



COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS SERVE AS POWERFUL TOOL TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY, INSPIRE ACTION

Community foundations can play an important role in keeping a portion of the money that is expected to transfer from the World War II generation to baby boomers for area projects and charities.

According to the Kansas Association of Community Foundations website, the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University carried out a transfer of wealth study in 2007 and updated it in 2012. This study estimated future intergenerational wealth transfer for each county in Kansas. From the study, the following has been concluded:

- \$79 billion will be transferred from one generation to the next in the state of Kansas by 2020.
- \$3.9 billion or 5 percent could be preserved in community foundation endowments.
- \$598 billion will be transferred in the state within the next 50 years.

Because of the reality of the potential transfer of wealth, many communities have organized and formed community foundations.

The common thread of community foundations are that they essentially are grant making

organizations that help improve the lives of people in a specific geographic area. While all play a key role in identifying and solving community problems, they vary widely in size.

The Greater Salina Community Foundation is one of several community foundations in North Central Kansas. Incorporated in 1999 with a goal to have \$10 million in assets in 10 years, the Greater Salina Community Foundation quickly grew beyond the initial expectations.

“We continue to grow in asset size and in service to the community,” Betsy Wearing, Executive Director, says. “In total we have roughly \$80 million in assets and have been able to distribute roughly \$30 million in grants.”

The Greater Salina Community Foundation also hosts 11 regional affiliate foundations and hired an affiliate coordinator in 2007.

“Affiliate growth has all happened as a result of being approached,” Wearing says.

Benefits of becoming an affiliate may include assistance with legal counsel, investment services,

networking with other foundations, website support, a single audit requirement, and being accredited along with the host Foundation as meeting the Community Foundations National Standards.

“We are providing the structure to help make it all possible,” Wearing says. “But we clearly recognize the value of the volunteer boards and volunteer executive directors and know that they are the ones who are making it happen in the communities.”

The ability to maintain local control was important in the Post Rock Community Foundation’s decision to become an affiliate.

“The Greater Salina Community Foundation offers many services, but the fact that our local board could maintain control of all major decisions with a local governing board was a main determining factor in becoming an affiliate,” Lucille Heller, Post Rock Community Foundation Board Member, says.

Heller, who is one of 11 serving on the local board, says that becoming an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation helped their foundation transition to

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Leadership : NCRPC Executive Board

Chair:

Johnita Crawford, Cloud Co.

Vice Chair:

Tim Vandall, City of Ellsworth

Secretary/Treasurer:

Brian Ellert, Mitchell Co.

Executive Board Members:

Janelle Dockendorf, Dickinson Co.

Steve Errebo, Lincoln Co.

Dwight Frost, Jewell Co.

Aaron Householter, City of Salina

Ray McGavran, Ottawa Co.

George McCune, Marshall Co.

Roger Otott, Washington Co.

Virgil Palen, Mitchell Co.

Kermit Rush, Ellsworth Co.

Frank Rytch, Republic Co.

David Thurlow, Clay Co.

Kansas Book Festival Has Grants for Libraries

Public libraries and school libraries have a chance to apply for funding from the Kansas Book Festival.

The first Kansas Book Festival took place in September 2011. The all-day event at the Kansas History Museum in Topeka showcased current authors and books and helped promote the importance of reading. The second annual festival occurred in September 2012.

The Kansas Book Festival will be awarding at least three grants in 2013. There will be at least one Technology Grant at no more than \$5,000 and at least two Book Funding Grants at no more than \$2,500 each.

Public libraries or school libraries located in Kansas are eligible to apply. A library may apply for both the Technology and Book Funding grants, but no library will be awarded both grants in the same calendar year. Libraries also are not eligible to be awarded a grant from the Kansas Book Festival in consecutive years. Some grants may be funded only in part.

Grant applications will be due by December 31, 2012. Grant winners will be notified by March 29, 2013.

Applications and further information can be found on the Kansas Book Festival website at <http://kansasbookfestival.com/get-involved/grants/>.

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meeting the needs of the future by focusing on creating endowment funds rather than merely fundraising for small projects.

