



## Mark your Calendar!

- 11/01 - Scholarships Open
- 11/05 - Women Helping Women Grant Apps Due
- 11/15- GSCF Fall Grant Apps Due
- 12/05 - First Friday- Austin Bieberly, 4-6 pm
- 01/02 - First Friday- Rueben & Pat Duran 4-6 pm
- 01/05/2026 - Women Helping Women Grant Apps Due
- 03/12/2026 - SAVE THE DATE - 15th Annual MATCH MADNESS

## Honoring Philanthropic Excellence at the 2025 Make Your Mark Awards

On September 25, 2025, the Greater Salina Community Foundation hosted its Make Your Mark Awards at the Salina Art Center, celebrating the individuals, businesses, and nonprofits who are “making their mark” through philanthropic partnership and community impact.

The evening was filled with gratitude, inspiration, and heartfelt recognition across five award categories: Legacy, Contemporary, Professional Advisor, Business, and Nonprofit. Each honoree exemplifies

the spirit of giving and the power of collaboration that defines our community.

### Nonprofit Award: Salina Grace

Salina Grace was honored for its unwavering commitment to serving Salina’s homeless population. What began in 2017 as a seasonal shelter has grown into a year-round Community Resource Center, now located at 315 S. Broadway. Through partnerships with agencies like CKF Addiction Treatment and Salina Family Healthcare Center, Salina

Grace provides wraparound services including meals, showers, laundry, and crisis navigation. With over 800 individuals served annually, Salina Grace continues to be a beacon of hope and healing.



Jessica Martin & Chad Young, ED of Salina Grace

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**SAVE THE DATE · March 12, 2026**

**Celebrating 15 years of love and gratitude!**



GREATER SALINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**MATCH MADNE\$\$**

# Make Your Mark Awards (cont'd)

## Business Award: Exline, Inc.

A pillar of civic generosity, Exline, Inc. has been a philanthropic leader since becoming a Founding Donor in 1999. Their Employee Charitable Fund held at GSCF empowers staff to choose local grant recipients, awarding over \$35,500 to 22 nonprofits. Under sixth-generation CEO Will Exline, the company supports Match Madness and the Give Back 5 Pledge, ensuring their legacy of giving continues to grow.



Jessica Martin & Jon Ramsey, CFO, Exline, Inc.

## Professional Advisor Award: BE Wealth

BE Wealth was recognized for its exemplary service in charitable advising and community engagement. From sponsoring the Match Madness half-court shot contest to leading the Give Back 5 Campaign, BE Wealth has championed legacy giving and youth involvement. They are also part of GSCF's outside investment manager program.



Jessica Martin, Brandon Ebert, Kevin Quinley, & Danielle Brown, Partners and Financial Advisors at BE Wealth

## Contemporary Award: Women Helping Women Fund

Founded in 2010, the Women Helping Women Fund has granted over \$403,000 to more than 700 women in Saline County. With support from 210 Fairy Godmothers, one Fairy Godfather, and three

Tinkerbells, the fund provides a “hand up” for women in crisis—covering needs like dentures, car repairs, and tuition. Their enduring commitment continues to shape brighter futures.



Rachel Loersch, WHW Board Chair & Michael Chambers

## Legacy Award: Larry and Millie Triplett Scholarship Fund

The Triplett Scholarship Fund honors the legacy of Larry and Millie Triplett, supporting students up to age 30 in the 9-county Triplett, Inc. service area. Since 2024, the fund has awarded \$192,900 in scholarships to 47 students, helping future leaders pursue education and return to serve their communities.



Millie Triplett & Michael Chambers

We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us at the Salina Art Center to honor these outstanding partners. Your support builds a stronger community.

Learn more about the recipients at <https://gscf.org/impact> or scan the QR code.





# Donor Advised Funds:

## A smart year-end giving strategy



As the year draws to a close, now is the perfect time to review your charitable giving strategy. If you want to make a bigger impact, and potentially receive greater tax benefits, a donor advised fund (DAF) at the community foundation can help you do both.

### Bundle Two Years of Giving into One Smart Gift

By “bunching” or bundling two years of your charitable gifts into a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) at the Community Foundation, you can surpass the standard deduction threshold and itemize your charitable giving for greater tax savings.

