residents.
- **Parsons Recreation Commission** hosted area youth who volunteered to clean up and beautify Winway and Marvel Park ballfields. (Read their featured story on [page 5!](#))
- **SEK Humane Society** will host volunteer open-house events, during which participants will receive tours of Humane Society facilities and volunteer training.
- **Special Olympics Kansas** will provide T-shirts and meals for volunteers at the SEK Regional Bowling event.
- **Thrive Allen County** will host volunteers from Humboldt High School's RESIST Tobacco chapter to pick up trash, including cigarette butts, from local tobacco-free parks. 🌻

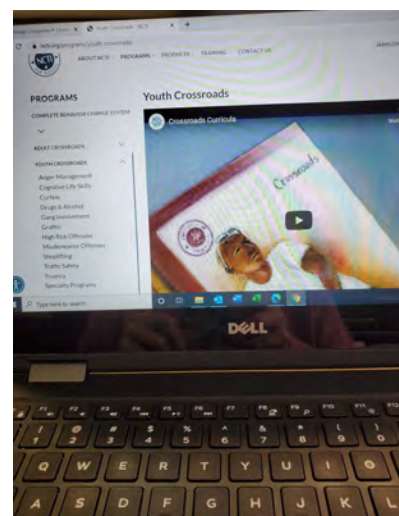


Elm Acres Foundation

The Elm Acres Foundation awards grants to organizations that provide services supporting at-risk youth in Crawford, Cherokee, and Labette Counties.

At a glance

- **Grant Recipients:** 8
- **Total Granted:** \$21,944
- **Featured:** [Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters](#)
- **Video:** [Horses of Hope](#)



Matching Minors with Mentors

by **Monica Holmes**, SEK Area Director, Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters

“My Big Brother came in my life when I needed him most. I didn’t have a father figure or support system, so he really stepped into that role. He’s given me confidence, helped me understand work ethic, taught me many life lessons, and has been there for me no matter what. He’s changed my life and I am forever grateful.”

I recently received that response when I asked a Little in our program how his Big has made an impact in his life. It reminded me how blessed I am to be a part of such an amazing organization that impacts so many children. Big Brothers Big Sisters truly does ignite the power and promise of youth!

Our goal for this project is to increase the number of youth we serve and increase our presence in the community. Grant funds will help us support and supervise our current mentoring matches, help us spread the mission, and provide more volunteer recruitment opportunities.

Since receiving this grant, we have created eight new matches and hope



to create five additional matches by the end of the year. We have hosted a Coffee and Conversation at a local coffee shop to recruit new volunteers. We will be creating flyers to place throughout the community which will help bring more awareness. We are also planning a “Big for a Day” volunteer recruitment event where current volunteers invite friends to attend as guest mentors. They will spend time with children on the waiting list, the goal is to find caring adult mentors for those youth!

We are so grateful to have the support of the Elm Acres Foundation and CFSEK. The opportunities that this grant funding provides will pay dividends in the future of the youth we serve! 🌻

- **Communities in Schools of Mid-America** provides critical basic-needs support for students and their families in Pittsburg and Parsons.
- **Fostering Connections** hosts Free Family Fun Events for foster and adoptive families.
- **Horses of Hope** provides equine-assisted psychotherapy for clients who are at-risk youth and have suffered trauma as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Watch their featured video on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/gc2020-hoh>.)
- **Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters** will provide support and supervision for current mentoring matches and recruit volunteers to serve additional youth. (Read their featured story on [page 8!](#))
- **Restorative Justice Authority** purchased laptops and software for staff providing evidence-based programs and services for at-risk youth in Crawford County.
- **Special Olympics Kansas** will host bowling, golf, and bocce competitions for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- **SEK Interlocal #637** purchased specialized physical-education equipment to assist special-education students at PCMS in participating in fun and engaging physical activities.
- **USD 250** will stock **Club 209A**'s basic-needs closet at Pittsburg High School with food, hygiene products, shoes, clothing, and other necessities for students in need. 🌻

Elm Acres Foundation -
 Thank you so much for your
 support and generous donation for
 our Free Family Fun Events. One
 already happened and the next is
 scheduled for later this fall. It
 is able to happen because of
 you! Thank you - Fostering
 Connections



Rita J. Bicknell Women's Health Fund - Women's Giving Circle

The Women's Giving Circle is one of two giving circles of the Rita J. Bicknell Women's Health Fund. It provides grants of \$2,000 or more for organizations working to improve women's health in SEK.

