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**McPherson County
Community Foundation**

For Good. For Ever.

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Thomason named 2016 Philanthropist of the Year

Verla Thomason, McPherson resident and super volunteer was named the 2016 Philanthropist of the Year at the McPherson County Community Foundation annual ceremony on Thursday, November 17. Warren Vince, “The Can Man” was named runner-up and June Anderson, McPherson Hospital Auxiliary volunteer was named second runner-up. The School Super Heroes received special recognition for their work in raising funds for school supplies.

Thomason was given a certificate and \$1000 to grant to an organization of her choice. Vincent and Anderson also received certificates and awards of \$750 and \$500 respectively for organizations of their choice. A gift in the amount of \$50 will be awarded to Good Beginnings Preschool in honor of the School Super Heroes work.

Volunteering has been a life-long practice for Verla and her family. She has been committed to multiple organizations for no less than eight years. Those



2016 Philanthropists: Warren Vincent, Verla Thomason and June Anderson.

benefitting from Verla’s time include: Community Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinners; The Scottish Festival (now “Festival of Cultures”); The Opera House; McPherson Water Festival; McPherson Hospital; American Legion Family Night; St. Peters UCC and Pleasant View Home are also regular volunteer sites for Verla.

Warren’s greatest charitable contribution is to military veterans in McPherson County and across the state. Also known as “The Can Man”, Warren donates thousands of dollars to the Kansas Honor Flight program to help veterans travel to their War Memorials in Washington D.C. He uses his own

truck to collect cans in McPherson, Saline, Dickinson, Marion, Harvey and Rice Counties. He also personally pays the monthly fees to provide recycling containers around McPherson. Thanks to his efforts, he has provided \$38,000 (the equivalent of 77,000 pounds of aluminum cans) to the program allowing for 55 veterans to travel.

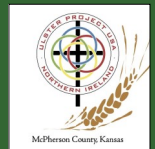
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Grants for Greater Good May 2016–November 2016

Circles of McPherson County, \$6,000: Circles of McPherson County will use grant funds to participate in the AmeriCorps VISTA program. By adding a VISTA volunteer to their staff, Circles will be able to expand their services of eradicating poverty in McPherson County. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Public Health and Larry Wedel Health Funds.*

GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc., \$30,000: A project to provide affordable, quality health care to under-served, uninsured and under-insured families of McPherson. *Grant funded by the Larry Wedel Health Fund.*

McPherson County Ulster Project, \$1,470: For McPherson County Ulster Project teens to attend the Prairie View adventure course. The Ulster Project is an organization intended to promote peace; and the project provides an environment and the skills for potential leaders with Christian traditions. *Grant funded by the Lisa Waldhauer Educational Fund.*



Lindsborg Senior Center, \$4,000: A project to replace aging carpet at the

Grants, cont. on Page 2

The McPherson County Community Foundation serves the common good for its residents, building strong communities by engaging people in philanthropy and developing a permanent endowment to provide resources, now and for generations to come.

Rollover Your IRA for GOOD

By taking a distribution from your IRA this year, you will likely pay more in taxes and may even reach a higher tax bracket. **Rolling over** part of your IRA's "required minimum distribution" or "RMD" to a fund held at the Foundation can help reduce your tax bill while supporting the organization's cause. If you are **70 1/2 or older** and don't need your RMD, you can make a gift of up to **\$100,000** this year from your IRA to charity. Compare the impact of taking your RMD versus the benefits of making an **IRA Charitable Rollover** gift:

Taking Your RMD

- ★ You pay income tax on your distribution
- ★ You may not need or want the money
- ★ Your tax dollars go to Washington
- ★ You are limited by the RMD rules

Making an IRA Gift

- ★ You will pay no income tax on your gift
- ★ You can help support your favorite causes
- ★ Your gift can help build your charitable legacy
- ★ You can use your IRA in the way you want

YOU CAN DIRECT UP TO \$100,000

70 1/2 OR OLDER

Grants, cont. from Page 1

center. Grant funded by the Larry Wedel Health Fund.

Outreach McPherson, \$2,500: A project to provide twin and queen sized mattresses to families that can't afford beds. *Grant*



funded by the Larry Wedel Health Fund.



Windom Elementary Students at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new greenhouse. MCCF Board members: Bill Gately, Terri Bornholdt and Andrew Rush helped in shoveling the first dirt.

Windom Elementary School, \$5,000: For a school greenhouse where students can 'Dig Into Learning'. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund.*

Moundridge Valley Hope Wedel Recovery Center, \$2,000: A program to provide scholarships to chemical dependency treatments to McPherson County residents who can't afford the care. *Grant funded by the Larry Wedel Health Fund.*

Mt. Hope Sanctuary, \$2,500: The grant

will help pay for a new deck and playroom at the Sanctuary. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund.*

McPherson Arts Alliance, \$2,450: For Kids Summer Art Camp. *Grant funded by the Lisa Waldhauer Educational Fund.*

Bethany Home Association, \$750: For Music and Memory, a therapy program for dementia patients. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund.*

Inman Senior Center, \$2,765: For nutrition assistance to Inman service area elderly. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund.*

MCKIDS Infant Toddler Center, \$1444: For Assistive Technology at MCKIDS to purchase therapeutic toys for handicapped children. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund.*

McPherson County Council on Aging, Inc., \$15,800: Foot care services are an ongoing need for the senior citizens. MCCA will provide services for foot soak, inspection of foot and ankle, and advise of the need for follow-up by a provider. *Grant funded by the Larry Wedel Health Fund.*

McPherson Senior Center, \$18,500: To repair and seal the existing roof, replace the gutters, repair ceiling and water damage. *Grant funded by the Larry Wedel Health Fund.*

