

GO GREEN!
Help us save on costs by receiving this newsletter via email. Please send your email address to us at: kacf@kearneyfoundation.org

Upcoming Deadlines

UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1

The Kearney Area Community Foundation manages 69 scholarship funds. With scholarships available to those enrolled in a technical college, community college and/or university, there's sure to be a scholarship fit for you! Please visit www.kearneyfoundation.org/scholarships to view local scholarships.

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW (BFT) GRANTS DUE FEBRUARY 1

The BFT grant typically funds projects or programs in the Kearney area and surrounding communities. Grants are made to nonprofit, federally tax-exempt 501(c)(3) qualified organizations, or organizations delivering a project or program which have a fiscal relationship with a qualified charity.

Applications are accepted on a biannual basis with the deadlines of **February 1 and August 1**. Organizations are encouraged to read the grant guidelines by visiting www.kearneyfoundation.org/building-for-tomorrow to determine if their organization qualifies.

If you have any questions, please call (308) 237-3114 or email the Kearney Area Community Foundation at kacf@kearneyfoundation.org.

KLINKACEK COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT GRANTS DUE APRIL 15

The Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment Fund's grant cycle is biannual with deadlines of **April 15 and October 15**. To view guidelines, fill out a Letter of Intent (LOI), or to find more information, please visit www.kearneyfoundation.org/klinkacek. (Don't forget to allow time for your LOI submittal and approval, which are required before the link to the application is given. The deadline for the LOI is 15 days before the due date of the application.)

www.kearneyfoundation.org | (308) 237-3114

2024-2025 BOARD AND STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vickie Schaepler, *Chair*
Todd Thalken, *Vice Chair*
Bryan Kuntz, *Secretary*
Carol Pelster, *Treasurer*

Jeremy Armagost	Jonathan Nikkila
Brian Bosshamer	Dave Oldfather
Jon Brandt	Mindy Oman
Brette Ensz	Jennifer Rowling
Brenda Jensen	Ron Scott
Audrey Kauders	Matthew Wecker
Heidi Narber-Richter	

STAFF

Judi Sickler, *President/CEO*
Angie Vlasin, *Finance Director*
Ashley Weets, *Program Manager*
Andi Hartman, *Communications Coordinator*
Jennifer Beck, *Donor Relations Coordinator*

2025 | Volume 1

winter Newsletter

A New Giving Record

Donors and Nonprofits Embrace Peace, Love and Community

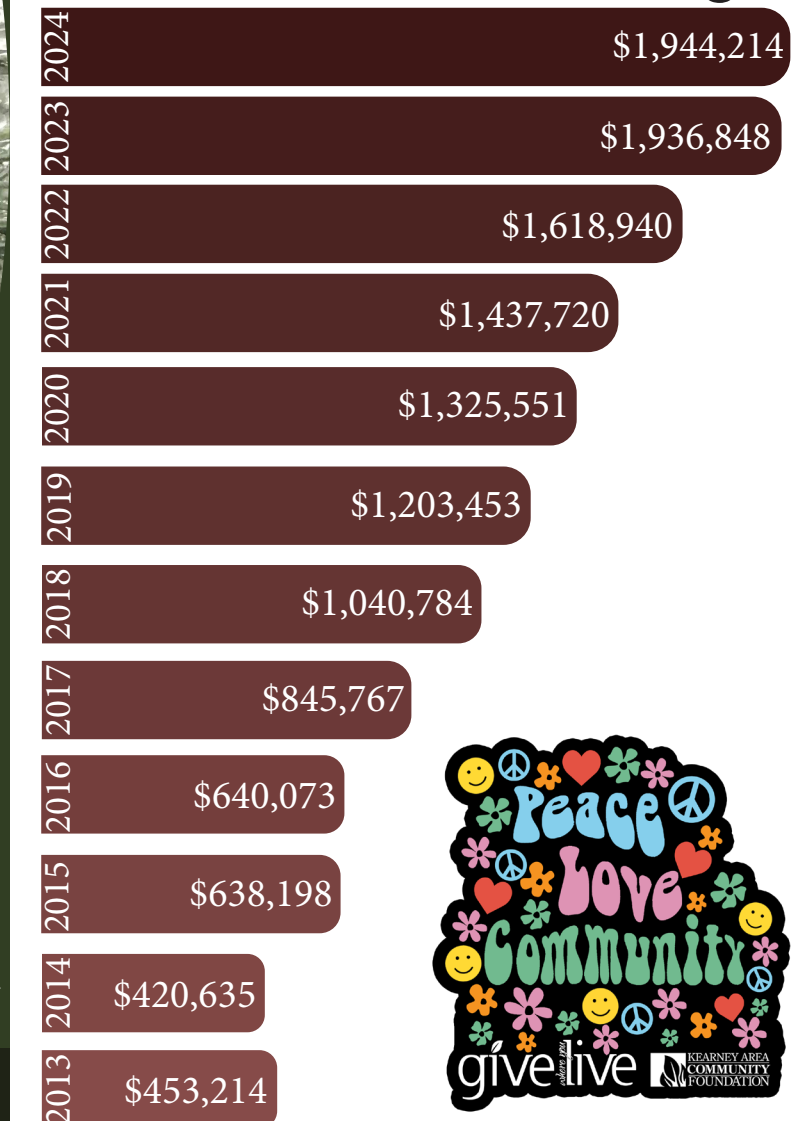
The Kearney area community has come together in a record-breaking way to show their support for local nonprofits. Every year for the past decade, donors have proven their generosity during Give Where You Live (GWYL) and 2024 was no different.