When you contribute to your DAF, you receive the full charitable deduction in the year of your gift, but you don’t have to decide right away where your grants will go. You can distribute them over time to your favorite charities, allowing your dollars to make a lasting difference.

If you regularly itemize deductions on your income tax return, you might have heard that things are changing in 2026 when both a floor cap on itemized charitable deductions kick in. This means 2025 offers a unique opportunity to “front-load” or “bunch” charitable donations into your DAF before the tax landscape shifts.

Tax Year	Option 1		Option 2	
	2025	2026	2025	2026
Charitable Deduction	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$0
Other Deductions	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>
Standard or Itemized Deduction	Standard Deduction	Standard Deduction	Itemized Deduction	Standard Deduction
<b>Deduction Amount</b>	<b>\$31,500</b>	<b>\$32,200</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>	<b>\$32,200</b>
<b>Total 2-Year Deduction</b>	<b>\$63,700</b>		<b>\$75,200</b>	

(\$11,500 higher in tax deduction!)

This example compares the difference in tax savings over a 2-year period, assuming a married couple joint filing with a standard deduction of \$31,500 in 2025 and a \$32,200 standard deduction in 2026.

### Donate Appreciated Securities or Cryptocurrency

If you have stock or cryptocurrency that has grown in value (and you’ve owned for at least a year), consider donating it to a Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation. You’ll avoid capital gains tax and receive a charitable deduction for the full market value of your asset, and can decide where to give later. You can also deduct up to 30% of your adjusted gross income for these gifts and carry the remainder of their value up to five years.



Scan QR Code to donate Crypto via The Giving Block.

\*Note: The Giving Block is a third party crypto donation platform.



“We really appreciate having our account with GSCF as an easy way of transferring appreciated stock for tax purposes as well as for growing the account for future charitable giving. It works really well for alternating itemizing deductions in one year and taking the standard deduction the next year.”

~ Loren & Sara Young, Donor Advised Fundholders

# NEWS & Impact

## Scholarship Bootcamps

**GSCF Scholarships are open November 1 to February 15**

The Greater Salina Community Foundation is excited to host Scholarship Bootcamps at local high schools throughout Saline County. At these sessions, students learn what scholarship providers are looking for in an applicant, how to write a compelling essay and resume, and gain tips on how to thrive during their first year of college.

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, students who attend these bootcamps are entered into a raffle to receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

In addition to the workshops, the Community Foundation offers a wide variety of scholarships for students, thanks to the generosity of local donors. Whether you are a high school senior, a current college student, or a non-traditional learner, the Foundation partners with donors to help people like you take the next step in your education.

Apply now at [www.gscf.org](http://www.gscf.org)- Applications due February 15!

### Scholarship Bootcamp Dates:

- Salina Central High School- Oct. 6
- Southeast of Saline High School- Nov. 4
- Sacred Heart High School- Nov. 5
- Salina South High School- Nov. 13
- Ell-Saline High School- Nov. 14



### Questions?

Contact Jessica Fuller,  
Director of Grants & Scholarships  
at 785-823-1800 or  
[jessicafuller@gscf.org](mailto:jessicafuller@gscf.org)

## Bootcamp Scholarship Winnners



Tylar DeWeese, Sacred Heart High School



Kenny Ray Cooper, Salina Central High School



Ava Rupert, Southeast of Saline High School



Liam Deniau-Young,  
Senior at Salina Central High School

**"Thank you for the advice on improving the quality of our essay, especially with researching the history of the scholarship. It's a subtle yet powerful way to show the effort put in an essay. I plan to use it in my own work."**



## New Give Back 5 Pledges

- |                 |                 |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| • Brad Anderson | • David Hanson  | • LeAnne Lewis   |
| • Jane Anderson | • Janet Hanson  | • Dennis Oborny  |
| • Ben Burgess   | • Carolee Jones | • Connie Stevens |
| • Jeremy Girard | • Mark Jones    | • Linda Smittle  |
| • Karmen Girard | • Kenny Lewis   |                  |

# Donor Advised Fund Powers Dual Matching Challenges

The Ted and Almita Augustine Donor Advised Fund at the Greater Salina Community Foundation (GSCF) is making a powerful impact in Salina and the region through two transformational matching gift initiatives—one focused on youth development and the other on rural healthcare.