United Way of McPherson County, \$500: Printing of *Show You Care, Give Where You Live* book written and illustrated by Windom Elementary 1st and 2nd grade students. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund.*

Women & Children Combatting Cancer, \$10,000: Two grants of \$5000 each for Combat bags with products to help patients with cancer and to sponsor a free mammogram day in McPherson. *Grant funded by the Larry Wedel Health Fund.*

Cradle to Crayons Childcare & Preschool, \$2,500: Laptops for lesson planning by teachers and practice with programs focused on rhyming, recognizing sight words, match, matching and reading readiness for the students. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund.*

Lincoln Elementary School, \$5,900: To purchase a complete weather station with a WeatherBug HD camera as a resource for teaching students the Kansas Science Standards as well as a community service to help notify residents of severe weather. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund.*

McPherson Housing Coalition, \$10,000: To assist qualified families who are homeless, facing eviction or termination of utility services to utilize a homeless management information system to find stable housing for a minimum of six months. *Grant funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund.*

June began volunteering with the McPherson Hospital Volunteer Services in 1984. By the end of 2014, she had donated 6,000 hours of her time to the hospital alone! But, June's love for volunteering is not just exclusive to McPherson Hospital. She has also dedicated 45 years to Meals on Wheels, served 30 years on the Bethany Home Board of Directors, and 20 years on the Lindsborg Auxiliary Board. When her children were young, she also volunteered her time at Washington Elementary School.

She has a true love of life and adventure. Just ask her about her tandem skydiving trips at the age of 75, 85 and 91.

Led by Violet Hanna, Lincoln Elementary second grade student, our elementary school heroes work to collect and deliver school supplies, hygiene kits, shoes and other items some of their peers can't afford. They've also worked to raise money to buy two iPads for Good Beginnings Preschool. School Superhero members range from age 4 to fifth grade

and represent all of the McPherson elementary schools, as well as adult contacts with the Moundridge and Smoky Valley schools. The group meets every month to determine how to make it stronger and what's next. Members of the Super Heroes are: Daniel and Reyna Bowen; Lucy, Oliver and Vivian Bowman; Miriam Carlson; Violet, Lucy, and Sally Hanna; Renae Hendricks; Noah and Hannah Wilgers.

The LEGACY You Leave

One of the most effective but simplest ways you can support a charitable organization is by including a gift in your will. Also known as a charitable bequest, a gift made through your will can benefit both you and the causes most important to you.

Why might you want to make a charitable bequest? Here are some of the benefits of bequest giving:

- ★ A bequest is flexible—you can make a gift today by including a provision in your will and change your mind anytime in the future.
- ★ With a bequest, you can give as much or a little as you want to charity through your will without impacting your lifestyle today.
- ★ You may continue to benefit from and make use of your assets (your home, stocks, IRA, etc.) during your lifetime, since the gift is made when you pass away.
- ★ It typically costs you nothing to add a charitable bequest to your first will or at a later date when you decide to update your plan.
- ★ If you have a taxable estate (over \$5.34 million this year), your estate may benefit from estate tax savings. This means that you can preserve and give more of your estate to your family.
- ★ You can create a legacy by which to be remembered through bequest giving. Please let us know if you

have already included us in your plans to that we can confirm your wishes for the gift and thank you!



Whether or not you include a charity in your plans, it is important for you to have a will written by qualified counsel. Here are some reasons why you might want to create a plan for the future:

WITH A WILL	WITHOUT A WILL
You can provide for your family, friends and the causes that mean the most to you.	Everyone must guess what you intended with your estate.
Probate is made easier because your intentions are clear.	Probate can be burdensome if not contentious for family and friends.
You write your legacy and story by which to be remembered.	Your legacy is written by others or not written at all.

A person may work 40 years to accumulate assets and spend 10 to 20 years conserving that accumulation, but often take two hours or less to plan for distribution of the assets. Too many times there has been little planning, or no planning, and the last chapter of life becomes burdensome for family members.

We are offering a free guide called "Planning Your Legacy" to help you move forward with a plan that writes a very good chapter in the book of your life. Through preparation, the legacy of love and care that you leave for your family and friends can be encouraging and even inspiring. Contact the Foundation office at 620.245.9070 for your copy.

THE **GOAL** ISN'T TO
live
FOREVER.....
 it's to **CREATE**
 something that
WILL.

— Chuck Palahniuk

McPherson County Community Foundation

Promoting a Culture of Philanthropy

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By the numbers.....

Our focus is people. We develop and grow funds to provide a resource that ensures a high quality of life for all residents. To track our ability to ensure needs are being met, we must look at the NUMBERS. Here are a few we we'd like to share.

\$19.1 million total Assets held by the Foundation

284 funds for organizations providing services to children, youth, seniors, art, education, environment, community, health or other quality of life concerns.

3,981 grants totaling **\$6,565,386** awarded to organizations and individuals since the Foundation's beginning.

\$75.00 is the amount spent on the very first grant awarded to the McPherson Children's Arts Council Choir. The grant was made possible by the Chisholm Family Fund.

22 is the number of planned gifts in place to secure the future of the Foundation and local organizations.

\$10,000 is the amount needed to have a fully endowed, named fund. A donor can start the fund

with as little as **\$100** and work to build the fund over time.

12 is the number of board members serving on the McPherson County Community Foundation Board of Directors.

5 is the number of affiliates and fiscal sponsorships under the Foundation's umbrella.

\$6.5 million needed to raise to complete our \$24 million campaign.

Unlimited the number of times we would like to thank you for building a Foundation focused on today and future generations.