For our 12th annual 24-hour giving day, donors raised a RECORD-BREAKING \$1,944,214. Thank you, Kearney area donors, for "giving where you live"– this community is amazing! On behalf of the participating local nonprofits, we thank you for your generosity.

What Impact Has Give Where You Live Had?

- Since Give Where You Live was launched in 2013, together we have raised more than \$13,505,397 for our community!
- This year, we had a record breaking 201 local nonprofits participate!
- We had 7,401 unique donors. In addition to local donors, there were also donors from both out of the state and out of the country who all came together to support the community in 2024! Together we make a difference!

Twelve Years of Giving



**KEARNEY AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

"connecting people who care
with causes that matter"



A New Face

Welcoming Our Newest Team Member

If you've visited our office in the past few weeks, you may have noticed a new face! The Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) is excited to welcome Ashley Weets as our new Program Manager.

Weets took over the position of Program Manager on January 1, 2025. She is replacing Laurel McKellips, who left to pursue another professional opportunity.

"I'm excited to join the KACF team," Weets says. "My family came to the Kearney area more than 10 years ago for a job but found a home and a great life here. In this time, I've been able to see the impact KACF has had and I'm honored to now be a part of that work."

Weets has a B.A. in Communications from Wartburg College and a M.S. in College Student Personnel from Western Illinois University. She brings a large amount of experience in higher education. She has spent the last eight years at Central Community College, most recently as the Associate Dean of Student Success & Enrollment Management on the Grand Island Campus. She also has several other higher education administration experiences, including at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.



Ashley Weets
KACF Program Manager

"My background in higher education has provided me with a great perspective on the process when it comes to scholarships," Weets says. "I'm excited to use my knowledge and experiences to help students navigate the great scholarships KACF has to offer."

Weets is very involved in the community, serving as a board member and a volunteer for various nonprofits, as well as being a member of a Leadership Kearney class.

Weets has hit the ground running, as KACF's universal scholarship application opens at the beginning of February. She'll spend the next couple of months helping area students in the application process, and setting up committees to select more than 100 recipients of our scholarships.

Welcome to the team, Ashley!

Seeing the Connection

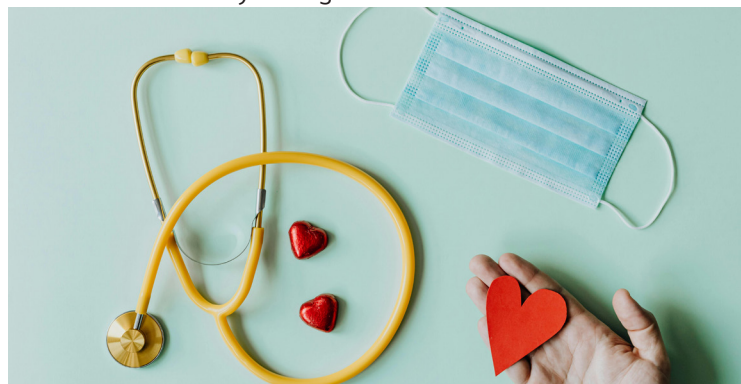
The Heartbeat of Our Community

When I arrived in Kearney 50 years ago, it was supposed to be a short stop--a month long preceptorship at Kearney Clinic. Surprise! They offered me a job and for 41 years I loved doing family practice. From that perspective, I saw children grow, parents adapt, and grandparents reflect; that has given me a perspective of how we're all linked.



Ron Scott
KACF Board Member
Retired Doctor

I got to see firsthand how deeply connected our community is, often in ways that aren't immediately obvious. I treated patients of all ages, so I witnessed how families support each other through health challenges, how neighbors check in on one another, and how local organizations come together to address common concerns. I also saw how, when one person faces a health crisis, the community rallies together with resources, advice, and a sense of shared responsibility. These connections remind me daily that health is not just an individual journey, but something that is deeply intertwined with the collective strength and care of the community. I've been able to see just how much people in the Kearney area care about each other and their willingness to help make the community strong.



I grew with the community and saw remarkable changes, much of it due to organizations like the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF). From supporting education and healthcare to nurturing nonprofits, their work has touched every corner of life in Kearney. Their mission and dedication mirror the commitment I tried to bring to my patients every day. I was trained to deliver a service and tried to give that back to the community---giving back became part of my life. I hope you'll join me by finding ways to give back, whether that's through KACF or other avenues. Together, we can ensure Kearney remains a place where families, businesses and dreams thrive.

Celebrating Stakeholders

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

– Winston Churchill

Thanks For Your Support

The funds that we raise through the annual Stakeholder campaign improve the quality of life for others. Donations help us operate the Foundation, as well as continue our outreach to the community.

