

# Quarterly Newsletter



April 16, 2021

## Messages from ECF President, Kay Lauer



Those of you who know me will likely say I'm an optimistic, positive person. I've volunteered and been active with the ECF for over 10 years serving on all of the committees at one point, plus I enjoy taking an active leadership role, including President. I'm mature enough to know there will be disappointments along the way and sometimes you have to roll with the punches. This past year many challenges brought on by the pandemic have changed things we take for granted and they almost got me down.

An ECF volunteer committee and staff started working 3 years ago on the ECF 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration to be held in 2020. There was to be food, music, lots of talk and laughter from Emporia's finest. The best part was *Mitch Holthus, the Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs*, was to be the guest speaker. As ECF President, I'd get to introduce him, get my picture taken with Mr. Holthus, visit, laugh, and the Gala would be the highlight of the year! (Plus, the Chiefs won the Super Bowl that year!) Then, there was COVID. No worries – we rescheduled for 2021. Mr. Holthus agreed to the date and we would celebrate ECF's 25+1. But, no one anticipated the pandemic lingering on and try as we might, we just couldn't rationalize having the 25+1 Gala this year, even though many have been vaccinated. Sometimes, it's just not easy making the tough decisions for everyone's good.

The story doesn't end there, though. In true ECF style, we regrouped and plans are for the **Emporia Community Foundation Celebrates** the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be fun, full of surprises, plus thanks to many who have brought the ECF to where we are today. With well over 300 individual funds, 143 scholarships last year, partnering in K.I.S.S. and Match Day growing every year, these ECF programs and projects demonstrate the strength and support from area individuals for the foundation. When you look around the greater Emporia area, the ECF has impacted many in one way or another. After all, over \$37.5 million in assets at the end of this year's first quarter is nothing to sneeze about! Whether you're a donor, a fund holder, a recipient or one of the over 75 organizations with the ECF, we appreciate you all. So going forward it's onward and upward! 2021 has started off to be a great year!

One final note: we are in touch with Mitch Holthus to be guest speaker for the ECF Legacy Dinner in 2022. Patrick Mahomes and Andy Reid – we'd like another Super Bowl win this year!!

## Second Quarter Calendar

### April

30 – **Cleve Cook/Emporia Lions Club** Grant Application Deadline

### May

17 – **79 Fund** Grant Application Deadline

20 – **Keep It a Safe Summer** Event

21 – **ECF Board Meeting**

31 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

### June

1 – **Sadie Jones Fund** Grant Application Deadline

14-18 – **ECF Celebrates**

18 – **ECF Board Meeting**

### July

5 – July 4<sup>th</sup> Observed – Office Closed

16 – **ECF Board Meeting/ ECF Trustees Meeting**

### ***What Is Your Legacy?***

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*

– John Wesley

# In the Spotlight

The Emporia Community Foundation awards grants for innovative and creative projects and programs that respond to changing community needs in the areas of health, social service, education, recreation, and cultural affairs.

Last January, **\$25,000** was awarded to the following four area organizations!

1. Chase County Old School Development District
2. CrossWinds Counseling & Wellness
3. Emporia Senior Center, Inc.
4. Project Playscape (Americus Ballpark)



These grants were made possible with support from donors and Legacy Gifts to the *ECF Fund for the Future*.

## Investing in the Community

The Emporia Community Foundation's investment return from UMB Bank was 3.24% net of fees for the first quarter of 2021 and the ECF assets are now over **\$37 million**. One interesting statistic in our quarterly UMB report involved our latest one-year number as it captures most of the pandemic and recovery. According to Doyt Ladd, UMB investment manager, the lowest point for the markets was a few days before the end of March 2020. Since April 1, 2020, our investments have grown 34.79%. Our equities portfolio alone is up 61.07% since the market bottomed out a year ago.

Lately we've been asked about the timing of our statements. Quarterly statements are mailed after the financial statements are approved by the ECF Trustees in January, April, July and October. For questions about your fund in between statements, contact Loni.

## Legacy Giving

The ECF hosted a Legacy Giving Webinar for nonprofits in February with special guest speaker, attorney Lori Kranczer. Kranczer specializes in planned giving for nonprofits, large, small and in between for almost 20 years. Kranczer presented information in easy-to-understand language, answered questions, and explained how to make Legacy Giving work for nonprofit organizations around the Greater Emporia area.

Individuals who establish a Legacy Fund are able to support programs, causes, and community issues they are passionate about for generations to come. Contact us to discuss how the ECF can work with you and your advisors on a Legacy gift that satisfies both your charitable and tax goals.



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