

Economic Development Philanthropy

Whelans' Generosity

Hudson Grant for Playground

March Grants Awarded

Make A Wish/Grant A Wish

IMPACT

BARTON, PAWNEE, RUSH, STAFFORD

GBCF Accepted Into Rural Economic Development Philanthropy Innovators Network (REDPIN)



The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (CRE) and the Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group (Aspen CSG), is pleased to announce the nine community foundations from across the US selected to participate in an 18-month peer learning network exploring philanthropy's role in rural economic development - the Rural Economic Development Philanthropy Innovator's Network (REDPIN).

REDPIN will expose participants to a range of economic development practices and provide them with an environment of peer advising and support. As part of the network, each participating foundation will analyze their local economy and apply community and economic development tools to improve their region's prospects, with a special emphasis on helping low-income families, communities and businesses do better. The network is being launched with initial funding provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and by participating foundations.

"REDPIN presents an opportunity to think differently about how the Golden Belt Community Foundation can increase impact across the four county area," Christy Tustin, Executive Director stated, "We hope to learn strategies for rural family, business and/or community economic success."

The network was developed following the success of two national workshops Aspen CSG and the Center offered in 2015 and 2016. These workshops explored innovative roles place-rooted foundations are taking in economic development. CRE and Aspen CSG also outlined the potential for community foundations to play economic leadership roles in A New Domain for Place-Rooted Foundations: Economic Development Philanthropy (The Foundation Review, September 2016). This article provides an overview of the thinking and approach that underlies REDPIN. The first gathering of selected foundations will take place in late spring.

Congrats to the following participating foundations:

- Barry Community Foundation (Michigan)
- Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque (Iowa)
- Community Foundation of South Central New York
- Galesburg Community Foundation (Illinois)
- Golden Belt Community Foundation (Kansas)
- Greater Salina Community Foundation (Kansas)
- Kern Community Foundation (California)
- Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation
- Southwest Initiative Foundation (Minnesota)

Center for Rural Entrepreneurship
energizing entrepreneurial communities





Don and Phyllis Whelan

Whelans' Generosity Supports Six Local Organizations

Don and Phyllis Whelan demonstrated their generosity with the local community throughout their lives and now are continuing a legacy of charitable giving. The Donald and Phyllis Whelan Memorial Endowment Fund at the Golden Belt Community Foundation (GBCF) will directly support six local entities far into the future.

The first six grants will be awarded soon to Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice; Sunflower Diversified Services Foundation; Barton Community College Foundation; Great Bend Foundation to support the Great Bend Public Library; the city of Great Bend to support Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo; and the Salvation Army to support its Kansas programs.

The amount of each annual grant will be determined by interest earned on the principal.

"Mr. and Mrs. Whelan requested that the amount available for grants each year be awarded in equal shares to each organization," noted Christy Tustin, GBCF executive director. "We are grateful to them for their generosity. This endowed gift will support the organizations they cared so much about during their lifetimes," Tustin added. "Each entity will benefit for decades to come."

Don Whelan passed away on Jan. 27, 2014, and his wife, Phyllis, on Feb. 10, 2008. They were married in 1947. Don was executive vice president of First National Bank, which formerly was located at Kansas and Lakin. Phyllis was a homemaker. The GBCF received the gift in 2015.

Howard Partington, Great Bend city administrator and friend to the Whelans, said he is not the least bit surprised by their charitable intentions. "For example, it seems like a natural fit that they would choose the library and zoo as recipients of their donations to the city," Partington said. "They knew that both attractions are important parts of community life that are open to everyone. "Don always wanted other people to get enjoyment out of life," Partington added. "He actually received joy by watching other people be happy."

In his city administrator role, Partington collaborated with Don a number of times over the years. "I worked with him occasionally; he was one of those people you looked forward to meeting with anytime," Partington recalled. "He always showed humility and never put on airs. Don was always approachable and made time for anyone who needed him," he added. "He had true integrity, both personally and professionally."

Friends would describe Phyllis as a "classy lady" with a great sense of humor. She was always available to talk with others and offer encouragement and comfort. Steve Dobratz, chief financial officer at Farmers Bank & Trust in Great Bend, was the executor of the Whelans' will.

"Don retired from First National in 1982 but he was still extremely active in community events," Dobratz said. "He 'worked' for the Chamber of Commerce for a dollar a year as a sort of goodwill ambassador. That was a role he truly enjoyed," Dobratz added. "He loved being around other people and wanted to make them comfortable."

Dobratz, who has served on the GBCF Investment Committee for many years, noted that establishing an endowment is a good way to plan charitable giving. "An endowment is a good mechanism because of the stability it provides, as well as the professional local management of the funds," Dobratz said. "You can be assured your money will go exactly where you want it to go; your intentions will be carried out to the letter in perpetuity."

REDPIN cont'd

What is Economic or Community Development Philanthropy?

Foundations practice community development philanthropy when they address critical community issues and play integrating or missing roles to advance regional economic development in ways that build enduring prosperity and livelihoods for all, especially those at the margins.



Grant Helps HUDSON Community Build Playground

Tabra Ward acknowledged that she and her fellow Hudson citizens were “overwhelmed” when they realized a new playground would cost more than \$20,000 – quite a bit more.

