



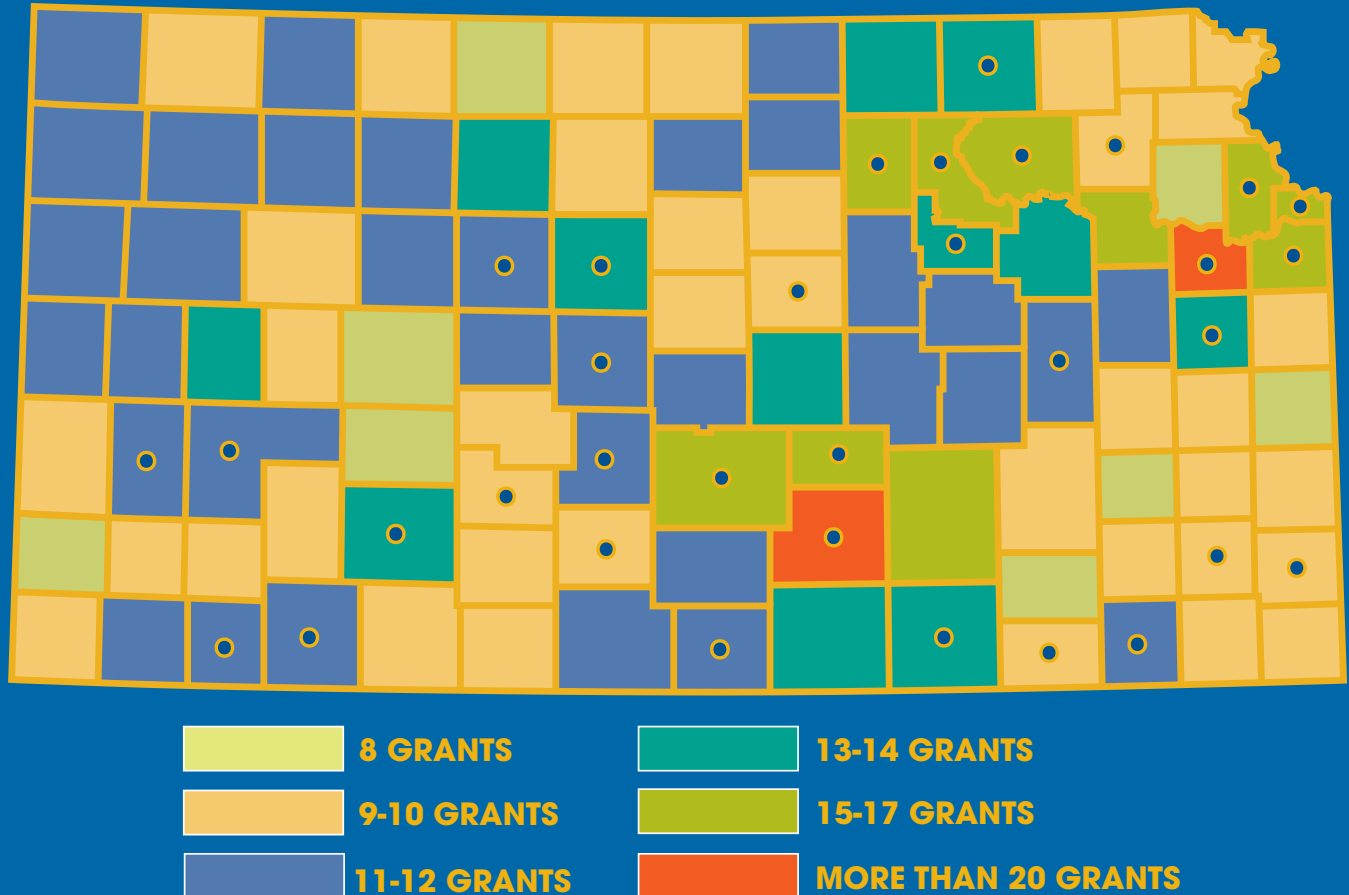
# FACES OF CHANGE

A LITTLE HELP MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE



# Recognition Grants cover each county

Each of the 105 counties in Kansas is an area served by at least one 2008 Kansas Health Foundation Recognition Grantee. The Foundation's 2008 Recognition Grant program awarded \$1,817,383 in funding for 117 projects and programs across the state. For a county-by-county list of the places that each 2008 Recognition Grant aimed to serve, visit our Web site at [www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org) and click on the section of the home page that is devoted to this report.