Thank you to our 2024 Stakeholders!*

ACTIVIST (\$500-\$999)	ACHIEVER (\$250-\$499)	PROMOTER (\$100-\$249)	CONTRIBUTOR (\$50-\$99)
Anderson Bros Electric Plumbing & Heating Anonymous Karol Bogard and Bill Hamsa Tom and Sue Bokenkamp David and Kimberly Cantral CopyCat Printing Culligan of Kearney Carol and Stan Dart DT Development ERDI Partners Jerry and Tami Hellman Hellman, Main, Coslor and Kathol, PC Mark and Eileen Kottmeyer Dave and Wendy Nickel Luzy Powell Lee Sanks Larry and Joan Swanson Greg Tesdall and RuthAnn Kaufman Town & Country Bank Ashley Weets and Jacob Rosdail Michael, Kylie, Kyler and Michaela Wilken	Dean and Gaylene Aden Amigos, Kevin and Julie Kershner Anonymous Pam Artman Barney Financial Services Jim and Marlene Berglund Lean and Ardy Brandt Dwayne and Margaret Brown Click Family Healthcare Jerry and Nancy Dulitz Duane Franzluebbers Carl Gangwish Zeke and Chelle Hayes Larry Jess	Anonymous Ross and Jean Armstrong Claude Badura Steve and Kelly Bartling Ann and David Bauer Ralph and Carolyn Becker Marla Bouton Century 21 Midlands Kelly and Michelle Christensen Lucas and Kim Dart Roger and Cecelia Davis John and Susan Divan Ron and Debbie Dobesh Bruce Ellingson	John Stritt Michael and Shawna Strong Jeremy and Jonna Tesmer Dave and Peggy Townsend Water 4 Haiti Mel Wiens Alan and Betty Young Robert Young and Ann O'Quinn Young
Perry and Mary Kenney Klein, Brewster, Brandt & Messersmith Bob and Marilyn Lammers Dennis and Connie Larsen Judy Marshall Barb Naber Nelson's Furniture Jonathan and Miriam Nikkila Germaine Oldfather PEP Co. Dale and Janet Pohlmann Pam Radtke and Rhonda Artrup Russell's Appliance and Electronics Chuck and Vickie Schaepler Terry and Judi Sickler, Integrity Dental Arts L.R. Smith Sorensen Group Julie Speirs Gary and Julie Steffensmeier Tom and Michaelene Tye Steve and Barb Voigt Waggoner Plumbing and Heating	Steve and Judy Fisher Charleen Y. Frerichs Ken and Mary George Paul Gilroy Margaret Glandt Dale and Sue Greenwald Joseph Hannappel Heartland Motor Sports Clark Hehner Kris and Amy Herbig Randy and Bert Hinrichs Rod Horsley Cheryl Hough Jerry and Jean Hueser Imtiaz Islam and Ishrat Saif Jeff Johnson-Gary Erpelding Memorial Fund Mary Kampfe Chuck and Julie Kinnaman Pete and Jane Kotsiopoulos Jeff and Paige Kreycik Harold and Cathy Labun John and Deanna Lakey Steve and Julia Lewis Gene and Linda Liebig Pete and Beth Ludowese Jeff and Becky Marshall Mark and Jen McBride Tom and Regina McCann Tom McCarty Jerry and Carolyn Menke Alice Mercer Mid States Irrigation & Repair of Kearney Sheryl Murray O'Brien Straatman Redinger Funeral Home David Palmer and Michelle Fleig-Palmer Charles and Nancy Peek Kipp and Sandi Petersen Marilyn Reilly Francis and Judi Roberts Ronny and Kimbra Roberts Gilbert and Belinda Rude Frank Sibert Glen and Pat Skeen Corliss and Norman Stewart	Tom and Kari Anderson Anonymous Elaine Batenhorst Jennifer Beck Jamie and Tammy Becker Richard Beechner and Connie Meyer Deb Beerman Sharon Beltzer Carson and Barbara Fitzgerald John and Judy Gosswein John and Susan Hardessen Andi Hartman Robert and Jera Hinkle Kearney Artist Guild Keith Kucera Kevin and Joan Lindenstien Abbi and Adam Lindgren Dan and Barb Lynch Savannah Lyon Judy McDonald Sandi Moncrief Rosemary Northwall Larry Peterson Jeanne and Jerry Rash Jim and Janet Rowling Norma Schlattmann Randy and Jere Sue Schroer Greg and Sanae Shea David and Kathryn Swerczek Lloyd and Sherry Wilke Annie and Jerry Zapp	

If you are interested in either joining the list of Stakeholders above, or becoming an Edison Society level donor (gifts of \$1,000 and above), please contact us at (308) 237-3114.



To see a list of our Edison Society donors, check out www.kearneyfoundation.org/edison-society

*January 1 - December 31, 2024. We sincerely apologize if your name doesn't appear on this list and should. We have many donors that ask to remain anonymous, but if you would like your name listed, please contact our office so we can indicate your wishes in our records.