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# MCCF IN REVIEW

## GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE



*MCKIDS PLAYGROUND GREEN*

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Awarded over \$1.3 million in grants
- 161 funds providing resources to organizations and residents
- investing in the future of McPherson County

IT'S STORY TIME.....

"Share the stories!" shouted a presenter at a recent training meeting. He emphatically complained that community foundations don't share enough stories. Basically, we talk more about the tools of the trade and shy away from the heart and soul of a gift.

The irony of his talk that I distinctly remember doing that..... in the beginning. When we first started talking about a community foundation and what it could mean to our county, I shared story after story. First they were ones from other communities illustrating the possibilities. As we grew, I had our own stories to share. Like when Bob Kohrs (current chair) walked into my office with a check and a dream of building a fund to help the Resource Council buy enough shoes and coats vouchers for all families in need. Or the time a donor brought memorial checks for his son to me to count. My heart was breaking with him as we added the gifts to signify how he had touched so many when living. Or the countless people the three cancer funds have helped. It's amazing what a difference it makes to a person's well-being when they know people care enough to help them pay their bills in a time of need. Or watching Lakeside Park being stocked with fish and knowing we have a fund that ensures families will always be able to enjoy a great American pastime.

So this publication is devoted to the stories. This by no means is all of them, but it's a start. And maybe someday I'll get to hear your story. Enjoy!

*Betty Nelson*

President/CEO. "He has not returned to the community since childhood, but yet attributes a large portion of his success to the influence of the local people."

The Lindsborg/DN Fund has awarded a total of \$16,450 for 27 different projects since the first grant distributions in 2007.

*Dear Members of the Board,*

*Thank you for the grant of \$300 given to implement a new program here at Lindsborg Community Hospital.*

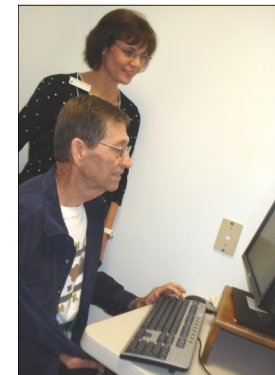
*The grant will be used to purchase the manuals and tools needed to begin a pre-driving assessment and screening by the occupational therapist in our rehab department.*

*Please acknowledge our gratitude to the donor who the gift possible, and to your organization for managing and administering the Lindsborg/DN Grant.*

*We are appreciative of the opportunities you provide.*

*Most sincerely,*

*Betty Nelson  
Director of Marketing & Development*



TESTING IN THE REHAB DEPARTMENT

## LINDSBORG/DN

In 2004, an important fund to benefit programs and services in Lindsborg was established by a former resident. While reviewing his estate plan, the anonymous donor was searching for a way to give back to the community which gave him a healthy beginning. A fund with the local community foundation turned out to be his answer.

“I was born in Lindsborg in 1925 and lived there until I graduated from high school and entered the army during World War II. Our family lived in humble circumstances, especially during the years of the Great Depression, when my father had great difficulty obtaining work,” stated the donor. “It was clearly the taxes and contributions of others in the community that made my early education, secular and religious values possible.”

After the war, the donor attended Kansas State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering in 1949. He said he had an interesting but ordinary engineering career working primarily for governmental agencies.

For more than 50 years, the donor invested in the stock markets. Some of those investments yielded considerable success. He had never married and close family members had passed away, so when reviewing options for his trust, charitable giving made sense.

“Upon exiting this world, I want to share my success with the community that nurtured me in those early years when it was most needed,” stated the donor.

The fund is considered a field of interest fund and is administered by the McPherson County Community Foundation. Each year fund earnings are used to grant dollars back to organizations serving the community of Lindsborg.

“The residents of Lindsborg should be proud of the impact they made on this former resident,” states Becky Goss, MCCF

## LOSE THE TRAINING WHEELS GRANT

Many children and adults with developmental disabilities often do not get the chance or are taught how to perform simple, every day things, such as riding a bike or making friends. Not being able to perform tasks as easy as others can lead to low self-esteem and failure can stunt any future potential these individuals can achieve.