At a glance

- **Grant Recipients:** 7
- **Total Granted:** \$38,500
- **Featured:** [Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas](#)
- **Video:** [PSU Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing](#)



Boxes for Babies' Well-Being

by **Krista Postai**, President & CEO, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas

Many thanks to the Rita J. Bicknell Women's Giving Circle who awarded \$8,000 to the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas to purchase and equip 80 "Baby Boxes" for teenage mothers in Crawford, Cherokee, Bourbon, and Labette Counties.

The concept of the Baby Box originated in Finland as a national initiative to give expectant mothers the tools they need to raise a healthy baby. The project was credited to dramatically decreasing Finland's mortality rate by pairing education with medical support through a box full of newborn necessities that doubles as the child's first safe sleep space up to the age of six months. Since then, the concept has been incorporated into Sleep Awareness programs in the U.S. to reduce bed-sharing, the leading cause of infant mortality in the first eight days of life.

The boxes include a waterproof sleeping mattress, sheets, diapers, wipes, clothing, thermometer, a parenting book and other baby basics. The boxes arrived Sept. 21

and are being filled for distribution by our pregnancy case managers to our most vulnerable population – our mothers under the age of 19 who often lack stable housing and resources to care for a newborn. (In 2019, 158 teenagers gave birth in these four Southeast Kansas counties – most of them patients of CHC/SEK or Labette Health, who have partnered with us.)



This program is the first of its kind in Kansas and is part of a maternal/child health initiative which pairs our case managers with these young women during their prenatal care and for a year following delivery. The Baby Box is one component of a larger program designed to provide a safe sleeping option in less than an ideal environment, discourage bed sharing, and encourage breast feeding and is one step toward our larger goal of reducing the impact of generational poverty and lower the rate of neglect and abuse in our region. 🌻

- The **American Cancer Society** operates the **Kansas City Hope Lodge**, providing free lodging for cancer patients and their caregivers receiving treatment in the Kansas City area.
- **Angels Among Us** offers financial support for local cancer patients.
- **Catholic Charities** will enhance its Neighborhood Financial Stabilization Project, which assists families and individuals facing a financial crisis, to women survivors of domestic violence.
- The **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas** will provide Baby Boxes filled with critical baby supplies to teenage mothers in Southeast Kansas. (Read their featured story on [page 11!](#))
- The **Family Resource Center** purchased various sizes of diapers and pull-ups, as well as wipes, for the **Crawford County Diaper Stock**.
- **Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters** matches at-risk girls from Crawford County with caring adult mentors for one-to-one mentoring.
- The **PSU Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing** purchased Premie Hal, a 30-week-premature-infant patient simulator. (Watch their featured video on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/gc2020-irbson>.) 🌻



