

The .....  
**CHARITABLE CONNECTION**

..... newsletter of the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas



**In this issue:**

- [Our Founding at 20](#) • [How It All Started](#) •
- [A Strong Foundation](#) • [The Europe Park Dream](#) •
- [20 Facts for 20 Years](#) • [Special Thanks](#) • And more!



# Celebrating our founding at 20

In 2001, a group of local residents raised more than \$300,000 to establish the Pittsburgh Area Community Foundation ([page 2](#)). These visionary leaders ([page 9](#)) knew that a community foundation could be a powerful engine of charitable giving benefiting the common good and quality of life for everyone in the Pittsburgh area.

Today, we celebrate their accomplishment and all that it has enabled in the years since. At the same time, we recognize that the nature of the Community Foundation means its founding is an ongoing process, not merely a single past event.

Throughout the last 20 years, new charitable funds have constantly been established with the Community Foundation. Although the mission of the Foundation has remained the same, what that mission looks like in practice is always changing.

For example, by 2005 several funds had been established benefiting areas outside of Pittsburgh. So the

Foundation updated its name to reflect that change and later added affiliate foundations in Fort Scott and Girard ([page 7](#)).

Or consider Europe Park in Pittsburgh ([page 5](#)). When an anonymous couple established a donor-advised fund to develop Europe Park, part of CFSEK's work became overseeing that development and distributing funds to maintain the park.

Many more examples could be given, but in short, even though CFSEK's formal establishment occurred in 2001, its founding is a continuing process. Every new fund is a new opportunity for donors to pursue their charitable goals, and CFSEK to pursue its mission, in a new way.

So, as you join us in celebrating CFSEK's 20th anniversary, remember that we are not commemorating just a past event, but a present opportunity. Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations all still have the power to shape the future of the Community Foundation and the communities we support. 🌻

*To commemorate our 20th anniversary, please enjoy the following series of excerpts we've collected from our past newsletters, annual reports, and brochures.*

## Here is how it started . . .

*Excerpt from 2001 Pittsburg Area  
Community Foundation Annual  
Report*

The Kansas Health Foundation, the state's largest private foundation, offered Pittsburg \$300,000 to establish its own "community foundation." Its intended purpose would be to support a broad range of charitable activities such as health improvements, educational endeavors, art and cultural projects, and other civic efforts intended to enrich the quality of life. Donors, as well as a voluntary Board of Trustees, would determine individual projects.

To qualify for the funds, the Kansas Health Foundation required that 1) the community establish a 501 (c) (3) foundation and 2) the Community Foundation match – dollar-for-dollar – the \$300,000 in donations and pledges to be fully paid by the end of 2003. Not only would this match demonstrate the community's commitment, but it also would



establish a large enough financial base to support the foundation without requiring annual fundraisers to cover operating expenses.

More than 40 generous Pittsburg area donors came forward and committed \$328,325 in donations and pledges. Anyone pledging \$3,000 or more by the end of the year was named a founder of the Foundation.

During 2001, the Community Foundation was able to give over \$9,000 in grants:

- Cr. Co. Historical Society Museum: \$3,414.92
- Immigrant Park: \$250
- September 11 Fund: \$5,386.31 🌻



# The mighty oak

*Excerpt from a 2006 CFSEK Brochure*

Like a mighty oak tree, a community foundation enhances the life of everyone who lives nearby. A giant tree collects necessary nutrients to store in its trunk until it passes them to the canopy, allowing it to flourish and provide shade, shelter, and beauty to all who choose to use it. In this same way, the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas (CFSEK) gathers assets into endowments, investing them until the time comes to use the interest for the benefit of the area.

CFSEK provides a way to keep funds in the region and puts them to work for future generations.

With CFSEK, there is a way to donate

assets of any amount, large or small.

Donations made to CFSEK through wills, trusts, or estate plans allow generous patrons to put their accumulated assets to work for the causes they care about.

