

Quarterly Newsletter



July 2022

From ECF President Jeff Williams



I continue to be amazed at the generosity in our community. One of the best examples is the Emporia Community Foundation which has grown in 28 years from the beginning fund of \$5,000 to the 350+ funds in the ECF today worth over \$37 million. The ECF Board approves new funds at our monthly meetings and one of the things that impresses me are the unique purposes and diversity of these funds to improve our community. Here are just a few funds making a real difference in the second quarter of this year:

- The *Team Schnak Strong Fund* paid the registration fees for 27 kids with Type I Diabetes (out of a total of 56 kids in the entire camp) for the statewide Type I Diabetes Camp this summer.
- The *Project Playscape Fund*, started by a group of Moms in Americus who wanted a decent place for their kids to play, funded playground equipment 12 years ago. They recently raised over \$550,000 for a first-class Baseball Complex and are now working on a community Splash Pad.
- The *Lyon County Honor Flight Fund* took another group of local veterans to Washington DC in April. Area veterans are selected and USD 252 Southern Lyon County high school students accompany them on the trip. Many of the veterans, especially from the Viet Nam era, never received honors once stateside or a warm welcome home. The Olpe Community goes all out for these trips of a lifetime. The next one is in November.
- The *Richard Porter Fund*, through the donation of soybeans to the ECF, has provided funding to the Kansas Legal Services to assist Kansans to expunge felony records so they can move on with their lives.
- An Anonymous Family Fund sent money to the United Way of the Plains for tornado relief victims in Andover and surrounding communities.
- The *Kaltenbacher Charitable Trust Fund* provided funding to the Chase County College Access Fund for scholarships for high school students taking college classes.
- And, the *Cleve Cook/Emporia Lions Club Fund* gave a generous check to Hetlinger Developmental Services for their greenhouse project.

The total of disbursements from just these seven funds was \$185,281. And, these are only a few of the payments sent out in the **second quarter** to make the greater Emporia community such a wonderful place to work, play and live.

The ECF is now focused on Flint Hills Legacy Funds. Flint Hills Legacy Funds allow for your assets to remain in your control during your lifetime, plus there may be significant tax savings. These funds can be modified with changing circumstances and benefit greater Emporia generations far into the future. For more information about a Flint Hills Legacy Fund, contact ECF Executive Director, Becky Nurnberg.

Investing in the Community

The ECF Finance Committee met with UMB Bank on July 14th for their quarterly meeting. The ECF investments are down 13.59% for the year; however, it is better than the national average. UMB representatives went on to say that it has not been a good six months, but all things considered, our portfolio has done well. While the potential exists for a negative return for the calendar year, it should be better than the numbers seen at the end of June. The committee members were pleased to learn most of the ECF investments performed above the benchmarks.

Third Quarter Calendar

August

15 – **79 Fund** Grant Deadline

19 – **ECF Board of Directors** Meeting

September

5 – ECF Office Closed for Labor Day

15 – **Chase County Community Fund** and the **Morgan Wilkie Fund** Grant Deadline

16 – **ECF Board of Directors** Meeting

30 – **ECF Grants** and **Flint Hills Community Fund** Grant Deadline

October

3 – **Sadie Jones** Grant Application Deadline

12-14 – KACF Conference

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

In the Spotlight



In honor of what would have been Reese Naylor's 19th birthday, Jim and Donna Russell started the Reese Naylor Joy Fund. The fund will be used to provide support for projects and programs providing happiness and joy for individuals up to 21 years of age with a terminal or chronic illness in the greater Emporia area.

Reese was born in Emporia, Kansas in 2003 and passed away in 2016 after a long battle with leukemia. Reese was a cupcake baker, a whiz on the hula hoop, and the best hugger ever. She loved her friends and family fiercely and taught them the importance of choosing JOY in the middle of the mess. Now there is a world full of people who see the word "joy" and think of Reese.

Welcome, Chelsea!

Chelsea Wiltz joined ECF on June 6th as our Program Officer. She has lived in Emporia for 20 years, and her background is in education. She was an elementary teacher for Emporia Public Schools for 12 years, teaching 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades. Her highest degree earned is a Master of Science in Educational Administration. She plans to use those leadership skills in our community! Chelsea had her own home-based business with The Pampered Chef for 7 years, so she also brings experience in sales, recruiting, customer service, and training.

Chelsea's family includes her husband, Corey, stepdaughters, Brooklyn and Bailey, and son, Cole.



Corey is the Human Resources Director for Dynamic Discs, Brooklyn just graduated from Emporia High and will attend ESU this fall for nursing, and Bailey and Cole will both be going into 8th grade. In her spare time, Chelsea enjoys cheering the kids on at sports

activities, reading books for self-improvement as well as pleasure, and relaxing at Melvern Lake.

Chelsea has jumped right into the ECF Scholarship program and Match Day, making excellent suggestions for Growing Up Giving. We are excited to have her join the ECF staff and for all she can bring to the foundation. Please stop by the ECF office, introduce yourself, and wish her well.

Match Day Update



MATCH DAY

Currently, there is \$70,000 that 28 organizations will be going after. In June, the ECF hosted a Fundraising 101 Seminar with four organizations from past Match Days sharing their expertise, ideas, suggestions and ideas for success. Kiley DeDonder, North Lyon County Youth

Association, shared that social media is an affordable tool and ideas how to use it. Britney Hinrichs, Project Playscape, said when you need new ideas all you have to do is "google fundraisers." Lynn Smith, Pioneer Bluffs, emphasized that "people give to people." Kent Schnakenberg, Team Schnak, poured out his passion and said to "do things nobody else wants to do."

In July, ECF presented Media Night with ideas as to how to better work with the local newspaper and radio station. A special thank you to Chuck Samples, KVOE Radio, and Chris Walker, The Emporia Gazette, for sharing tips and ideas when working with their particular media. Match Day videos have also become an important tool for the event. Dave Leiker from PrairieDust Photography had information and ideas on making videos that stand out from the rest. The material provided in these seminars will be valuable to the organizations not only for Match Day but all year round.

Growing Up Giving, the student-centered portion of Match Day, has been revamped by Chelsea with her education background proving to be very valuable. Area schools will receive lesson plans to help them implement the program the first week of November. The students' picks will be announced on Match Day!

Have you ever wanted to make your own QR code? These things are everywhere now! Be sure to scan ours, and if you want help making one consider Chelsea your resource.