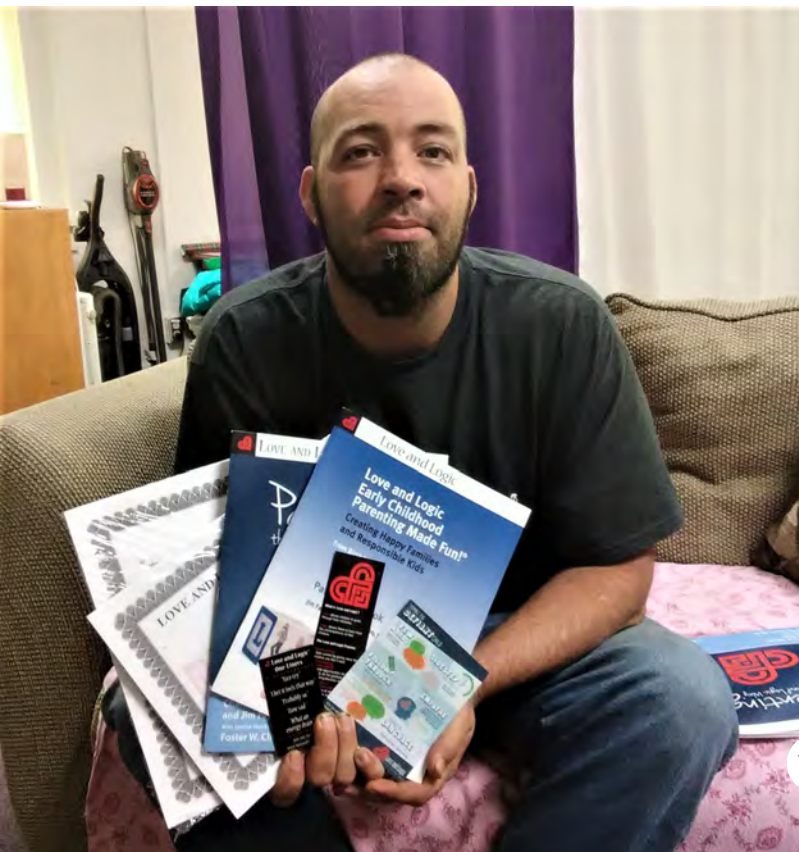


Rita J. Bicknell Women's Health Fund - Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends is another giving circle of the Rita J. Bicknell Women's Health Fund. It provides grants of up to \$2,000 for organizations working to improve women's health in SEK.

At a glance

- **Grant Recipients:** 5
- **Total Granted:** \$7,622
- **Featured:** [Labette Health Foundation](#)
- **Video:** [Safehouse Crisis Center](#)



Newborn Anne Manikin Protects Labette County Infants

by **Anthony Vaughan**, Executive Director, Labette Health Foundation

Labette Health Foundation and OB/Nursery department were the recipients of a Newborn Anne neonatal baby manikin. Newborn Anne is easy to use and was designed to be integrated into all neonatal clinical training curriculums. The newborn manikin accurately represents a full term (40 week), 50th percentile newborn female, measuring 21 in. and weighing 7 lbs.

We applied for the resuscitation manikin to aid in the proper training of all OB nurses as well as the Respiratory Staff in Neonatal Resuscitation Program. With the Newborn Anne, we can demonstrate, prepare for, and practice complex scenarios of infants that keep us current with standards of care and high risk practices. The Neonatal Resuscitation Program is an educational program that introduces the concepts and basic skills of neonatal resuscitation. Recertification of NRP is required of all OB nurses, physicians, and Respiratory Therapists once every two years.

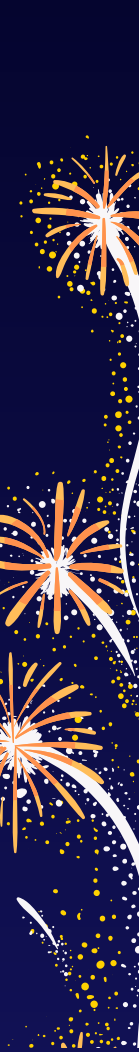


We also received 2 birthing balls and a birthing stool. Use of a birthing ball or stool allows the patient to be upright and out of the bed. Research has shown that position changes have shown to make labor shorter and smoother and lower complications during the birthing process.

Labette Health Foundation and OB/Nursery department would like to thank the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas for providing the grant funds. We are so grateful for their generosity and commitment to the communities of SEK. 🌻

- **Fostering Connections** will host two wellness events for foster and adoptive moms, focused on improving moms' mental health and overall well-being.
- **Labette Health Foundation** purchased a Q CPR Resuscitation baby for neonatal-resuscitation training and birthing stools for expectant mothers. (Read their featured story on [page 14](#).)
- **Pittsburg Mother to Mother Ministry** purchased materials for its Parenting the Love and Logic Way and Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun educational programs.
- **Safehouse Crisis Center** will purchase an AED to be available at its shelter. (Watch their featured video on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/gc2020-scc>.)
- **Special Olympics Kansas** will provide incentives, equipment, and software to track participation and health results for women participating in the Specialized Fitness Program. 🌻



