

GIVE BACK

A Community Giving Pledge

Mark your Calendar!

- 08/02- First Friday
4-6 pm
- 08/15 - GSCF Grants Due!
- 08/22 - Grant Writing
Workshop: Mari Tucker
- 09/05 - Grants Due!
Women Helping Women
- 09/06- First Friday
- 09/17 - Planned Giving/
Estate Gift Workshop: Bryan
Clontz
- 09/26- Save the Date!
GSCF 25th Anniversary
Celebration

GSCF Announces Giving Pledge

We are excited to announce a community wide giving pledge to raise future funds for local nonprofits through the Give Back 5 Community Giving Pledge Campaign. The campaign challenges individuals to commit to donating at least 5% of their retirement or other investment accounts to local nonprofits by designating nonprofits as a charitable beneficiary.

The beneficiary designation allows donors to designate their money directly to charity to be used by the charity immediately, or to a fund at

the Greater Salina Community Foundation that will provide the charity with annual long-term support.

"Our goal is to secure 125 individual pledges by June 30, 2025," said Jessica Martin, President and Executive Director of the Greater Salina Community Foundation. "The Community Foundation was established 25 years ago by over 100 founding donors coming together to create a platform for charitable giving. We see this as a fun way to engage the next generation to carry on that legacy and support our local nonprofits that

make our community a great place to call home!"

Strengthening Nonprofits

The Give Back 5 Community Giving Pledge was started by a local committee made up of financial advisors, nonprofits and the Community Foundation to inspire local giving and strengthen our community's future resources for the next generation. They believe nonprofits contribute to the community's social, economic, and cultural well-being and are committed to helping build nonprofit (continued on page 2)

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Give Back 5 (cont.)

(continued from page 1)
capacity through the Community Giving Pledge.

"Wedel Financial Group has always prided itself on giving back to the community that has given so much to us as individuals and professionals," said Aaron Wedel, Committee Member and Financial Advisor at Wedel Financial Group. "We are supporting the Give Back 5 campaign because it is a great way for people of all ages to participate in the charitable values that make Salina such a great place to live. We are confident this campaign will allow local nonprofits to provide the much-needed services in our community for generations to come."

Last year, over \$13M was granted to local charities and projects by donors through funds held at the Community Foundation. Having funds that nonprofits can count on enables them to not only keep the lights on but also to focus on their mission and dream big.

"Planned gifts have a significant impact on nonprofits like Catholic Charities, ensuring



that vital services such as emergency financial assistance, basic needs distribution, and mental health programs continue to support our neighbors in need today and for generations to come, without worrying about funding," said Megan Robl, Committee Member and Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas.

"The Salina community thrives because of the dedication of many nonprofit organizations that make it a special place. This type of giving empowers all of us to evolve and grow our crucial missions alongside the community's changing needs. These funds are instrumental in preserving the unique spirit of our community."

Pledge Now, Give Later.

One of the great things about the Community Giving Pledge, is that because the nonprofit is listed as a beneficiary of the retirement account, individuals still have access to their funds during retirement years when it's needed the most. After they are gone, the charity will receive 5% of the remaining balance.

Donating an IRA or other retirement assets to charity may also result in substantial tax savings for an individual's heirs and estate. Because charities do not pay income tax, the charity will receive the full amount designated through the account. It's also an opportunity to create a meaningful and lasting legacy that represents your life's work, passions and values.



Jenell Hulse

Community Volunteer | Commercial Loan Officer &

"I chose to donate to the Give Back 5 campaign through my 401K because I love Hyllningsfest and Lindsborg," said Jenell Hulse. "When I co-chaired Svensk Hyllningsfest, the financial situation was a stressor. I want to help eliminate that stress for future chairs so that this event will continue forever. Donating via my 401K allows me to give back to the Lindsborg community long after I am no longer able to physically serve."

Signing up for the pledge is easy! Fill out a pledge card at your financial advisor's office or online at www.giveback5.org.



GIVE 5 BACK
A Community Giving Pledge

“HOT” Summer Giving Tips...



Welcome to summer in Kansas where even the turtles are hot! Here are our top summer giving tips to keep your charitable giving “cool” until fall.

1. Review your IRA beneficiary designations.

With the launch of the Give Back 5 Community Giving Pledge, now is the perfect time to review your IRA beneficiary designations with your financial advisor. Join the Give Back 5 campaign and designate 5% of your IRA directly to charity or to a fund at the Community Foundation (see pages 1-2 or www.giveback5.org for more information).

2. Donate appreciated stock or crypto to a fund at the community foundation.

The temperature may not be the only thing that’s gone up this summer! Check your investments and/or digital wallet to see if you have any stocks or cryptocurrency that have appreciated in value. When you donate long-term appreciated stock or cryptocurrency to the Community Foundation (a 501(c)(3) public charity) the Foundation sells it on your behalf and adds the proceeds to your fund of choice. You receive a tax deduction for the fair market value of the security and avoid long-term capital gains tax.