Lose the Training Wheels is a program designed to teach children ages eight to 18 with special needs to ride a bike. During the first day of camp, riders are fitted with appropriate adaptive bikes and paired with at least two volunteers as spotters. The adaptive bikes they use look similar to regular bicycles, but have a rolling pin like wheel on the back that stabilizes it. Each day as they progress, the pin wheel gets smaller and smaller until by the end of the week, the pin wheel is gone and they are riding a two-wheel bike.

In May 2011, MCCF awarded a grant to Disability Supports of the Great Plains from the KHF Children’s Fund for eight registrations to attend the camp. Six of the eight attending successfully accomplished the goal of learning to ride a two-wheel bike.

Because of the success of the program, Disability Supports plans to double the number of participants in the 2012 program.



## WALDHAUER FUND PROVIDES GRANT TO CAMP INVENTION

### A WEEKLONG SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES ONE THROUGH SIX

The Lisa Waldhauer Education Fund provided a \$1,000 grant to help offset costs for this exciting camp. Hosted at over 1,000 schools and organizations each year nationwide, the

Camp Invention program supports the efforts of school districts to provide extended science education for elementary school children. Directed and taught by local educators, the Camp Invention program instills vital 21st century life skills such as problem-solving and teamwork through hands-on fun!



THANK YOU FROM STUDENTS ATTENDING THE CAMP



Packing Summer Lunch Bags



Youth Advisory Council at work



BIG FUN BOX for sick children

## ASSISTING PROGRAMS IN OUR COMMUNITY

*Whether its providing grocery bags of nutritional food to children in the summer, or the Youth Advisory Council helping sort packages for the Angel Tree; or fund raise to purchase the BIG FUN BOX for children who have to spend the night in the hospital; or working with the Ulster Project host Irish and American teens while learning the skills needed to unite people when differences divide them; or as a sponsor for the STEP MC project as they build a program focused on ending poverty in McPherson County. MCCF is here to support and promote philanthropic work in our communities.*



## NORENE KETCHERSIDE ENDOWMENT FOR THE FINE ARTS

In December, the family of Norene Ketcherside established a fund in her memory. As a former McPherson elementary school teacher and promoter of fine arts, Norene actively worked with the McPherson Art Restoration project to locate, refurbish, appraise and display the USD 418 art collection. Their family foundation has also worked with professors from the art department at Washburn University to promote fine arts to children.

Earnings from the Ketcherside endowment are to be distributed annually for children and youth educational programs concentrating on fine arts in McPherson County. A long-term goal is to build the fund for other grant considerations including purchasing school supplies at McPherson elementary schools or participating in a scholarship program for students pursuing a post-secondary education in fine arts.

Another consideration for future funding is to recruit art educators to teach adult classes utilizing local facilities like the McPherson Museum and Opera House then have the artist provide classes free of charge for local children.

Jim Ketcherside, Norene's husband, hopes others interested in fine arts will consider contributing to the fund. "As the principal grows, we can fund more projects that educate children and identify local talent," states Jim Ketcherside, fund developer.

The first grant distributions were given to:

- ◆ Lindsborg Arts Council—Artist in Residency program
- ◆ YMCA: YKIDS Summer Arts and Crafts program
- ◆ Recreation Commission: Summer Art Classes @ Mary Anderson Art Center in the McPherson Opera House
- ◆ USD#423—Wheel Thrown Pottery wheel
- ◆ VAAM— McPherson County Art Exhibition and Scholarship

**MOUNDRIDGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

an affiliate of the McPherson County Community Foundation

The Directors of the Moundridge Community Foundation are excited to announce that an anonymous donor has challenged the community with a \$200,000 donation. The anonymous donor will match dollar for dollar all contributions made into the Moundridge Community Foundation’s unrestricted community fund and fifty cents on a dollar for gifts.

In addition to the anonymous challenge, the Moundridge Community Foundation is the recipient of the GROW II challenge offered by the Kansas Health Foundation. KHF will award up to \$300,000 in matching for donations to MCF.

The board recognizes these challenges as tremendous opportunities for the community and the Foundation.

The unrestricted community fund is a pool of assets that are not designated for any specific purpose. Grants from this fund can benefit any qualified non-profit organization or charitable cause.