If you are interested in investing in the future . . .

if you want to build assets in an area of interest to you . . .

if you want to arrange an endowment that will last in perpetuity . . .

**CFSEK is here for you!** 🌻



# A strong foundation, a lasting legacy

*Excerpt from December 2004  
Charitable Connection Newsletter*

It has been a personal joy for me to see this Foundation become active. I am honored to have been a part in establishing the Foundation and contributing my own funds to the enterprise. I believe that this is one of the most important developments in the history of Pittsburg and Crawford County, Kansas. Endowment funds will live forever as they produce income to finance the project needs of the people and organizations within our geographic territory.

Our trustees and donors have acted on three fundamental principals of faith, hope, and love. We had and still have faith that this Foundation will grow and become a significant philanthropic force in our community. We hope that it will benefit people in many ways in the future. We work hard on this Foundation because we love people who live here, and want to make it a better place for future generations.

*Joseph Grady Smoot*



***"I'm a great believer in philanthropy. It's been my life."***

Dr. Joseph G. Smoot, better known as Grady, was a founder and original Board member of CFSEK. For more than 40 years while living in Pittsburg, he was an enthusiastic advocate for philanthropy. Among other lasting accomplishments, he organized the PSU Foundation, established KRPS, and helped found the PPL Foundation. He died in 2018, leaving a legacy of giving that continues to inspire today. 🌻



## Europe Park: CFSEK helps dreams come true

*Excerpt from July 2006 Charitable Connection Newsletter*

Visiting other communities can provide us with new ideas or inspirations. The idea for Europe Park began when a very creative couple saw how other parts of the country were constructing “pocket parks” from unused space between downtown buildings. Instead of saying “that’s nice” they said, “We could do this in Pittsburg, Kansas.” And so the idea to create a unique, beautiful, garden park in downtown Pittsburg was born.

By establishing an anonymous donor

advised fund, which will provide for project construction and later upkeep and maintenance, the CFSEK will represent the donor as project manager. With vine covered trellises leading to a beautiful water wall, benches and plantings, this will become a focal point for downtown Pittsburg revitalization.

The Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas is fortunate to have generous donors who continue to fund projects that make our communities better. 🌻



# 10 years of philanthropy in Southeast Kansas

*Excerpt from July 2011 Newsletter*



On April 15, 2011 CFSEK celebrated its ten year anniversary. The event was held at the home of Ken and Debbie Brock and was hosted by the Brocks as well as Ron and Barbara Rhodes and Steve and Chris Ward.



Over 130 attendees were on hand to celebrate the last ten years of philanthropy throughout Southeast Kansas.

The evening was a wonderful time to celebrate and reflect on the ten years of giving that has impacted the SEK community. It was also an exciting time to look toward the future at the opportunities that await. 🌸



# CFSEK Welcomes New Affiliates

*Excerpt from 2008 CFSEK Annual Report*



In August 2007, the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation was launched. The Fort Scott Community Foundation provides a tax-exempt vehicle for charitable gifts to be made to the groups and governmental agencies of the donor's choice.

Over the summer, the FSACF assisted the Fort Scott Hurricanes swim team acquire new diving blocks, constructed by Fort Scott's own Twister Trailers.

The FSACF also assisted Richard Goldston in his efforts to support a local Little League Travelling Football Team.

*Excerpt from the March 2011 Newsletter*

The Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas is pleased to announce the formation of the Girard Area Community Foundation (GACF). CFSEK Trustees and staff have been working with a group of Girard citizens for several months. The result is a new community foundation serving the Girard area.