By contrast, if you were to sell those exact shares or cryptocurrency first, and then donate the

proceeds to the Foundation, you would owe capital gains tax resulting in less money to support your favorite charity’s fund at the Foundation.

3. If you can take advantage of the QCD, do it.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a smart way to support your favorite charities. If you are over the age of 70 ½, you can direct up to \$105,000 from your IRA to public charities, or to any fund at the Community Foundation (except donor advised). If you’re subject to the rules for Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), QCDs count toward those RMDs. Through a QCD, you avoid income tax on the funds distributed to charity and the charity receives the full amount of the QCD, tax free!

4. Start paying attention now to the estate tax exemption sunset.

The estate tax exemption is scheduled to take a pretty significant drop after December 25, 2025. The estate tax exemption is the total amount a taxpayer can leave to family and other individuals during their life and at death without paying any federal or estate tax. Any assets passed above

this exemption amount would be subject to a 40% transfer tax.

Currently, the estate tax exemption is \$13.61 million per individual, or \$27.22 million per married couple, and will increase slightly in 2025 to account for inflation. However, in 2026 without legislation to prevent it, the exemption is scheduled to fall back to roughly \$6-\$7 million per individual or \$12-\$14 per married couple. That is quite a drop!

Bottom line, if your assets are within the proposed range for 2026, start planning now and meet with your financial advisor to talk about your charitable giving options and how they can help you possibly avoid estate tax.

Use your appreciated assets to start a donor advised fund at the Community Foundation today! Receive a tax deduction now, and decide where to grant later.

NEWS & Impact

Scholarship Banquet

On May 23rd, we celebrated the achievements of our scholarship recipients at GSCF's annual scholarship banquet. Over \$185,000 was awarded to 68 students through 36 scholarship funds. Thirty-four students and their families came to the banquet with over 130 people in attendance. Donors and their recipients were seated together, giving donors a chance to discover more about the students' passions and goals in life.

Making a Mark Through Hard Work and Grit: Larry & Millie Triplett Scholarship Fund

Larry and Millie Triplett were Founding Donors of GSCF and used the Foundation to assist with their charitable giving through a donor advised fund when Larry was alive. After Larry passed, the family decided to turn the donor advised fund into a permanent scholarship fund that would forever impact students, while also carrying on

Larry's legacy of hard work and grit. The scholarship fund supports students up to age 30 in the service area of Triplett, Inc. Where there's a 24/7 Travel store, you can likely find a student impacted by this scholarship!

Recipients must be enrolled in a full-time course of study in Kansas and possess a strong work ethic. Preference is given to those with financial need and plans to return to the Triplett, Inc. service area. This year, 21 scholarships were awarded to a mixture of students attending two-year or four-year post-secondary institutions, with majors ranging from barber school to medical school.

It's an honor to carry out our scholarship donors' passion for education and help make the dreams of students come true. Since inception, GSCF and our affiliates have awarded over \$3.9 million in scholarships to 2,784 students!



New GSCF Funds

(established 03/01/24-06/30/24)

- Anonymous Donor Advised Fund
- Helen Wikoff-Graves Scholarship Fund
- Brookville Community Foundation Legacy Fund
- The Jack E. Ludwig & Ann Ludwig Family Fund

Cornerstone Classical School - PLAYGROUND UPDATE

March 2024 - Kansas Health Foundation Fund for GSCF - \$5,000

The GSCF grants committee awarded \$5,000 from the Kansas Health Foundation Fund for GSCF to Cornerstone Classical School to update their playground equipment. "Our goal was to replace the main play structure with a more updated, safe and accessible option that will accommodate all students in Kindergarten through 5th grade, as well as children in the surrounding neighborhood" said Courtney Hanke, Admissions and Development Director.

Cornerstone believes in the power of play to balance high focused time in the classroom. Students enjoy an hour of daily free time, boosting their happiness, confidence and motivation.

A Neighborhood Playground

When deciding to update their playground equipment, Cornerstone Classical School was not only thinking of their students, but the community surrounding them. Cornerstone is the only walkable playground west of

9th street for three quarters of a mile. This new playground will be accessible to the neighborhood and community members outside of school hours, establishing them as a community partner. The new playground is projected to be completed in August of 2024.



"We are thrilled to be able to update our outdoor play structure to a more accessible and safe structure for all of our students and the surrounding neighborhood. Thank you, Greater Salina Community Foundation!" ~ Courtney Hanke, Admissions & Development Director



"As a new grant and scholarship season begins, GSCF is excited to come alongside the nonprofits to advance their mission through competitive grants and assist students to achieve their academic goals."