With ever-changing community needs and priorities, it is the unrestricted gift that is the most valuable and enduring for a community. Unrestricted funds are for donors who have broad community interests and want to give the Foundation the most flexibility in directing the donor's resources toward challenges and opportunities in the community.

Donors to the Foundation will come from a variety of backgrounds with a common commitment to the community’s well being. Whether creating a named fund, contributing to an existing fund, making a gift in memory of a friend or loved one, or making an unrestricted gift to the Community Fund, every person in the community can make a difference.

Fred Schrag, Chair, Rick Krehbiel, Vice-Chair, Kirk Stucky, Treasurer, Betty Nesbitt, Secretary, Keith Schrag, Connie Graber and Joyce Vogts are serving as the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

the games. He spent many hours at the local library researching the statistics and history of teams and games. he quickly became the person to call on if you wanted to know something about last night’s game or the one from 10 years ago. If he didn’t know, he would do his best to find it.

He thoroughly enjoyed watching the games and even in his 70’s was young at heart because of it. Probably because he and Barbara didn’t have children, he took a genuine interest in the players and watching them improve as each school year passed. A scholarship in his memory has been established to award those players who work hard to improve their skills and never stop trying.

**CULVER FAMILY FUND**

A great American pastime of fishing has been enjoyed by local children and families since the city began stocking Lakeside Park with catfish and trout over 20 years ago. Today, the program is still in place and thanks to the Culver Family Fund administered by the McPherson County Community Foundation, it will always have a permanent source of funding.

V.C. “Gene” Culver decided to establish an endowed fund prior to his passing on January 28, 2008. The purpose of the fund was to help the McPherson City continue caring for the area parks, specifically to stock them with fish. A gift from his estate was added to the fund to help build the value and allow for larger grants to the park department.

“It was neat to learn that he did something like this for the community,” stated Brent Culver, one of Gene’s three children. “He loved to watch the kids fish at the park.”

Residents are seen fishing year round. Both parks are wheelchair accessible and only require a state fishing license, not a city permit. The vast majority of people seen fishing are youth.



**REFLECTING YOUR LIFE’S WORK**

An endowment fund can be a loving tribute to a loved one and a reflection of their life. Three funds at MCCF epitomize what was important and special to them. Here’s their story:

**COACH MILLER FUND**

“Coach Miller saved me,” begins Bob Broughton, former player for Coach Arthur Miller. “He came and took me under his wing at a really hard time in my life when my dad was very sick. I can honestly say that I wouldn’t be half of what I am today if it hadn’t been for Coach Miller,” continues Mr. Broughton. “He wasn’t just a football coach or a teacher. He really cared about all of us, and worked hard to make sure we could be successful on and off the field.

Coach Arthur Miller coached high school football at schools in Colorado and California from 1955—1963. His passing on June 22, 2011 sparked many memories of how his coaching was about more than just the game for football. As a coach, he focused on how schools can ensure all kids are given the opportunity to play no matter their financial circumstances, and on having the best possible equipment to keep players safe. To honor his work, a memorial fund has been established at the McPherson County Community Foundation to assist the McPherson Middle and High School football programs.