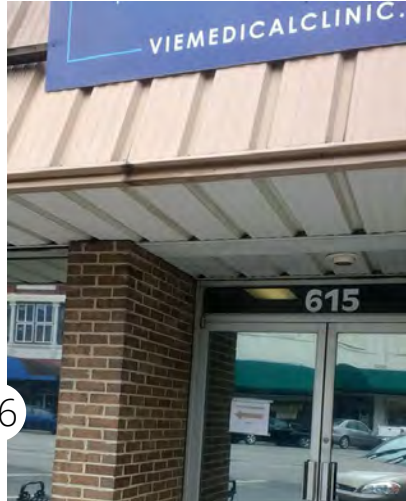
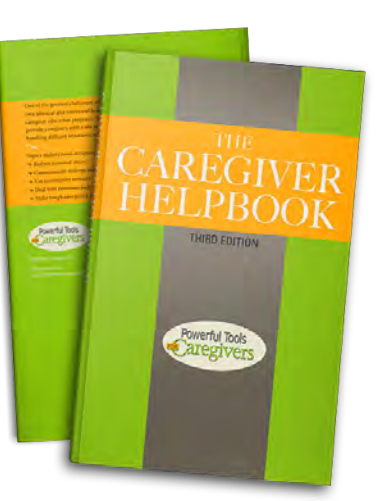


General Funds - Basic Needs

CFSEK General Funds grants are used to support organizations that help meet basic human needs.

At a glance

- **Grant Recipients:** 16
- **Total Granted:** \$54,000
- **Featured:** [Caney Valley Agape Network](#)
- **Video:** [Crawford County Mental Health Center](#)



SEK Food Pantry Expands Offerings

by **Dorothy Shaffer**, Caney Valley Agape Network Director of Programs

Each week in July, a free bag bursting with fresh produce ranging from Apples to Zucchini is opened by one of 2,700 SEK families. Its journey starts at 6:30 AM when volunteers from the Caney Valley Agape Network hook up a trailer to bring tons of fresh, high-quality produce to Kansas from the Mary Martha's Organization in Bartlesville, OK. This produce is shared with communities all over Montgomery County and four other food-insecure SEK counties. From its beginning in early 2018, Caney Valley Agape Network has partnered with more than 20 Kansas distribution organizations to share high quality produce that comes from the excess of a large Walmart distribution center in a selfless network of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

As a start-up food pantry that quickly morphed into a produce food bank, our work has often challenged our humble facilities. While more than 90% of the produce goes out the day it arrives, certain perishable foods require refrigeration, while others simply degrade when stored at room temperatures.

We are so thankful to CFSEK for their generosity that is essential to providing a cooler and forklift that have rapidly become critical parts of our operation and COVID response. We are so delighted! The cooler and forklift made such a difference: highly perishable Farm2Families milk, meat, and produce boxes quickly are moved into refrigeration where their quality and safety are maintained.

The 2020 COVID needs especially challenge all of us: Caney Valley Agape Network's numbers served have more than doubled compared to a year ago. As an all-volunteer organization that values partnerships with others, we are so grateful to the CFSEK donors who are "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" to improve the well-being of everyday Kansans. 🌻