Part I of the project came to \$36,000.

They decided to seek advice and financial assistance from the Golden Belt Community Foundation (GBCF) and one result is a \$10,000 matching grant.

“The staff at the Golden Belt Community Foundation encouraged us to pursue several options to raise money and gave us confidence,” Ward said. “They were great at answering questions and, of course, we are extremely grateful for the grant.

“We are also grateful to local and area residents,” she elaborated. “I cannot emphasize enough how fantastic our small town is. Given that Hudson has just over 100 people, it is amazing how quickly we raised \$36,000.”

The GBCF played a big role because of the dollar-for-dollar grant, Ward noted. “It was a huge incentive for businesses and private donors to know their dollars would be doubled. We are so thankful.”

The Stafford County town has had “great playground equipment for youngsters 5 and older, thanks to the local Fensky family,” Ward commented. “But we needed to add equipment for toddlers.”

Research into the Americans with Disabilities Act indicated priorities were new ground cover, and a barrier between existing and new items.

“Our playground wasn’t designed for toddlers. We wanted to provide a safe and fun place for all ages,” Ward said.

The current budget will fund: the ground-surface cover and barrier; a playground set; new swing for older children; new tot swing; and two benches for adults.

Local volunteers and Hudson firefighters will install the equipment to save on labor costs.

Hudson City Councilwoman Marilyn Hitz echoed many of Ward’s comments and emphasized that the City Park is an integral part of community life.

“Many people in Hudson and the surrounding area take pride in our town and are always interested in updating our surroundings,” Hitz noted. “Since the park is located in the center of town and is adjacent to Hudson Community Hall, it complements the use of the hall for all types of events.”

The GBCF “has been a wonderful partner for many years,” Hitz added. “The staff and board of directors have been very thoughtful of our current project and helpful with our future plans.”

Ward and Hitz also mentioned the park is heavily used for a variety of activities, including the Easter Egg Hunt; weekly hamburger nights; Old Fashioned Christmas; Movie in the Park; Sunday dinner at the Wheatland Café; and Chicken Bike Ride. Other events are in the works.



MARCH GRANT AWARDS

Golden Belt Community Foundation recently completed the March grant cycle and awarded over \$27,000. The foundation supports programs or projects that are innovative, collaborative, proactive, measurable and sustainable. Recent Grant Awards include:

\$1,200 – USD 350 St. John Hudson – Flexible Youth Seating

Kansas Health Foundation Children’s Health Endowment Fund

This project will provide immediate health benefits through physical activity that will lead to higher academic performance, better health, and improved behavior. Students now will have an alternative of sitting at a regular desk including the use of clipboards, bean bag chairs, exercise balls, and chairs with fidget bands.

\$780 – Central Kansas Christian Academy - Playground equipment

Kansas Health Foundation Children’s Health Endowment Fund

This grant will be used to replace and maintain equipment for recreational activity so that it provides a safe environment for all students to use.

\$1,200 – City of Hoisington – Pet Waste Disposal Bins

Amos Bayer Fund and Barton County Endowment Fund

Pet owners now will have the responsibility to help keep Hoisington’s walking trail acceptable for everyone to use. These bins are utilized throughout public spaces and provide the owner a reminder to look after their pet.

More grants on back page!



DONOR ADVISORS SUPPORT GRANT REQUESTS

GBCF also uses the grants process as an opportunity to connect people who care to causes that matter. Donor advisors have an opportunity to review the grant requests and may choose to help fund an application with their donor advised fund. The following grants were recommended for funding by individuals and families that have donor advised funds within the foundation:

- \$12,709 – To support Family Crisis Center: This grant will focus on much needed purchases for the shelter including appliances, furniture, and capital improvements including an AC/Heating unit, porch railings, and bathroom remodel.
- \$267 – To support USD 496 Pawnee Heights: Will be used to replace a barbell that was bent while in use. A new type of lifting program has been started in the district that has led to a decrease in injuries and an increase in weight classes participation.
- \$5,000 – To support Kansas Food Bank: Some students rely on school breakfast and lunch during the week, but have nothing to eat at home or during vacation breaks. This program will provide packets of food on Fridays allowing students to come to school on Monday ready to learn and not worried about what to eat at the end of the week.
- \$500 – To support Central Kansas Christian Academy: This grant will be used to replace and maintain equipment for recreational activity so that it provides a safe environment for all students to use.
- \$5,000 – To support the Ministerial Association of Pawnee County: As part of an ongoing effort, funds will be used to support residents of Pawnee County who are experiencing a financial emergency such as unemployment or illness, and with homeless or transients with emergency lodging, gas vouchers, prescription assistance, and utility assistance.



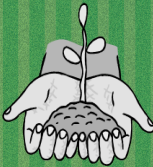
Next Competitive Grant Cycle
Deadline:
July 1

For application information and eligibility please visit our website.
www.goldenbeltcf.org



Tell us your story...

Have a picture or story illustrating how a grant or scholarship from GBCF has impacted you or your organization?
Email gbcf@goldenbeltcf.org and watch our website!



Make a Wish/
Grant A Wish

Did you know that organizations can list wishes on our website?
Visit www.goldenbeltcf.org/wish.

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