

Quarterly Newsletter



January 15, 2021

From ECF President, Kay Lauer



I started as a Trustee with the Emporia Community Foundation (ECF) in 2011 and have been the President since 2019. I've served on most ECF committees and have actively promoted the many activities of the ECF. I have whole heartedly supported the Legacy Fund program that our Executive Director Becky Nurnberg started last June, even sitting in on a number of the Zoom sessions myself.

When I became a part of the ECF, there were only 60 funds, 5 scholarships and \$10 million in assets. At our last Board meeting it was reported that the ECF assets are now over \$36 million and I couldn't help but be a little proud of the small part I have had in getting to this point. What made me even more proud was the Board of Director's approval of one of ECF's newest funds, the *Kay Lauer Family Fund*, which is my family's "legacy". Wow! Those two words – "family" and "legacy" – really hit home when I think of the potential for the communities we love when we joined together with the ECF.

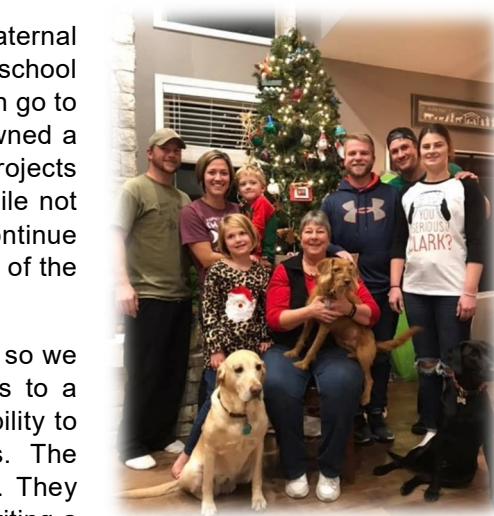
You see, my roots run deep in the greater Chase County area. My maternal grandparents ranched here and my parents raised our family here. I went to school in USD 284 as did my three sons – Billy, Joe and Jim. Now, my grandchildren go to the Chase County Schools and my daughter-in-law Lisa teaches there. I owned a grocery store in Strong City and now I'm active in a number of community projects and help work cattle with my sons when needed. This is our home and while not perfect, our communities have provided a great way of life and we want it to continue for our families and neighbors. The mission of the ECF is "for the betterment of the whole community" and that's why we started our fund.

I had some stock that was doing well in the market, but was just sitting there so we used it to start the fund. There are a lot of benefits to transferring assets to a community foundation. Under approved IRS guidelines, the ECF has the ability to directly accept property, which the ECF sells and the proceeds go into funds. The ECF has accepted stock, RMDs, houses, vehicles and farmland over the years. They can take almost anything and for some reason, it's not nearly as painful as writing a check!



Now, here's the best part! Like many people my age, I really don't need birthday presents. It's very nice and thoughtful, but not necessary. Recently, I met with my three sons and their families. I asked each of them to research, investigate and delve into their hearts to find a charity or a need in their communities. I have a December birthday, so they have a lot of time to do their digging. Their gift to me this year will be that they each will make a donation from our fund to go to a charity or need for the betterment of our communities – the mission of the ECF and pretty cool birthday presents! (It sure beats another pair of work gloves!) When we discussed my idea with my three son's families and what they were going to give me for my birthday, they were just as excited as I was. There may also be some competition from them to give Mom the best gift! I have no doubt that where ever the donations go, my birthday this year and for years to come will be memorable!

So, this is my family's legacy for the places we call home. The ECF staff has more information if you would be interested in looking into a fund for your legacy. It's simple, it doesn't have to be a lot of money to start a fund and it leaves a lasting impact in the areas we call home. I can't wait to tell you what I get from my three sons when I blow out my birthday candles!



Investing in the Community



The economic recovery was strong in both the third and fourth quarters after a challenging first half of 2020. Our UMB portfolio ended the year with net return of 12.62%.

The ECF ended 2020 at an all-time high of \$36.2 million in assets.

The ECF awarded over \$2.1 million in grants during 2020. This includes over \$185,000 to help area businesses and non-profits during the pandemic thanks to the Greater Emporia Area Disaster Relief Fund. The City of Emporia used their Kahola Fund to receive \$500,000 for park upgrades. The ECF awarded scholarships and assisted families with children diagnosed with cancer and Type 1 Diabetes.

The ECF added over 15 new funds during 2020 as well. Many of our endowments funds are adding a non-endowed companion fund to accept their annual spendable allotment. This allows the donors to save for larger projects or future needs instead of rolling the spendable amount back into the endowment each year. If you'd like more information, please contact the ECF office.

First Quarter Newsletter

February

15 – **79 Fund** Grant Application Deadline

15 – **Growing Greenwood Fund** Grant Application Deadline

19 – **ECF Board Meeting**

23 – Non-Profit Legacy Webinar

March

15 – **Chase County Community Fund** Grant Application Deadline

19 – **ECF Board Meeting**

April

1 – **Trusler Foundation** Grant Application Deadline

16 – **ECF Board Meeting/Quarterly Trustee Meeting**



The ECF held the 2020 Emporia Area Match Day event on November 16th. The organizations stepped up to the challenge and worked hard to gather donations. The end result was the largest Match Day yet with 23 organizations receiving \$322,035.90. Over the last seven years, over \$1.4 million has been given to 35 area organizations. Information about the 2021 event will be released in the coming months.



Did you know you can find grant information on the ECF website? Visit <https://www.emporiacf.org/available-grants.cfm> to learn more about grant opportunities and deadlines.

ECF Welcomes Mari Perez

Mari Perez has joined the ECF staff as our new Administrative Assistant. Mari is originally from Denver, Colorado and is pursuing a Master's degree in Information Technology at Emporia State University.



What Is Your Legacy?

Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.

– Warren Buffett

Save the date!! June 18, 2021!!

25th + 1 Anniversary Celebration



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