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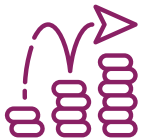
www.kearneyfoundation.org | (308) 237-3114 | kacf@kearneyfoundation.org

2019 Community Impact

Take a look at how your donation has been distributed by the foundation throughout our community.

\$5 million

total gifts received



\$4.1 million

distributed to the community

\$136,390

scholarships distributed



2020-2021 BOARD AND STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nathan Bruner, **Chair**
Jonathan Nikkila, **Vice Chair**
Julie Speirs, **Secretary**
Carol Pelster, **Treasurer**

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Jon Brandt	Heidi Narber-Richter
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Bob Lammers	David Wiebe

STAFF

Judi Sickler, **President / CEO**
Angie Vlasin, **Accounting Manager**
Laurel McKellips, **Program Manager**
Jasmine Thompson, **Marketing Coordinator**
Laura Jeppesen, **Administrative Assistant**



“connecting people who care with causes that matter”

Our Response to COVID-19

Providing for our Community

Thank you for being strong and community focused during these challenging times – we all are in uncharted territory. It has been 25 years since our inception, and just like our first day, the Kearney Area Community Foundation cares about each and every one of our friends and neighbors; everyone’s health and safety is our top priority.

In the last several weeks, so much has changed in our lives. It wasn’t long ago that we heard of a virus in a faraway country and never envisioned it coming this close to home. We are learning new things like “flattening the curve”, “self-quarantine” and “social distancing.” The novel coronavirus has changed our lives as we know them.

We are in the business of improving the quality of life in the Kearney area and effectively responding to the community’s needs. We were here last year when the March and July flooding affected many in our communities, and we are here today helping nonprofits meet emerging needs that are a result of COVID-19’s effects on our community.

There are many ways you can help your community, through your local community foundation, to help our nonprofits and our neighbors in need:

- The Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Kearney Area Community Foundation, set up a **Kearney Area Employee Emergency Relief Fund** to help employees in our community suffering loss and hardship from the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The **Pay It Sideways – COVID-19 Relief Fund** was established by Marge Lauer and Sherry Morrow to support nonprofits in the Kearney area that are providing, but not limited to, food, rent assistance, utility assistance, medicine, mental health or childcare to people living and/or working in the Kearney area.

Donations can be made with credit cards on our website: www.kearneyfoundation.org/covid-19-funds or checks can be made payable to the Kearney Area Community Foundation and mailed to our office (please indicate which fund you want to donate to).

To keep up-to-date with ever-changing information, we have created a page on our website listing community COVID-19 responses and resources available in the Kearney area. You can check out what local nonprofits and government entities are doing to help you, your family, and business during this difficult time. Please visit www.kearneyfoundation.org/covid-19 for more information.

We are not tone-deaf. We are keenly aware of what is going on in our world, our country, our state, and our community. We know that there are better tomorrows on the horizon. Thank you for considering a gift to the Foundation, or to any of our COVID-19 related funds.

We are stronger together.

25 Years of Enhancing THE KEARNEY AREA



DonorCentral
ONLINE PORTAL

Just 25 years ago, the founders of the Kearney Area Community Foundation came together, wondering how they would sustain projects like Leadership Kearney. They knew they would need an initiative to help fund other worthy projects in the community.

Leadership Kearney board members agreed that a charitable foundation could help. Their idea was supported by the Chamber board, and after, favorable response at a Kearney Tomorrow planning forum in 1995, the Kearney Area Community Foundation became a reality.

In 1996, the board was informed that the Foundation would collapse if income was not acquired for operations. But in just 10 short days, thanks to community donors, \$19,000 was raised for Foundation operations. This skyrocketed the possibilities of the Kearney Area Community Foundation for years to come.

In the years leading to 2020, the Kearney Area Community Foundation has become an essential asset for our community. Today, we partner with a variety of organizations and individuals, overseeing more than 200 funds. These funds provide scholarships, grants and support a variety of community projects and programs.

We are helping to enhance parks, promoting educations and helping those in need. A community foundation is not a user of funds, but is a vehicle to help people who want to improve their community and to fulfill that desire long beyond their lifetimes.

Community foundations are flexible and donor-oriented, which accomplish the goals of donors who are interested in supporting specific projects or programs. "We think of ourselves as an incubator for groups who have big dreams to improve the quality of life in our community," said President/CEO Judi Sickler.

"Planning for one year? Grow rice. Planning for twenty years? Grow a tree. Planning for eternity? Grow people. That's the purpose of the Kearney Area Community Foundation. It's not a twenty-year or even fifty-year proposition. It's doing good forever."