The Post Rock Community Foundation was founded in February 2010 to serve as a vehicle for charitable giving benefiting the entire Lincoln County community and those served by USD 298 and USD 299. It evolved from a smaller fundraising organization, the Sylvan Area Foundation, which awarded small grants to communities in the Sylvan Unified School District (USD 299).

With Greater Salina Community Foundation involvement, the Post Rock Community Foundation has qualified for up to \$300,000 in the Kansas Health Foundation's Grow II matching grant program over the next five years.

"Our footprint is small at the moment, but growing," Heller says. "One of the greatest rewards over the past two years has been to see the foundation grow financially from \$6,000 to almost \$100,000."

Starting small is something that one of the newest foundations in the region can relate to. The Endow Waterville Partnership, formed in spring 2012, is an affiliate of the Kansas Rural Communities Foundation based in Wamego.

Ann Walter, a local business owner and Chamber of Commerce member, is one of four to serve on the Endow Waterville Partnership committee. She credits the Kansas Rural Communities Foundation with their quick formation.

"I like that they do the paperwork and monitor the funds," Walter says. "I also think it gives donors a little more comfort by giving through a larger organization."

While the Endow Waterville Partnership is still in its early stages, Walter is optimistic.

"The options are endless," Walter says. "We have raised over \$5,000 and now we are able to make our first grant for a small improvement to the park. It was important to us that we have a project as soon as possible that is visible so we can increase awareness and confidence in our organization."

Raising awareness is a challenge echoed by Lori Huber, board member of the Washington County Community Foundation. Formed in December 2009, the Washington County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation. A board of 11 lead the local efforts.

"Our biggest challenge has been to make people aware of what a foundation is and what it does and how they can use it as a tool to achieve their goals," Huber says. "The best way to raise awareness is by visiting one-on-one with individuals, but it's a slow process."

The Washington County Community Foundation now has a market value of nearly \$240,000 and has been able to award grants the past two years.

For more information about the Kansas Association of Community Foundations Transfer of Wealth study, visit kansascfs.org/transfer-wealth.cfm.

looking ahead : Dates, Meetings, and Deadlines

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Executive Board Meeting
Beloit Main Office, 2 p.m.

Thursday, January 31, 2013

Executive Board Meeting
Beloit Main Office, 2 p.m.

Friday, February 1, 2013

CDBG Downtown Commercial
Rehabilitation Application Deadline
(Round 1)

Friday, February 15, 2013

CDBG Kan Step Deadline (Round 2)

Holiday Reduced Office Hours

Our offices will be closed November 22 and 23 and from December 25 through January 1. Best wishes for the upcoming holidays. Thank you for your support of our organization. We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2013.

Let's talk about attitude adjustment for a moment. North Central Regional Planning Commission recently celebrated 40 years of existence with a nice show of support from throughout the region present at the October 23 banquet event at the Webster Conference Center near Salina.

The special guest speaker, Dr. Peter Bishop, reminded all about the value of strategically seeking planned changes. In 1972, the NCRPC began with solid leadership and active participation from eight optimistic counties. Now twelve counties make up the core membership. Through a few ups and downs, positive expectations and forward thinking have been key to its efforts to help the businesses, citizens, their cities and counties in North Central Kansas.

It is important to learn from challenges and to avoid dwelling on

negative images of the past and moreover anticipate and build on hopes of the future. According to John Kotter, successful changes begin when local leadership communicates a sense of crisis or need for pursuing opportunity. Failure to establish a sense of urgency is one of a few reasons that change efforts do not succeed. Entities that become complacent stay mired in the same old methods and are stagnant and in natural decline.



Doug McKinney is NCRPC Executive Director.

Other key elements for progression include involving others as team members, for vision establishment and expression, and for understanding the culture and possible connections therein. In short, learn from the past, celebrate what is going well and build from there for a brighter tomorrow.

We at the North Central Regional Planning Commission look forward to continuing our work together toward an even more positive future.