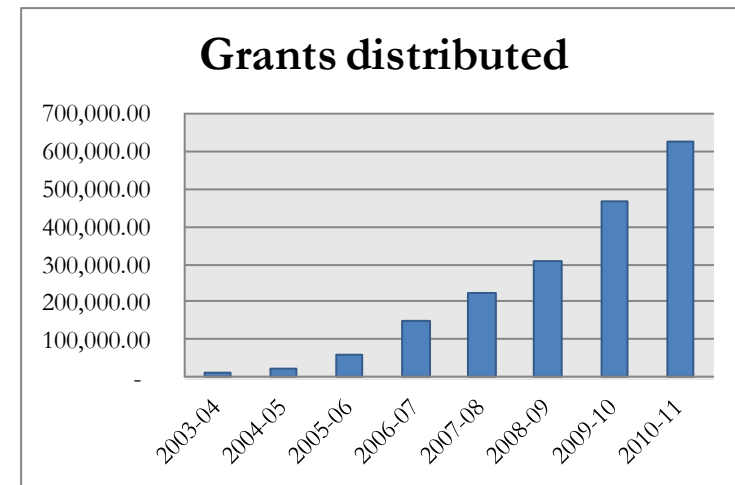
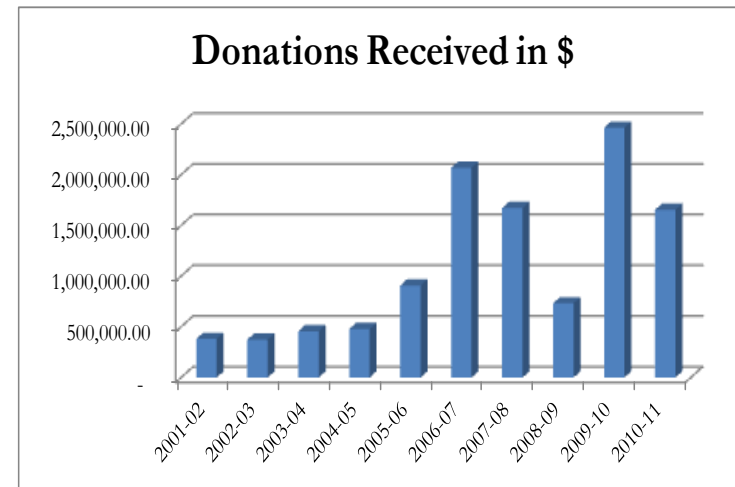
Jason Henrikson, McPherson Middle School Assistant Coach, and grandson of Coach Miller, attributes Coach Miller’s love of the game and support as his inspiration to coach today. “The best thing about him was he was always supportive of me—even if I only played the last two minutes of the game,” states Henrikson. “It was a thrill to have him in the stands to watch me play.”

**BOB HOOPER MHS BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Bob Hooper’s passion for McPherson High School basketball began shortly after returning to McPherson. To be closer to the action, he asked the local radio station if he could help broadcast

**GIVING AND RECEIVING**

*Despite economic downturns, McPherson County residents have generously donated to endowed and expendable funds. The funds equate to grants that truly make a difference to our community. The proof is in the numbers!*



**PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR**

In 2008, MCCF began the “Philanthropist of the Year” program. A philanthropist has been defined as a person who endeavors to help humankind, as by charitable aid or donations. As each nonprofit works to promote their mission, dedicated volunteers promote philanthropy by working to ensure their success. Directors throughout the county can attest to the time, talents, and treasures volunteers bring to their organizations. This award recognizes McPherson County volunteers for their never ending work.



**2008 RECIPIENT**

Jim Loving

**NOMINATING ORGANIZATION**  
McPherson Family YMCA

**2009 RECIPIENT**

Patsy Magelssen

**NOMINATING ORGANIZATION**  
Trash to Treasures



**PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR**

**2010 RECIPIENT**

Jeff and Sue Odermann

**NOMINATING ORGANIZATION**  
McPherson Outreach



And announcing the 2011 recipient:

**JAMES AND BARBARA GREISCHAR**

**NOMINATING ORGANIZATION**

Community Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinners

“Community Thanksgiving, Inc. is a not for profit organization designed to serve a free dinner to the McPherson community at Thanksgiving and Christmas for the past 15 year. Both Jim and Barb have continually assisted in the organization of these two big events from the start. Jim makes sure that the set up runs smoothly and gets volunteers to help him transport all the supplies and equipment back and forth from the storage unit. He makes sure we have enough tables, chairs, roasters, etc. on hand for the event. He also makes sure flyers for these free dinners get placed in all the Kiwanis food baskets which he also assists in delivering each year. Barb is the one that organizes all the volunteers for the dinners. She takes hundreds of phone calls and places each volunteer in a time slot and position where they want to serve. With Barb’s organizational skills, she has crossed every “I” and dotted every “I” and that is why the event runs so smoothly. She is cool, calm and collected on the day of the events and manages to find time to personally go around and thank all of her volunteers.” - submitted by the Community Thanksgiving and Christmas Board of Directors.