-Jessica Fuller, Director of Grants & Scholarships

Connecting with YOU

At the Greater Salina Community Foundation, we cherish the moments we get to connect with the individuals and groups strengthening the fabric of our community. Whether it's a one-on-one conversation over a cup of coffee or a lively discussion with an organization, these interactions fuel our passion and drive.

Nothing inspires us more than sharing the incredible impact stories that emerge from the generosity of donors and the dedication of our community partners. From scholarships that open doors to higher education, to grants that support vital community services; each story is a testament to the power of a shared commitment to making life better for others.

Recently we kicked off the Give Back 5 giving pledge with the goal of securing 125 commitments from individuals wishing to leave a legacy gift to their communi-

ty at death through their retirement accounts. (See Page 1) We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you about this. We are available to meet one-on-one, or to speak to your church, civic club, or social group about the Give Back 5 program, or any of the other opportunities available through GSCF.

Whether you're ready to start a fund today, to start planning your fund for the future, or just want to learn more about us, we're here for you!

~Michael Chambers,
Vice President of
Community Impact



Lunch & Learns

On May 22nd, GSCF hosted a nonprofit workshop with estate planning attorney John Griffin about how to connect charitable donors to the resources he provides through the the Dane G. Hansen Foundation's NW Kansas Gives Initiative.

John helps donors who wish to give to charity design an estate plan that includes a charitable gift. Thanks to a generous grant from the Hansen Foundation, John's services are free of charge to the donor. Once the planning process is complete, donors meet with their own attorney to review and finalize the documents.

John shared his top 13 observations from his 33 years of doing estate planning work and provided specific scenarios

from plans he's helped create. Griffin said, "only 8% of adults have a charitable component in their estate plan and that once people make the commitment to a charitable gift at their death, most will leave a percentage of their estate as opposed to a specific bequest."

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about how to access John's services, please contact Michael at 785-823-1800.



Seizing Opportunities for Growth

Greater Salina Community Foundation hosts 10 regional affiliate foundations serving 13 counties. The size and years of existence vary, but each Foundation has a vision and passion for their communities which is leading to growth.



Over the years, matching grant opportunities have been provided by the Kansas Health Foundation, Dane G. Hansen Foundation, and most recently, the Patterson Family Foundation. Thanks to these organizations believing in the mission of com-

In the Region

When Solomon Valley Community Foundation decided to do a Match Day fundraising event, they weren't quite sure what kind of results they could expect. They had never done something like this and didn't know how the community would respond.

A small but dedicated group of committee members played a crucial role in making the event a reality. Their Give to Grow event had 22 participating funds and a modest matching pool of \$30,000. The group's hard work and passion for the communities they serve not only raised substantial funds, but also fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose.



Julia Rabe, Solomon Valley's Executive Director said, "there were so many great moments that inspired our Board and our community that day". One particularly heartwarming donor story emerged when a volunteer engaged with a 5th grade student who visited the Mitchell County Historical Society booth. Inspired by the student's enthusiasm, the supporter donated to the Historical Society at the event.

The Tipton Community Project was featured by the Tipton Community Foundation Fund. Tipton (population 191) showcased plans for their new community space and raised over \$30,000 for their endowment fund through pre-event connections and event day donations.

New Regional Staff- Welcome Aboard!



The Patterson Family Foundation and the Dane G. Hansen Foundation teamed up to offer full-time staffing grants for our regional affiliates. With their help, Republic County Community Foundation hired their very first Director and Ottawa County Community Foundation hired their first full-time Director. Stay tuned for more new faces as the rest of our affiliates continue to take advantage of this opportunity!

community foundations and local donors giving generously, the regional affiliates are reaching milestones sooner than first imagined. Both Jewell County Community Foundation and Washington County Community Foundation reached their first \$1 million in overall assets last year. So far in 2024, Heartland Community Foundation, which serves 3 counties, passed the \$1 million mark in each county's Legacy (unrestricted) Fund and Republic County Community Foundation surpassed \$10 million in assets.

It is an exciting time of growth for the regional affiliate foundations! The additional resources help them serve their communities better. This is only the beginning, and we look forward to celebrating additional growth in the coming years.



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Director's Message

Make Your Mark

Making your mark in the community doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, it can be as easy as designating 5% of your retirement account to a charitable beneficiary through the Give Back 5 Community Giving Pledge. Let's face it- you can't take the money with you when you die, but you can donate a portion of it back to charity to make a lasting difference in our community.



- Jenell Hulse is **making her mark** by supporting Svensk Hyllningsfest through the Give Back 5 Community Giving Pledge and her IRA.
- Cornerstone Classical School is **making a mark** on students and neighborhood children by providing a safe and accessible playground.
- Larry and Millie Triplett are **making their mark** by helping students *make their own mark* in the world through scholarships.

What do you want your mark to be? Impact Today, Transform Tomorrow!

Jessica Martin
President & Executive Director

Our mission is to build permanent endowment funds and meet charitable community needs.