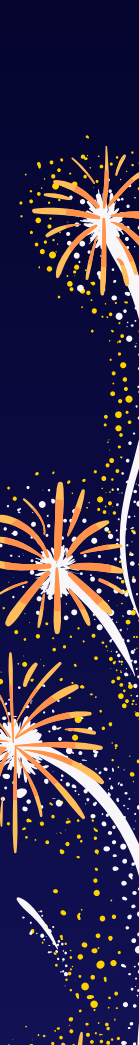


- The **Bourbon County Inter-Agency Coalition** provides rent and utility assistance, family passes to the Fort Scott Aquatic Center, and clothing vouchers to low-income families as part of its Network for Families program.
- The **Caney Valley Agape Network** offers food supplies for low-income residents and purchased equipment to maintain that food longer. (Read their featured story on [page 17!](#))
- **Catholic Charities** assists families in securing and maintaining affordable housing, continuing vital utility services, and providing the household supplies needed to create a stable environment for their children.
- **Class LTD** is continuing its Client Emergency Assistance Fund to provide its clients with safe housing, healthy food, shoes and clothing, personal-hygiene products, utilities, and other essential goods and services.
- **Coffey County Hospital** has enhanced its healthcare readiness during the COVID-19 pandemic by focusing on environmental services, direct patient care, and personal protective equipment for front-line staff.
- The **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas** will furnish and equip a three-bedroom home for the temporary housing of health-professional students training in Pittsburg.
- The **Crawford County Mental Health Center** supplied and distributed Recovery Backpacks of Hope containing basic hygiene supplies and clothing to vulnerable, high-risk clients entering the residential addiction-treatment program. (Watch their featured video on YouTube: [http://bit.ly/gc2020-ccmhc.](http://bit.ly/gc2020-ccmhc))
- The **Homer Cole Community Center** will upgrade its office and presentation equipment to improve program offerings.
- **Labette County Emergency Assistance Center** offers emergency utility assistance for residents of Labette County during times of financial strain.
- **Presbyterian Manor Fort Scott** is providing specialized food delivery for Fort Scott Presbyterian Village residents to ensure safe food handling and reduce the risk of virus contamination.
- **Safehouse Crisis Center** will replace a database server used to collect statistical data about its services for reporting purposes. ● ● ●

General Funds Basic Human Needs Grant Recipients (cont.)

- **SEK Women Helping Women: A Fairy Godmother's Fund** provides Sudden Unexpected Pandemic Expense Relief (SUPER) grants to help families address basic needs.
- **The Salvation Army** installed a new laundry center as part of its comprehensive COVID-19 Exposure Prevention Project.
- The **Wildcat Extension Education Foundation** launched the Powerful Tools for Caregivers program in Southeast Kansas to support and enhance the well-being of family caregivers.
- The **Wilson Medical Center Foundation** bought hospital-grade infrared thermometers to screen patients and a chest freezer to support the Neodesha food bank.
- The **Women's Resource Center of Southeast Kansas** purchased iPads to "go green" and reduce the use of paper at Vie Medical Clinic. 🌻





General Funds - Youth Activities

CFSEK General Funds grants are also available to help support youth activities in SEK.

At a glance

- **Grant Recipients:** 27
- **Total Granted:** \$86,000
- **Featured:** [Cherokee County K-State Research & Extension](#)
- **Video:** [Pittsburg Public Library](#)
- **Bonus Video:** [Neosho County Health Dept.](#)





Turning Unused Land Into a Place for Community

by **Christina Holmes**, FCS Agent, Cherokee County K-State Research & Extension

In the unincorporated town of Riverton, Kansas the residents rally behind school pride and their connection to the small community. Early in 2020, the town established a Riverton PRIDE group to foster their volunteerism in improving the beautification, sense of community, and safety of their small town. Riverton lacks a public park, safe sidewalks, and walking trails; leaving limitations for physical activity for local residents. Creating a safe space for families to walk, learn, and spend time together has been a priority for Riverton Pride since the beginning.

Riverton PRIDE knew creating a walking trail was beyond their capacity and quickly reached out to area partners to help reach their goal. Liberty Utilities granted the group access to 11 acres of land to increase access to physical activity for all local residents. The Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas, Liberty Utilities, Fletcher Toyota, and the Partnership for All Cherokee

County Children all contributed financially to help raise the funds to help initiate the project. The Galena Fire Department, Riverton School District, K-State Research and Extension office, and community volunteers have donated time, grant writing efforts, and in-kind contributions to make this project truly a community effort.

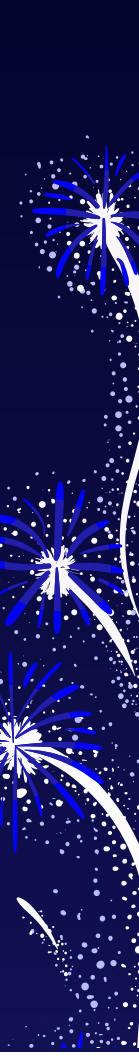
The group is committed to the long-term success of this project and with time will transition the barren land into an asphalted walking trail with a community garden, pollinator garden, fruit orchard, and playground area. The group visualizes their goal as a long-term effort as they work to raise funds and utilize volunteers to accomplish the project. Not only will this area be a safe place for families to walk, but also increase access to fresh produce for local citizens and an outdoor learning space for the local school district. 🌻

