

Quarterly Newsletter



July 2023



From ECF President Jeff Williams

This month I thought I would take the opportunity to discuss what a community foundation is. First of all, there is no need for a community foundation unless there is a caring and giving community who want to preserve values and increase the opportunities for other citizens now and in the future. I am truly amazed at how this area continually steps up and gives of their time and talents as well as their treasures to preserve the history and promote the future of our communities and to assist others in times of need and for others to prosper and grow here in our communities.

I have noticed that community foundations are becoming positive change advocates, to meet the needs of communities to enable growth. One such way is through impact investing, by giving financial resources and tools for partners who provide community good with financial partnership.

I am very proud of the Emporia Community Foundation's growth over the years and all the people too numerous to mention who have been on the Board of Directors and the Trustees Board as well as all the Executive Directors and other staff who have guided the growth over the years. However, the people who make the most difference in our community are those of you past and present who have given to the foundation in order that our communities can continue to be the places we all love.

Thank you all so much for your support of the Emporia Community Foundation. If you need more information, please reach out to me or the Emporia Community Foundation office. We love to share how you can make a lasting impact on your community.

Match Day Video Premier



Investing in the Community

A message from ECF Treasurer Janis Meyer:

UMB Meeting - The ECF Finance Committee meets with our main investors, UMB, every quarter to review the performance of our portfolio and discuss their suggestions and predictions. On July 18th, eight ECF representatives traveled to UMB's offices in Kansas City, MO for our quarterly meeting.



UMB staff provided the ECF representatives with a very interesting and informative presentation. They explained how committees support their investment decision-making process. Each committee has specific assignments that lead to the eventual creation of a customized portfolio for each client.

The first committee works to figure out "The Big Picture" and establish a macroeconomic outlook to predict what interest rates will do and put it all together into a forecast.

The next committee determines strategic and tactical asset allocation recommendations. They try to figure out how the market will respond if what the first committee forecasted comes true.

The Portfolio Construction Committee assists the portfolio manager in the development of an optimal portfolio using what the other two committees have put together. This committee continually conducts due diligence investigations of all the third-party investment managers.

Finally, there are four more committees who are tasked with such things as constructing the optimal fixed income and equity solutions for the portfolio, with compliance, risk controls, and investment management processes. They basically oversee all the above and make sure that all committees are using best practices.

It gave me great comfort to hear more than one of the presenters say, "that there are no lone eagles in their company." They work together to conduct extensive analyses and to make sure it all makes sense. They talked about how they are very focused on identifying the risks.

After their presentation about how they create portfolios and manage them, they went over the results of our portfolio and how it did in the second quarter.

The second quarter ROI came in at 3.45% for our total portfolio. The common stock sector of our portfolio performed the best with a ROI of 11.6% over the last three months, and a year-to-date ROI of 18.17%. The other sectors performed well too.

They said the numbers are not final yet for GDP for the end of the second quarter, but they expect it to be just above negative. They expect the rest of 2023 to be just slightly negative and for the feds to raise the rates one or two more times this year but only moving in twenty-five basis points rather than the fifty basis points they have been doing.

On our way back to Emporia, we all agreed as to how impressed we are with their management of investment portfolios. We were impressed with them before, but more so now, after learning and hearing about their processes.

Then on July 19th, the ECF Trustees hosted a guest speaker, Marsha Pope, President of the Topeka Community Foundation (TCF), who spoke about Impact Investing. She explained what Impact Investing is and how it works. She said the Topeka Community Foundation realized they needed to do more to solve problems in their community such as education and the lack of childcare. She had a great analogy where a foundation would hand out apples to folks in need of food, but next week, those apples will be gone, and they will need more apples the following week. The TCF changed their funding to invest in programs to stop hunger, illiteracy, violence and other social ills and developed impact investing to fund programs addressing these issues. She explained they use money from TCF funds to make the loans. This garnered a lot of questions from the group about using the Foundation's own money, but as she explained it, we are already investing some of the foundation's funds in the stock market (at a risk), so why not invest in our own community and take a chance on us? Feel free to contact the ECF for more information on impact investing.

In the Spotlight



May 17th – The ECF was recognized by the Patterson Legal Group for Giving Back to the Community. The money will be used for a Match Day Award.



June 14th - Irene Trusler loved the Flint Hills and the communities there and so a grant from the Trusler Foundation for Elmdale to build a community bathroom near the park was awarded in June.



June 6th - The ECF Reese Naylor Joy Fund helps fund projects or events that bring joy to kids with chronic or terminal illnesses. Corbin B'Hymer was the first recipient in June.



June 28th – Phil and Ginger Taunton's What's in Outdoors fund helped to send off the Morris County Sharp Shooters to compete in the Daisy National BB Gun competition in July.



July 14th— The ECF Perkins Board Room was transformed into a recording studio to shoot this year's Match Day Videos. In all, thirty-six individual videos were recorded and will have their debut to the public on September 15th at the Lyon County History Center.

Flint Hills Legacies

Catch the monthly Legacy story at 6:50 AM on Monday mornings or Thursdays at 5:20 pm on KVOE, AM 1400/96.9 FM. ECF Executive Director Becky Nurnberg shares a different story each month highlighting an ECF Legacy Fund. The stories are also found at <https://www.emporiacf.org/stories-of-flint-hills-legacies.cfm>

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



July 19th – ECF leaders and staff met with UMB representatives in Kansas City. UMB manages the majority of the ECF portfolio. The information shared was interesting and enlightening.

Third Quarter Calendar

August

1 – **Trusler Foundation**
Application Deadline
15 – **79 Fund** Application
Deadline
18 – **ECF Board of Directors**
Meeting



September

4 – ECF Office Closed for Labor Day
15 – **Chase County Community Fund** Application
Deadline
15 – **Morgan Wilkie Fund** Application Deadline
15 – **ECF Board of Directors** Meeting

October

2 – **Sadie Jones Fund** Application Deadline
20 – **ECF Board Meeting/Quarterly Trustee**
Meeting

November

13 – **MATCH DAY** – ECF Office
28 – **MATCH DAY CHECKS AWARDED** – Flinthills
Mall