Donna Augustine-Shaw, Mark Augustine & Dr. Bob Kraft

## Expanding Youth Services: Boys & Girls Club of Salina

A \$500,000 matching gift from the Augustine family is helping launch a long-awaited Boys & Girls Club in Salina. The gift, made through the fund at GSCF, honors the legacy of Ted and Almita Augustine and offers a dollar-for-dollar match to support both startup operations and long-term sustainability for the club.

“Our families are excited to support the start of a Salina-based Boys and Girls Club,” said Donna Augustine-Shaw and Mark Augustine in a statement. “The plan is strong, the

partnerships are in place, and the need in our community is real.”

“This matching gift challenge is a game-changer,” said Lance Patterson, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Hutchinson. “It helps us meet the immediate needs to open our doors in Salina, while also building the foundation to serve kids for generations to come.”

The Club is expected to open by the end of 2025 at Oakdale Elementary School, with future plans for a permanent facility in the Sunset Park area. Donations made to the endowed Boys and Girls Club of Salina Fund held at GSCF by December 31, 2025, will be matched with an equal amount for immediate operational support, up to \$500,000.

## Strengthening Rural Healthcare: Salina Family Healthcare Center

The Augustine Fund has also pledged a \$1 million matching challenge to support the development of a new healthcare facility for Salina Family Healthcare Center (SFHC). Their gift will match \$1 for every \$4 raised locally, up to \$1 million, and serves as a cornerstone for SFHC’s \$10 million community-focused fundraising campaign.

The new facility will expand access to integrated medical, dental, eye care, behavioral health and pharmacy services, while also supporting

physician training through the Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency Program.

“We are familiar with the need for healthcare in rural Kansas,” said Mark Augustine. “Both of our parents grew up in rural Kansas, and this is a meaningful way to help Salina and our community. We are excited to have our parents’ legacy honored through this new facility and by expanding access to care throughout Kansas.”

## A Legacy of Impact Through GSCF

Both matching gifts are being distributed through the Ted and Almita Augustine Donor Advised Fund held at GSCF. The fund has become a powerful tool for honoring the Augustine family’s values and investing in projects that reflect their commitment to education, health and opportunity.

“I can’t think of a more meaningful way to carry forward Ted and Almita’s legacy than through these final grants from their donor advised fund,” said Jessica Maritn, President & Executive Director of GSCF.



Donna Augustine-Shaw, Boys & Girls Club

## New GSCF Funds (established 07/01/25-09/31/25)

- Doyle & Maureen Comfort NROTC Scholarship Fund at KU
- Kenneth C. Ebert & Karen K. Ebert Family Fund
- Mark A. Gruenthal Fund
- Saline County Fair Association Fund

## Funds for the Future:

- Kelly Brown
- David & Janet Hanson
- Austin & Lisa Hoppock
- Kenny & Lee Lewis
- Mary L. Vanier



# Connecting with Our Community

## Be BOLD - Beyond Basics of Fundraising



The Community Impact Team recently hosted Be Bold - Beyond Basics of Fundraising for our nonprofit community partners. The training was facilitated by CKA Fundraising Consultants. Each Friday for five weeks nonprofit directors gathered for dynamic, interactive sessions designed to build fundraising confidence and capacity. Nearly every participating organization holds an endowed fund with GSCF—proof of their long-term commitment to impact and sustainability. Michael Chambers, VP of Community Impact said, “As part of our strategic plan we are committed to increasing philanthropy across our region. We knew hosting this training would go a long way in helping to develop fundraising competency in our area.”

“The Be BOLD workshops have given me more confidence in fundraising conversations. I’ve learned practical tools for engaging donors, sharing visions clearly, and making bold asks in a way that feels authentic. It’s been very helpful to grow in both skills and confidence” ~Derek Birney, Area Director, Salina Area Young Life



Organizations & affiliates who completed the training.