CFSEK recognizes the need for individual communities within its service area to build long term community capital of their own. The CFSEK looks forward to providing technical assistance to the Girard Area Community Foundation in its endeavors to establish permanent funding for their community. 🌻



Visit our affiliates online at [www.fsacf.com](http://www.fsacf.com) and [www.girardareafoundation.com](http://www.girardareafoundation.com)



# 20 Facts for 20 Years of CFSEK

**Total number of donors:** 6,000+

- **Donors in 2001:** 43
- **Donors in 2020:** 641

**Total number of gifts:** 17,000+

- **Gifts in 2001:** 48
- **Gifts in 2020:** 1,262

**Total number of funds:** 170

- **Agency funds:** 38
- **Donor-advised funds:** 34
- **Field-of-interest funds:** 40
- **Scholarship funds:** 19



**Total scholarship recipients:** 326

- **2007:** \$2,500 total awarded to 3 students
- **2021:** \$69,630 total awarded to 57 students

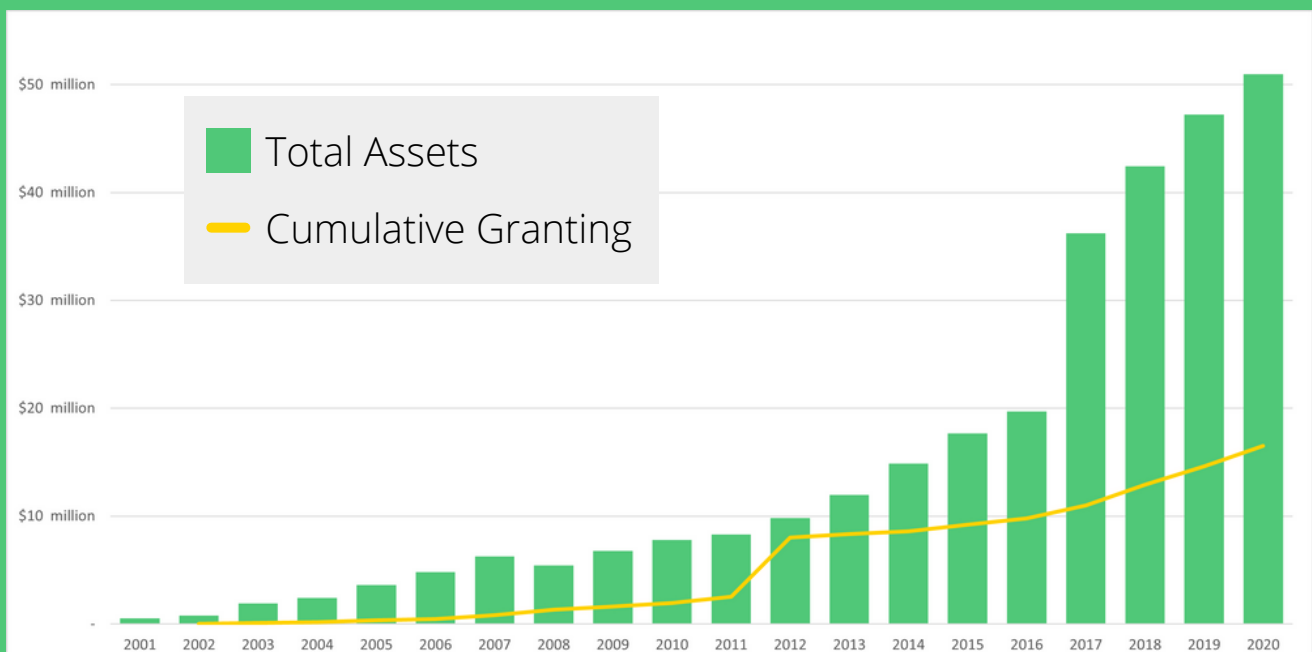
**Total number of trustees:** 85

**Total assets (2020):** \$50.9 million

- **Total assets (2001):** \$0.5 million

**Total amount granted:** \$16.9m

- **Granted in 2001:** \$9,000
- **Granted in 2020:** \$1.9 million 🌻



The following are our founders, past and present board members and executive directors, and present staff. We thank them and past members of staff for all they've done and continue to do to improve SEK communities.

