



Greater Northwest Kansas
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Local and Regional Community Foundations Join Nationwide Celebration

Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation (GNWKCF) and its affiliated foundations Bird City Century II Development Foundation (BCCII) and Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation (CCKCF) will join in a nationwide celebration, November 12-18, 2020, to recognize the increasingly important role these philanthropic organizations play in fostering local collaboration and innovation to address persistent civic and economic challenges.

For more than a century, community foundations have served as a trusted partner and resource whose effect can be seen in the lives of millions and in the vibrant neighborhoods that continue to thrive through their mission-driven work. In Northwest Kansas, community foundations began to emerge in the early 1980s, and thanks much in part to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation's initiatives, during the past decade community foundations have been established in nearly every county in the area.

Since 2016, the Dane G. Hansen Foundation has challenged 26 county-wide community foundations to raise \$50,000 per year locally in each respective county through a matching funds campaign. The Hansen Foundation recently announced they will continue this matching program through the year 2026. If each community foundation meets the goal annually, it will have raised a million dollars in an endowment fund. This would allow the community foundation to give back up to \$50,000 per year through grant funding, with increasing amounts as more interest income is realized, forever to the communities it serves.

Each year, CCKCF holds its Match Month campaign during the month of December. During the month, any donation made to the Cheyenne County Impact Fund is matched dollar for dollar by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, up to \$50,000. To find out how to give to the CCKCF's match month, go to:

<https://www.gnwkcf.org/donate-cncomatch>.

BCCII holds its annual Match Day campaign in conjunction with National Giving Day which is the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving. It brings much needed public support to projects within Bird City and the Cheylin school district. In 2019, the foundation provided \$130,160.46 back to the community as a result of Match Day. This year, National Giving Day is Tuesday, December 1. Donations can be made that day at the Bird City Century II Foundation office or online at: <https://www.gnwkcf.org/donatebirdcitymatchday>.

In addition to building a lasting source of grants through endowment funds, community foundations can establish other types of funds to support specific projects, fields of interests, scholarships or unrestricted donor advised funds.

CCKCF has multiple funds in addition to the Impact Fund including the Cheyenne County Village Fund, St. Francis Educational Foundation Fund, and the St. Francis New Generation Fund. BCCII awards annual Edgar and Mabel Robertson scholarships to Cheylin seniors; has the Cheylin eCommunity Fund to support entrepreneurship at the

high school level; and the Community Initiative Fund to support organizations that improve the life for citizens of Bird City.

Community foundations are non-profit public charitable entities that steward philanthropic resources from businesses and individual donors to local nonprofits and represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy. The work of community foundations' spans beyond the practice of giving. There is a tangible impact that can be seen in the lives of those these selfless organizations serve.

"We are fortunate to have local community foundations established in each one of our counties we serve," said Darci Schields, GNWKCF Director. "Our community foundations in Northwest Kansas know how important and vital it is to keep our rural communities alive and vibrant; we all value the rural way of life. Through consolidated efforts both locally and regionally, we are more determined than ever to work together to bring our community and resource partners together to collectively combat some of the most challenging problems we're up against in Northwest Kansas. Through donor contributions and estate gifts, our community foundations are able to distribute these investments back into their local communities to provide sustainable and long-term benefit."

As community foundations find solutions for communities large and small, urban and rural – it is the collective work of these organizations that will have the most profound impact. This was most evident amid this year's coronavirus pandemic where over \$1 billion was distributed by community foundations in response to the crisis. Locally, CCKCF and BCCII provided a total of \$28,000 combined in grant funds in response to Covid-19.

Additionally, some community foundations went beyond the money to help their communities adapt during this critical time—supporting charities, schools, nonprofits, and small businesses through partnerships with public institutions in cities, states, and in cooperation with the federal government.

Community Foundation Week was created in 1989 by former president George H.W. Bush to recognize the work of community foundations throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address community problems.

Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation was formed in 2009 to increase exposure and opportunities for philanthropy throughout Northwest Kansas and the tri-state region. GNWKCF currently has 13 affiliated foundations within a 12-county area in which they provide back-office support for fund development and investment management, grants and scholarship processing, estate planned giving and more. The foundation is a public charity; a nonprofit organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

BCCII was founded in 1985 and was the founding member of GNWKCF. CCKCF was founded in 2007 (as the St. Francis Community Foundation) and joined GNWKCF as an affiliate in 2017 as they transitioned to a county-wide focused foundation. For more information, contact GNWKCF at 785-734-2406 or info@gnwkcf.org.