- **Cherokee County Research & Extension** will partner with **Riverton PRIDE** and several other organizations to transform 10 acres of unused land into a safe place for Riverton youth and their families to exercise and learn. (See their featured story on [page 21](#).)
- **Cherry Street Youth Center** will buy new computers to enable online learning and connectivity with students and their families and expand the technology used in STEM classes.
- The **Children's Advocacy Center** performed necessary maintenance on its facility and minor landscaping tasks.
- The **Coffeyville Regional Medical Center Foundation** purchased materials to help parents and caregivers of young children with developmental delays in feeding, swallowing, or speech.
- **Communities in Schools of Mid-America** helps support the ongoing and increased basic needs of the students and families of Pittsburg Public Schools and Parsons High School.
- The **Crawford County Mental Health Center** added new toys and equipment to enhance the play-therapy offerings in its Challenger and Discovery programs for children.
- **Curious Minds Discovery Zone** bought new equipment to improve cleaning and sanitation procedures at its children's museum.
- **Families & Children Together** purchased benches, picnic tables, swings, and butterfly and bird houses for a new nature preserve in Frontenac that will be used for mental-health treatment.
- The **Family Resource Center** will install new engineered-wood flooring in its three toddler rooms.
- **Horses of Hope** will buy new therapeutic saddle pads and hay for its horses.
- **Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters** will host a Thanksgiving dinner at Miners Athletics for its Littles and Bigs.
- **Kids First Day Care and Preschool** replaced an outdated air-conditioning unit.
- **KVC Behavioral Healthcare** provides the children it supports with the school supplies needed to be academically successful.
- The **Labette Center for Mental Health Services** is implementing ● ● ●

General Funds Youth Activities Grant Recipients (cont.)

a Teen Mental Health First Aid program to combat the strain and impact of COVID-19 on youth and teens.

- The **Labette Community College Foundation** will establish a new fitness center at Labette Community College to provide students and the community more opportunities for exercise.
- **Miners Hall Museum** renovated existing playground equipment at the Franklin Community Park.
- The **Neosho County Health Department** will install a BEAM system in its lobbies, providing a touch-free interactive playground for kids awaiting their appointments. (Watch their YouTube video: <http://bit.ly/gc2020-nhd>.)
- The **Pittsburg Family YMCA** hosted Adventure Camp for children ages 6 to 12, providing a variety of supervised activities.
- **Pittsburg Public Library** will upgrade its StoryWalk project, in which laminated pages of a kids' book are placed along a walking trail or around a local park. (Watch their YouTube video: <http://bit.ly/gc2020-ppl>.)
- The **PSU Foundation** purchased items to help the **PSU Little Gorillas Preschool** follow KDHE and CDC recommendations for child-care programs reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Pittsburg State University School of Nursing** bought Premie Hal, a 30-week-premature-infant patient simulator.
- **Special Olympics Kansas** will provide personal-protective equipment and other safety equipment for use at its competitions.
- **Spring River Mental Health & Wellness** purchased outdoor play equipment to help children with mental-health issues learn to play and interact with other children.
- **USD 234 Winfield Scott Leadership Club** offers healthy snacks like fresh fruit and vegetables, popcorn, and pretzels to students.
- **USD 235 (Uniontown)** will purchase an Elmo interactive document camera for use with existing smartboards in its first-grade classes.
- **Neodesha USD 461** purchased flexible seating for use in Mrs. McCleary's 4th-grade classroom.
- **Victory Life Church** hosted a drive-through Back 2 School event where it distributed backpacks and school supplies to local children. 🌻