## Our Founders

- Joe Beauchamp
- The Bicknell Foundation
- Jim & Nancy Bishop
- Brenner Mortuary - Steve & Chris Ward
- Ken & Debbie Brock
- Richard & Faith Coleman
- Tom & Jane Collinson
- Commerce Bank
- Crossland Construction Co., Inc.
- Vicki Dennett
- Frank D. Dunnick
- Gordon & Beverly Elliott Foundation
- C.L. & Paula Farabi
- Dr. Glenn L. Hough
- Robert S. Huebner, MD
- Ron Marrone
- Roberta McNay
- Richard & Nancy Miller
- The Mitchelson Foundation, Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. George Nettels
- Bill & Pam Phalen
- PITSCO, Inc.
- Pittsburg Noon Rotary Club
- Pittsburg Sunrise Rotary Club
- Ray & Zoe Ryan
- Jim & Judy Scudamore
- Joseph G. Smoot
- Fred J. Spigarelli
- Elias & Magda Tawil
- Bud & Marge Walker
- Dick & Kaye Lynne Webb
- Wendell & Lynda Wilkinson

## Past & Present Board of Trustees Members

- Jim Banwart
- Joe Beauchamp\*
- Barry W. Bedene
- Cindy Bedene
- Sara Beezley-Keller
- **Marty Beezley**
- Jim Belew\*
- Rita Bicknell\*
- Jim Bishop\*
- **Susie Boldrini**
- Debbie Brock\*
- Tom Bryant\*
- Gary J. Cinotto
- Bill Coleman\*
- Richard Coleman
- Todd Coleman
- Tom Collinson\*
- Larry Coltrane
- **Susan Cook**
- Dale Coomes
- **Ken Cunningham**
- Harvey Dean
- Sharon Dean
- Richard Dearth
- Vicki Dennett\*
- Patricia Dobrauc
- Roger E. Doue

\* Members of the initial Board of Trustees.



**Past & Present Board of Trustees Members (cont.)**

- Frank Dunnick\*
- Gordon Elliott\*
- **Jeff Elliott**
- C. L. Farabi\*
- Kyle Fleming
- **Megan Fry**
- Denise Grasso
- **Linda Grilz**
- **Paul Grimes**
- Joe Hart
- Roger Heckert\*
- Jim Hoskins
- Paul Hutsey
- **Diane James**
- Kayla Joy\*
- **Connie Kays**
- **Rod Landrum**
- **Rob Lessen**
- **Crystal Marietta**
- Ron Marrone\*
- Dave Martin
- Roberta McNay\*
- A. J. Menghini\*
- Dotty Miller\*
- Kevin Mitchelson\*
- **Frances Mitchelson**
- **Bill Morin**
- George E. Nettels\*
- Richard Oler
- Lynette Olson
- Wilda Pentola
- Pam Phalen
- **Diana Polston**
- Barbara Rhodes
- **Ron Rhodes**
- **Steve Robb**
- **Mark Schifferdecker**
- Steve Scott
- Betty Scripsick
- Judy Scudamore
- **David Shepherd**
- Michael Slack\*
- Steve Sloan
- **Becky Sloan**
- Joseph G. Smoot\*
- Judy Spigarelli
- **Douglas Stuckey**
- Magda Tawil
- Montie Taylor
- Marge Walker\*
- **Steve Ward\***
- Christine Ward
- Kaye Lynne Webb\*
- **Ken Webb**
- Jeff Wilbert
- **Lynda Wilkinson\***
- Wendell Wilkinson
- Talaat Yaghmour

\* Members of the initial Board of Trustees.

## Executive Directors & Present Staff

### Executive Directors:

- Judy Scudamore, 2001 - 2004
- Christine Ward, 2004 - 2007
- Kimberly Clark, 2007 - 2011
- Cathy White, 2012 - 2015
- Kit Parks, 2015 - Present

### Staff:

- Kim Lynch, Office Administrator
- Sherri Stephens, Program Coordinator
- Joshua McCloud, Donor Relations Coordinator 🌻

Stay connected with CFSEK

