

# Quarterly Newsletter



January 2024



## From ECF President Paul Dean

As the incoming 2024 Emporia Community Foundation Board President, I want to first thank Jeff Williams for doing an exceptional job as President. Jeff was instrumental in leading the Board and Foundation through the challenges that occur when you have a change in the Director's position. However, all of the Board Members put in the effort to make sure that we had an extensive search and were able to find a quality replacement for our current Director Becky Nurnberg. The dedication and commitment of our staff, specifically Loni Heinen, will ensure that the foundation has a seamless transition with the new Director. I look forward to continuing our efforts to connect the generous people in communities with those who are doing

the day-to-day work on the ground to improve the communities in Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Lyon, Morris, Osage and Wabaunsee counties.

My wife Kristan (Burnham) Dean and I were both born and raised in Madison and after college moved to Madison, as we both loved this area and wanted to raise our children, Octavian and Tryphena, in the place we know and love. As a partner of Putnam and Dean LLC, I have been granted the opportunity to meet people who have built their livelihood in this area and who area invested in making sure we have the strongest communities possible to encourage growth and opportunities for our citizens. I am never surprised by the generosity that is displayed in Emporia and all of the surrounding communities. The people in this area are always willing to give whether it be money, labor or talent. This giving nature of the ECF communities is the basis of the Foundation's success and growth. This has allowed the ECF to expand its reach and provide assistance for all.

I look forward to working with the Board, Trustees, and staff to continue to build on the amazing work that so many before us have accomplished. The ECF has experienced exponential growth from its founding through to today and has therefore been placed in a position to have a greater impact for all concerned. I have a strong desire to assist anyone to create a legacy through the ECF to continue to grow our ability to assist our many entities and citizens who are working hard to better the daily lives of all in our seven-county area.

## Investing in the Community

A message from ECF Treasurer Janis Meyer:

The ECF finance committee met with UMB Bank on January 18th for their quarterly meeting. The committee meets with UMB every quarter to go over the performance of the portfolio and to ask questions about their plans and predictions.

UMB reported we ended the year with handsome returns. The overall return on investment was 13.29%, which pleased the committee. A softer 2024 is expected in 2024 due to many factors making a challenging year for both the economy and the markets.



## Second Quarter Calendar

### February

15 - **79 Fund** Application

Deadline

16 – **ECF Board of Directors**

Meeting

### March

1 – **Trusler Foundation** Application Deadline

15 – **Chase County Community Fund** Application

Deadline

15 - **ECF Board of Directors** Meeting

### April

19 – **ECF Board of Directors/Quarterly Trustee**

Meeting





## Fund for the Future Endowment Hits Goal

The Fund for the Future, the endowment fund to support the ECF, has surpassed \$1 million thanks to a legacy gift from Curtis McCreary. When ECF Executive Director Becky Nurnberg arrived at the ECF, the fund had a balance of \$436,112.13. While it had grown during Becky's tenure, it was still short of the \$1 million goal. While other legacy gifts pushed the endowment closer to the desired balance, it was McCreary's gift that sent the balance well past the amount. The endowment ended the year with a balance over \$1.3 million.

In addition to assisting with the ECF operations, McCreary's gift will also support the area through grants. Curtis and his wife, Ann, were just like the neighbors we see in our communities. To learn more about them, catch the monthly Legacy story on KVOE or visit the ECF website ([emporiacf.org](http://emporiacf.org)) and click on "Stories of Flint Hills Legacies" under the Legacy tab.



## Flint Hills Legacies

Listen to the monthly Legacy story at 6:50 AM on Monday mornings on KVOE-AM 1400 & 96.9 FM. ECF Executive Director Becky Nurnberg shares a different story each month highlighting an ECF Legacy Fund.

To learn more about the Flint Hills Legacy program, contact Becky at the ECF office. *What is your legacy?*

## Emporia Area Match Day 10 Year Record - \$667,733.74

There were many happy organizations at the Flinthills Mall when the totals for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Emporia Area Match Day event were announced on November 28, 2023. The event provided a record breaking \$667,733.74 to 35 area nonprofits plus the ECF Fund for the Future. Since the event began in 2014, \$3,048,059.71 has been presented to 58 area nonprofits.



**MATCH DAY**