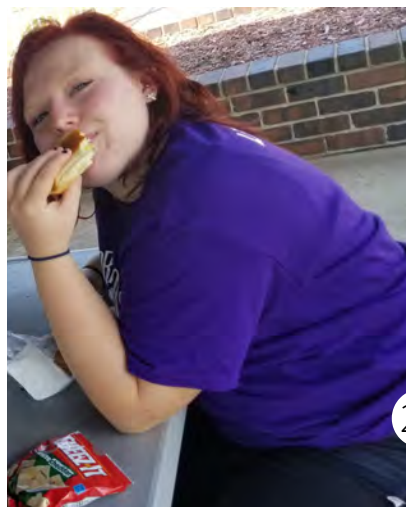
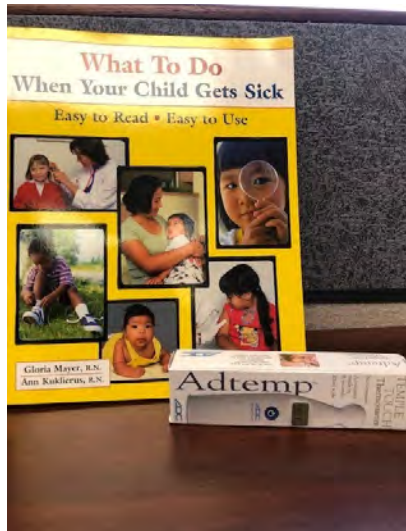


Future Fund Giving Circle

The Future Fund is a giving circle of friends and family of the Pittsburg area who pool their resources to provide grants to eligible Crawford County organizations.

At a glance

- **Grant Recipients:** 17
- **Total Granted:** \$15,622
- **Featured:** [Cato HPA](#)
- **Video:** [Crawford County Historical Museum](#)



Old School Gets Fresh Coat of Paint

by CFSEK Staff



The Cato rock school was built in 1869, making it one of the oldest buildings still standing in Crawford County. The school fell into disuse in the 1950s, and by the mid-2000s, it was badly in need of cleaning and repairs.

Between 2004 and 2011, a group of volunteers raised the funds needed to renovate the historic school. A new organization, the Cato Historical Preservation Association, was established to help manage the building going forward.

Each year, the Cato HPA hosts between 600 and 700 school children at the rock school, giving them a taste of what life was like in Crawford

County in the late 19th century.

Earlier this year, members of the Cato HPA were reminded that, for all the work put into restoring this old schoolhouse a decade ago, maintaining it would be an ongoing process. At a meeting of the Association held at the school, participants noticed that paint was beginning to chip on the doors, soffits, and fascia, and that some boards needed to be replaced.

In partnership with the Chicopee Foundation, the Cato HPA received a Future Fund grant that will enable it to undertake this needed maintenance. Here's to another 151 years of SEK history! 🌻

- The **Cato Historical Preservation Association** will perform maintenance on the historic Cato School. (Read their featured story on [page 25.](#))
- **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas** will purchase clothing and other supplies for its Baby4Baby packets.
- The **Crawford County Historical Museum** will purchase 5 iPad stands, adding interactive experiences to promote student engagement and education. (Watch their YouTube video: [http://bit.ly/gc2020-cchm.](http://bit.ly/gc2020-cchm))
- **Eastern Kansas Adult Education** will provide GED Ready Official practice tests to prepare its students to pass the GED test.
- The **Family Resource Center** will buy new sleeping cots for use in its three-to-four-year-olds classrooms.
- **Homer Cole Community Center** will purchase new meeting tables to present a more attractive venue.
- **Kansas Children's Service League** will provide education and resources for families to understand how to help their children when they are sick.
- **Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP** will offer incentives for students who participate in virtual after-school tutoring, critical-thinking activities, and academic workshops.
- **Live Well Crawford County** will offer prize packs for 5th-grade students who win its "Kick Butts" poster contest.
- **Osage Rural Fire Department District No. 1** will purchase and install a backup power generator for emergency use.
- **Pittsburg Mother to Mother Ministry** will provide meals, baby sitting, and door prizes for participants in its monthly group meetings.
- The **PSU Foundation** will purchase supplies and equipment for a new mural to be created by the PSU Art Department for Crawford County in downtown Pittsburg.
- The **Southeast Kansas Humane Society** will purchase two industrial-sized fans to improve airflow in its main shelter dog kennel.
- **Special Olympics Kansas** will provide box lunches for Crawford County athletes at Special Olympics Kansas events in Crawford County.
- **The Salvation Army** will give new socks to families in need who receive the community Christmas Distribution in Crawford County. ● ● ●

- **Wesley House** will purchase equipment and food supplies to provide car-side pick-up from the food pantry during winter months.
- The **Women's Resource Center of Southeast Kansas** will purchase additional licenses to increase the number of individuals who can participate in online parenting classes. 🌻



Get Ready for Match Day 2020!

by **Kit Parks**, CFSEK Executive Director

It has been an unprecedented year with many uncertainties, but one certainty is that CFSEK will be hosting its 5th Match Day this year, celebrating National Giving Tuesday on December 1.