Today, the Foundation has granted over \$57 million in grants, scholarships and program support and also manages over \$24 million in assets. In the future, the foundation will become "self-sufficient." At that time, the foundation will no longer seek operating funds, but rather will be able to expend its full energy in serving donors and the community.

The Foundation tomorrow will become the most flexible, vital and the broadest-serving community organization in our area. Our 25 years of success can be attributed to years of hard-working board members, volunteers, staff and donors in our community.



THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDERS!

Jerry Colvert	Dan Lindstrom	Jeanne Ross	Jody Stenehjelm
Ben Homan Sr.	Dick Mercer	Patti Shefte	Janice Wiebusch
Gene Koepke	Alan Oldfather	Carl Spelts	Paul Younes

\$24,576,337*
total assets

*As of January 1, 2020

\$57,417,701*
given to the Kearney area since 1995

The Edison Society was launched last year for donors who wanted to help the Foundation at a higher level. Like the inventor Thomas Edison, we are driven to be innovative, provide a higher quality of life for others and shine light on ideas and solutions that can make a difference in our community today and in the future.

Your financial support helps us to remain innovative. Because we are a small nonprofit, we depend on outside support to not only keep our lights on, but to help us bring in technology and other resources that make us more efficient and effective in our community.

We've used the support raised through the 2019 Edison Society campaign to improve the quality of life for others. We invest your hard-earned dollars that you share with us wisely. We are frugal. We are resourceful. And we treat every donated dollar with respect.

Thanks to funds raised in 2019, the Kearney Area Community Foundation was able to purchase Kaleidoscope, our newest investment in technology. This software switches from paper-based scholarships to our new cloud-based system. Now there will be no more incomplete applications; everything is waiting online for the scholarship selection committees to review.

"We are proud to enhance the Community Foundation, allowing them to identify needs in our community and enrich our area in ways national organizations cannot," said Jerry Hellman, local businessman.

Local support from the Edison Society allowed the Foundation to continue to provide the community's annual 24-hour giving day. The Kearney Area Community Foundation does not profit from Give Where You Live, rather the Foundation invests thousands of donated dollars and hundreds of hours of staff time to provide the platform and carry out the event.

We would like to give a special thank you to the first Edison Society members who helped make 2019 Give Where You Live our most successful year yet. The community raised a grand total of \$1,203,453 with 5,603 individual donations to 165 local nonprofits.

The Edison Society allows us to continue to improve the quality of life for others. We use innovation, problem-solving and all available resources to "Be the Light" in our community. We work hard every day to maintain a philanthropic culture to assure that donors and the community are served in an atmosphere of trust and professionalism.

Interested in becoming an Edison Society member? Call the Foundation today at (308) 237-3114 for more information.



DonorCentral is a web portal that allows our fund representatives and donor advisors to track their fund finances whenever and wherever they want. For donor advisors, this online tool makes it easy to make grants from their established funds – simply and efficiently.

Opening a donor advised fund at the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) is only the beginning. Once a fund is established, donors can make grants to support nonprofits, schools, churches and other eligible organizations. And we take it from there.

With DonorCentral, you can access your fund balance and review giving history, all online. You also have access to annual, quarterly and monthly fund statements. Furthermore, this software suggests new grants for you to consider and helps discover fresh and exciting funding opportunities that inspire you.

"As Chairman for the Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial Committee, I have used DonorCentral since its inception and find it to be an extremely valuable asset in managing our project fund. DonorCentral provides me immediate and real-time access from my home computer to our fund totals, detailed donor information and fund expenditure information for the project. By having this access, my time is saved by not having to call or visit the Foundation in person with questions or having to wait for an end-of-month report. It also saves time and resources from the Community Foundation staff perspective so they can focus their valuable time on other issues. I also use Donor Central to cross check our donor list to ensure each donor is thanked in writing by our committee. What a great asset!" said Bob Harpst.

KACF's investment in this self-sufficient technology, thanks to our generous donors, allows our staff to spend their time on more time sensitive projects such as making deposits and distributions and providing charitable advice to donors and businesses in our community.

If you have a fund and have not signed up for a DonorCentral account, you are welcome to take advantage of this free and secure online tool, to submit your grant recommendations and get up-to-date information on your fund balance, gifts and grants.

Please call us at (308) 237-3114 and ask for Laurel McKellips, Program Manager, to assist you in getting registered to DonorCentral.

