

# Quarterly Newsletter



January 21, 2022

## From ECF President, Kay Lauer



Happy New Year ECF family and friends! As I reflect back on the past year or two, I can't help but feel very proud that ECF was able to adjust to circumstances brought on by the pandemic and never wavered from our services that the community has come to know and expect from the foundation. I was so proud of our staff when they had to make the call to suspend our plans for our 25+1 anniversary celebration. They had already figured out an alternative plan to award \$500 gifts to 10 of our very deserving groups. It turned out to be a great week celebrating the roots of who we are and the surprised look on each one's face was priceless!

We also had to adjust Match Day for the last two years, but, Katie bar the door, Emporia and the surrounding area came through with resounding numbers in 2021! The Emporia Community Foundation awarded a record breaking \$455,703.96 to 25 participating organizations. And one single group raised more during our one day event as all 15 groups raised together the very first year. Over the past 8 years of Match Day events, over \$1.8 million has been raised for 39 smaller area nonprofits. Absolutely amazing!

Serving the Emporia Community Foundation has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. ECF is filled with philanthropic individuals who want to do everything they can to help causes near and dear to their hearts. We are very fortunate to have such loving and caring individuals in Emporia and our surrounding communities. Thank you to each and every one of you that enjoys giving of your time and hard earned dollars! You are appreciated very much!

Also, I would like to give a shout out to our staff. I seriously don't think our staff ever sleeps at night as hard as they work! And they never hear Thank You enough! So please, join me in giving them all a big THANK YOU!! Becky, Loni, Tommy and Mari, we appreciate you more than you will ever know! I wish you all a wonderful year ahead and I hope to see you at our ECF events throughout the year!

And now, please help me welcome **Jeff Williams** as the new President of the Emporia Community Foundation Board of Directors.



As the incoming 2022 Emporia Community Foundation Board President I want to first thank Kay Lauer for doing an exceptional job as President. When I was initially asked to serve as a Trustee several years ago I was immediately impressed with the quality of leaders in the Trustees and the Board and the same holds true for today. I honestly believe everyone who volunteers as well as the staff working with Executive Director, Becky Nurnberg, is dedicated to our mission: To connect caring people with causes that build stronger communities within the Emporia area which includes Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Lyon, Morris, Osage and Wabaunsee counties.

My wife Deb (Spellman) Williams and I were both born and raised in Emporia and after college moved to Missouri for jobs, but when we started having a family we knew we wanted to move back to raise our children Breanna, Brett, Brettany, and Brecklyn Williams in a community that truly cares about others and steps up when someone is in need. As a principle owner and associate broker of Ek Real Estate I have been blessed to meet people moving to this area from all over the world. The overwhelming thing everyone says to me after moving here is how amazed they are by how much good is done in our communities by so few for so many. I believe one of many reasons for this in part is the Emporia Community Foundation. The ECF allows for planned giving that can help others in our communities for generations to come. I don't know of a better way to create a lasting legacy for individuals who want the best for others not only today but for all the tomorrows to come.

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 established. I encourage anyone who has any interest or questions about giving in a way that can continue long after we are gone to contact the ECF staff or myself to explain the way anyone can give for the future of our communities in a wide variety of ways.

# In the Spotlight



Everyone deserves a chance to play and thanks to the new Tucker Lee Everyone Play Fund all children in Lyon County will have the chance to play sports regardless of their financial situation.

The Tucker Lee Everyone Plays Fund honors the memory of Tucker Lee, who passed away in June at age 24 after battling NUT carcinoma. Lee, a graduate of Emporia High and a student at Emporia State University, played on a lot of recreational and traveling teams as he grew up as well as football and wrestling in high school.

The fund will be used to provide support for athletic equipment and/or fees for youth (seniors in high school and under) who are unable to pay in the Lyon County school districts.

## First Quarter Calendar

### February

15 – **79 Fund** Grant Application Deadline

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

18 – **ECF Board Meeting**



### March

1 – **Trusler Foundation** Grant Application Deadline

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

18 – **ECF Board Meeting**

### April

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

## Investing in the Community

The ECF Finance Committee met with representatives from UMB Bank on January 21st to receive the latest quarterly report. Our UMB investment return for 2021 was 12.54%. The ECF ended the year with assets just over \$41 million.

During 2021, the ECF awarded over \$3.2 million in grants and added over 30 new funds. The ECF continues to have a positive impact on the community we serve. If you'd like more information about the different ways you can make a difference in the community, please contact the ECF office.



Did you know you can still serve as an ECF committee member for 2022? Our committees include:

Governance Committee  
Donor Relations Committee  
Grants Committee  
Finance/Investment Committee  
Match Day Committee  
Sadie Jones Grant Committee

Contact the ECF office today for more information!

*We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give.*

– Winston S. Churchill

## What Is Your Legacy?

For more information about the  
Flint Hills Legacies Program,  
contact Becky Nurnberg at  
[becky.nurnberg@emporiacf.org](mailto:becky.nurnberg@emporiacf.org)  
or (620) 342-9304.