As many of you are aware, Giving Tuesday is the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. It is a day to celebrate a tradition of giving and support the charitable causes that are important to each of us.

Match Day is an exciting fundraising campaign to increase endowments for non-profit organizations and schools that have endowed funds with CFSEK. Such endowed agency funds are invested to produce present and future income annually, with distributions used for the agency's operations, programming, or special projects.

This year, CFSEK will award a total of \$40,000 as a match contribution to participating local organizations. The match pool will be divided among those organizations in proportion to their share of the total amount raised.



100% of the donation, plus the match amount, will be placed in the organization's endowed fund.

Last year, over \$144,000 was raised for the endowed funds of 24 participating organizations. Since our first Match Day in 2016, more than \$550,000 has been raised in support of local non-profits.

We are inviting SEK residents to join this campaign again this year, because we know these local organizations and the services they provide make a real difference in our community. The success of this event is proof that our community is filled with generous people who ● ● ●

Match Day 2020 (cont.)

care about others and the well-being of their community.

On Tuesday, December 1, Match Day donations can be made online at www.southeastkansas.org, left in the drop box outside the CFSEK office, or mailed. We are grateful for any contribution to a local organization fund. It helps them continue their mission, which makes our communities better places to live.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Let us strive to make a difference for one, resulting in a better community for all.

Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and wonderful holiday season! 🌻



The Power of Agency Funds

by **Joshua McCloud**, *Community Outreach Coordinator*

Grants are just one of many ways CFSEK supports local non-profits, churches, schools, and government agencies. Eligible organizations can also establish an agency fund at CFSEK to accept donations and invest their money for their own use.

With a CFSEK agency fund, our professional staff handles the details of deposits and distributions, including tax receipts and thank-you letters. Plus, agency funds are invested by investment professionals at [GKCCF](#), the fourth largest community foundation in the country.

Agency funds can be endowed, distributing only income, or non-endowed, able to distribute income and principal. Endowed agency funds are eligible to participate in Match Day.

CFSEK is currently home to nearly 40 agency funds. Give us a call to learn why your organization should be our next! 🌻

Closing Thanks

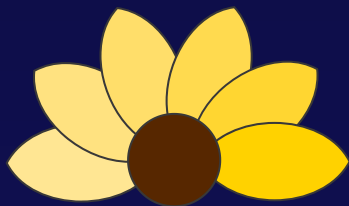
Thank you to our **Board of Trustees** for the wisdom and guidance you share with the Foundation and for all you do in the SEK communities we love!

- Ron Rhodes, President
- Connie Kays, Vice President
- Jeff Elliott, Secretary
- Douglas Stuckey, Treasurer
- Marty Beezley
- Susie Boldrini
- Susan Cook
- Dale Coomes
- Ken Cunningham
- Megan Fry
- Linda Grilz
- Dr. Paul Grimes
- Diane James
- Rod Landrum
- Rob Lessen
- Crystal Marietta
- Frances Mitchelson
- Bill Morin
- Diana Polston
- Mark Schifferdecker
- Betty Scripsick
- David Shepherd
- Becky Sloan
- Steve Ward
- Lynda Wilkinson

Thank you to our **founders**, whose vision of an ever-improving Southeast Kansas laid the groundwork for everything we accomplish today.

Thank you to our **donors**, whose gifts throughout the years have made grants like those we've been celebrating possible.

And thank you to all our **grantees**—past, present, and future—for helping to make Southeast Kansas a healthier, happier, more prosperous region for everyone who lives here!



communityfoundation
of SOUTHEAST KANSAS