The Kansas Department of Commerce Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program recently unveiled the guidelines and application for its new Downtown Commercial Rehabilitation Program.

Kansas Department of Commerce CDBG Representative Terry Marlin says the program's purpose is to improve the quality of downtown commercial districts by encouraging the renovation of key buildings that are experiencing blight and decay but have the potential to be used for new business activity.

"It is hoped that the improvements made to a key building with financial assistance from the program will encourage other nearby property owners to make investments to their buildings," Marlin says.

All projects under this program must meet the second national objective set forth in the Housing and Community Development Act (HCDA) of 1974, which is the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The program will be limited to privately owned buildings and the maximum amount of CDBG funds that can be applied for is \$250,000. The minimum match requirement is 25% of project cost and must be met by a cash match from private sources. The application is limited to one building. To qualify, there must be a specific private for-profit business operation or operations that will locate in the building. A business plan will be required for these new or expanding ventures.

February 1 and August 1 will be the two application round deadlines for the 2013 program year.

To view the application, visit www.kansascommerce.com/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1313. To view the program guidelines, visit www.kansascommerce.com/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1247. Contact the NCRPC for questions or project assistance.

Dr. Peter Bishop Addresses NCRPC Banquet

The NCRPC celebrated its 40th anniversary with a banquet at the Webster Conference Center, Salina, on October 23. Dr. Peter Bishop, an Associate Professor of Strategic Foresight and Coordinator of the graduate program in Futures Studies at the University of Houston, was the keynote speaker.

In his presentation, Bishop said skills that will be most in demand for the 21st Century are nonroutine interactive and nonroutine analytic. He raised the question of whether the current forum of



Dr. Peter Bishop visited with NCRPC Executive Board Members prior to the banquet on October 23.

education is preparing students for an old economy. A PDF file of the presentation slides is available at www.ncrpc.org/projects/2012/DrBishopPresentationSlides.pdf.

business updates

New Restaurant in Sylvan Grove Offers Historic Dining Atmosphere, Good Food

Sylvan Grove residents and surrounding towns have a new choice for dining out.

Yermoms Restaurant, located at 105 N. Main Street, features hand-crafted, inspired cooking and baking. Becky Hall, owner, recently returned to her childhood home to open the restaurant.

"I grew up in Sylvan in the 60s and 70s," Becky says. "This is where I learned to cook."

Although Becky has a Bachelor of Arts degree in technical journalism/public relations from Colorado State University, cooking turned out to be her passion.

The restaurant opened in May and has become known for its delicious made-from-scratch fare.

"The response has been encouraging," says Becky, who is the sole cook at present. "This makes for a lot of long hours, but it is truly a labor of love and that keeps me going."

The restaurant offers both recurring specials and flexible cook's choice days. Great thought was given to the naming of the days featuring specials so they would be



Yermoms Restaurant is now open at 105 N. Main Street in downtown Sylvan Grove. The two-story building has many historic features that have been retained.

easy to remember, thus Taco Tuesday, Fried Chicken Friday, and Saturday Steak Night were born. Diners will enjoy pork green chili smothered burritos, pan-fried chicken or a ribeye steak to name a few of the items available on the nights featuring those specials.

Patrons also will enjoy the old fashioned décor as the building was formerly a hardware store built in 1904. A ladder on a ceiling rail once ran the entire length of the south wall. Many local residents remember seeing the hardware store owner, Sid Lawson, climbing the ladder to retrieve hardware of all kinds from the wall of wooden bins that held everything one could ever imagine.



The building in which Yermoms is located was a former hardware store built in 1904. The original ladder still hangs on the rail and the dozens of bins have all been retained in their original condition.

Old fashioned tins, boxes and nostalgia line the shelves.

The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. and from 5:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. For more information about the restaurant, call 785-526-7800.

This project was made possible with funding from the owner, Bennington State Bank, and the Four Rivers Down Payment Assistance Loan Program.

For more about the financing programs used, contact Debra Peters, NCRPC Business Finance Director, at 785-738-2218 or by email at dpeters@nckcn.com.

Thanks to Becky Hall for the article.