Eric and friends during his show, Echos Of The Plains

## FIRST FRIDAYS

First Fridays at GSCF continue to give us opportunities to share about our unique role as the home for charitable giving in our community. Recently, we hosted Eric Lorson as our First Friday artist. Eric is a talented photographer who displayed 48 different photographs in the Berkley Conference Room. More than 120 people attended his artist’s reception on October 3rd to see Eric’s work and visit about the Community Foundation. We would love to connect with you and hope you will join us for a First Friday event soon.

# In the Region

## Post Rock Community Foundation: Barbara A. Wolford Fund



**Two young farmers are expanding their cattle operations in Lincoln County thanks to a grant from the Barbara A. Wolford Fund held at the Post Rock Community Foundation.**

Barbara was a lifelong bookkeeper who worked at an implement dealership in Dighton and later at several banks, including Beverly and Lincoln. Her career in bookkeeping, love for rural Kansas, and deep appreciation for the farming lifestyle inspired her to create a permanent endowed fund at the Foundation through her estate. Her vision was to help young or beginning farmers start or expand their farming operations.

"We are deeply honored and grateful to receive Barbara's extraordinary estate gift," said Elisa Agler, Director of the Post Rock Community Foundation. "Her generosity will have a lasting impact—empowering young farmers with the resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive. In a small rural community like ours, this is more than a gift. It's a lifeline."

Through a partnership with the Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation, \$50,000 was awarded in grants to support two local operations:

- **Luck Farms** received **\$28,750** to assist with a down payment on adjacent farmland. The expansion will allow them to nearly double their herd size, increase acreage for rotational grazing, raise and maintain a healthy cattle operation, and boost the amount of feed and grain crops they can produce.
- **Wiebke Ranch** received **\$21,250** to purchase and install essential infrastructure, equipment, and supplies to modernize and expand their ranch. This growth will also allow them to move into direct-to-consumer beef sales, supply local schools and restaurants, and establish an honor-system beef stand in town.

"For us, ranching is more than a business—it's a way to build lasting relationships and contribute to the vitality of rural life," shared the Wiebke family. "We value the Post Rock Region not only for its land and resources, but for the people who make it home. Our goal is to create a sustainable operation that benefits our neighbors today and leaves a legacy for our children."

**"Getting to do what I love and raising my family doing this line of work is very rewarding and a dream come true." - Austin Luck, Luck Farms**

**Field of interest funds respond to current and future needs by letting you support a specific cause or geographic area rather than a specific charity. Grants are determined by a local committee.**



**Serving 10 regional affiliates and 13 counties throughout north central and western Kansas.**



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<b>Kathy Schwerdtfager,</b> Vice-Chair	Kelly Brown
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<b>John Quinley,</b> Community Impact	Jon Ramsey
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	Jeff Wacker
	David Wedel

## FOUNDATION STAFF

<b>Jessica Martin,</b> President & Executive Director	<b>Jessica Flores,</b> Fund Management Assistant
<b>Michael Chambers,</b> VP of Community Impact	<b>Jessica Fuller,</b> Director of Grants & Scholarships
<b>Rita Northup,</b> Executive Assistant	<b>Natalie Wood,</b> Affiliate Relations & Grants Coordinator
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<b>Shanna King,</b> Staff Accountant	

# Director's Message

Seeing people achieve their dreams is one of the greatest privileges of working at the Community Foundation. These past few months we have:

- **Seen young farmers** expand their cattle operations, made possible by a grant from a local legacy fund.
- **Featured a rising artist** and photographer whose First Friday exhibit captured the heart and spirit of rural Kansas.
- **Watched nonprofit leaders** gain confidence and secure their first major gifts after attending our fundraising workshops.
- **Carried out a family's legacy** through new healthcare center and Boys and Girls Club campaign.
- **Witnessed students smile** when they won a scholarship to further their education.
- **Celebrated** with individuals, businesses, and organizations who are making their mark through philanthropy at our Make Your Mark Awards.



Thank you for being a part of this incredible community of givers and helping make dreams come true. **Impact Today. Transform Tomorrow!**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jessica L. Martin'.

Jessica L. Martin  
President & Executive Director

**Our mission is to improve lives  
and enrich communities.**