The Eighth Annual Emporia Area Match Day held on November 15, 2021, hosted 25 nonprofit organizations at the ECF office. The final total of **\$455,703.96** in donations and matching funds was given out to the organizations on November 30th. This is a 29% increase over last year, making it the most successful year, to date. Since 2014, over **\$1.8** million has been raised for groups participating in Match Day.

The 2021 Match Day committee was comprised of: Ruth Wheeler, Chair, Kay Lauer, Bill Barnes, Cynthia Kraft, Nancy Thomas, Patricia Saenz-Reyes, and Steve Kuhlman, along with numerous other volunteers the day of the event. The organizations were provided with a website to host their fund raising; Dave Leiker worked with all 25 groups to create videos highlighting their projects and passions; and KVOE met the organizations on Talk of Emporia.

Our awesome matching donors contributed \$60,000 to Match Day and we extend a huge thank you to the Clint Bowyer 79 Fund, the Jane and Bernard Reeble Endowed Foundation, the Trusler Foundation, the Preston Family Charitable Fund, the WS & EC Jones Testamentary Trust, Fred and Paula Neuer, and Nick and Jan Laurent.

Match Day's Growing Up Giving Program supported three schools this year. The USD 253 Village Elementary third to fifth grade were sponsored by Capitol Federal Foundation, Citizen's State Bank, Community National Bank & Trust, Emporia State Federal Credit Union, ESB Financial, and Lyon County State Bank. The Kaltenbacher NonEndowed Fund, an ECF Fund, sponsored three classes from Chase County Elementary School and the fifth grade from Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School was sponsored by Gary and Beverly Post. The students studied the participating organizations during the week of November 1st, then made their choices. Each class was allocated \$100 and using math, debate and information gathered about participating organizations, divided up their money to their chosen nonprofit organizations.

KVOE broadcast the check presentation live on November 30, 2021, at the Flint Hills Mall. Chuck Samples and Becky Nurnberg talked about the missions, passions and goals of the participating organizations, then presented the checks to group representatives. Tears, laughter and surprise were all a part of the presentation as the groups were excited to put their donations to work, making the greater Emporia area such a great community. Many letters of thanks were sent to the matching donors, sponsors and everyone who contributed to the future of our area.

The 2022 Match Day Committee will meet in mid-February to finalize parameters for this year's event. Applications will follow with the participating organizations announced in the spring. Then, the work starts on building the 2022 Match Day on November 14<sup>th</sup> to be even bigger and better.

When asked to Chair the Emporia Area Match Day, I had no idea it would be such a huge rewarding project. It takes the entire ECF staff, board, and trustees to put on. Many thanks to everyone for their vision, philanthropy, and service to our greater Emporia community. Standing O for Becky, Loni, Mari, and Tommy!

Looking forward to next year,

Ruth Wheeler,

ECF Board Member and Match Day Chair

## EMPORIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Seven non-profit organizations in the greater Emporia area will start 2022 on a much brighter note as the Emporia Community Foundation's (ECF) Grants Committee presents checks totaling \$25,000. The ECF Grants Committee, chaired by Jeff Williams, selected grants for innovative projects and programs that meet changing community needs in the area of health, social service, education, recreation and cultural affairs. "We are able to help people in communities served by the ECF," Williams said. "These grants help with various projects including recreation, nutrition, emergency housing, and education." The grant applications were submitted last September and the checks were awarded on January 26, 2022 at Family Promise.

ECF grant recipients this year are:

- \$2,300— City of Lebo Park and Recreation Board for safety and lighting for tennis and basketball courts;
- \$2,500 – Communities in Schools of Mid-America to provide direct basic students' needs assistance (food, clothing, school supplies, and personal items);
- \$5,000 – Family Promise of the Flint Hills to provide beds and 'welcome home' packs;
- \$5,500 – Hartford Park Revitalization Project to replace picnic tables;
- \$3,500 – Project Playscape for splashpad construction at Americus Jones Park;
- \$5,000 – United Way to fund the Emergency Housing Project;
- \$1,200 – USD #253-Logan Avenue for Sondag Let's Play Learn system.

The ECF Grants Committee is proud that they are able to support projects in the Greater Emporia Area. Funding for these grants comes from the fees ECF collects from maintaining funds. The amount collected is budgeted and approved by the ECF Board of Directors. Williams also encouraged people to set up a legacy fund for grants stating that it is regular folks who make a huge difference in our communities. For more information, contact Becky Nurnberg at the ECF office.



### 2022 ECF Board of Directors:

**Jeff Williams (President)**  
**Paul Dean (Vice-President)**  
**Bill Barnes**  
**Steve Kuhlmann**  
**Kay Lauer**  
**Janis Meyer**  
**Ruth Wheeler**

### 2022 ECF Board of Trustees:

**Paul Dean (Chair), Ken Buchele, Larry Coleman,**  
**Brian Filing, Holly French, Lee Glanville, Staci**  
**Hamman, Steve Harmon, Duane Henrikson,**  
**Brandon Khan, Steve Kuhlmann, Kay Lauer,**  
**J.D. Lohmeyer, Kim Pember, Kim Redeker,**  
**Becky Smith, Ruth Wheeler, Jeff Williams, and**  
**Steve Younger**