○ Dots indicate the counties where 2008 Recognition Grantees are headquartered.

MAIN COVER PHOTO: Aimee Geist leads a tour group at the Ulrich Museum of Art in Wichita. The sculpture pictured is Millipede by Tom Otterness.

## Every day, thousands of Kansans get up with one mission in mind: to help others.

Our state is blessed to have hundreds of nonprofit groups dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the people who live in their towns. Whether these nonprofits focus on helping children grow into a bright future, expanding resources that encourage others to be more physically active, providing family-friendly information about nutrition or reaching out to people in need, they share the goal of making Kansas a better place.

With even small amounts of funding, nonprofits can make a big difference in the lives of the people they serve. That's where the Kansas Health Foundation's Recognition Grants program comes in. In this report, you'll see how our Recognition Grants helped more than 100 of these groups in 2008.

This report will give you an up-close glimpse into some of the positive changes that nonprofit groups all over the state have made. You'll meet a few of the people who made these changes possible as well as many of the Kansans whose lives have been touched and improved by these projects.

We want everyone to know the real-life stories about the good that our dollars do for tens of thousands of people across our state each year.

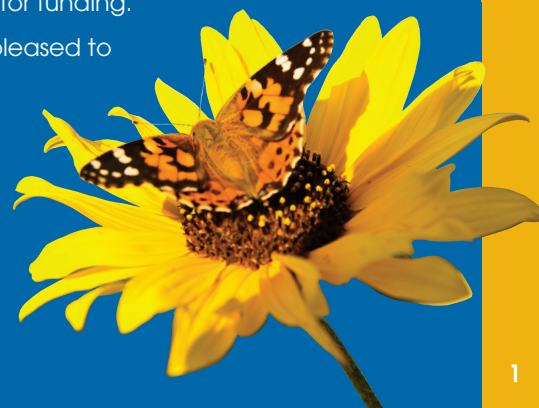
To share some of these stories with you, we have divided this report into six chapters: Strengthening Families, Improving Communities, Focusing on Kids, Growing Creativity, Overcoming Challenges and Teaching Kansans. These chapters are solely for story-telling purposes. Please don't read anything more into these chapter headings. They do not spell out the Foundation's past, current or future focus areas for Recognition Grant funding. These categories barely begin to describe all of the types of projects we fund through our Recognition Grants program.

Our Recognition Grants program is designed as a flexible way to help grassroots organizations respond to immediate health-related needs, which are constantly evolving. An independent review committee evaluates all of the Recognition Grant applications. Twice a year, that committee recommends projects for funding based on how well they would meet Kansas' needs at that moment.

Later in this report, we'll share more details about this grant program, the criteria for the projects we support and how to apply for funding.

Right now, we're pleased to introduce you to

some of the Kansans who have been helped by our 2008 Recognition Grants.



With their farmland in the background, the Petermanns – daughter Emily, mom Stephanie, baby Silas and dad Michael – snuggle on a blanket.



# Strengthening families

## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE HELPS HOLYROOD PARENTS FIGHT FOR THEIR BABY'S LIFE

On March 21, Stephanie Petermann was enjoying a healthy pregnancy and looking forward to meeting her baby face-to-face sometime around his July 7 due date. But on March 22, without warning, contractions woke her up.

Holyrood, the small Central Kansas town that the Petermann family calls home, doesn't have a hospital, so Michael Petermann drove his wife 27 miles to a hospital in Great Bend. The medical staff there spent most of March 23 trying to stop her premature labor, but when they weren't able to do that, they put Stephanie Petermann on an emergency flight to Wichita's Wesley Medical Center. At just 24 weeks and six days into the pregnancy, her baby's life was hanging in the balance.

"Your life just stops," Stephanie Petermann says, recalling that night.

Silas John Petermann came into the world early the next morning weighing 2 pounds, 1 ounce. Even with specialized intensive care, no one could guarantee that he would survive. "It was so unbelievably scary," Stephanie Petermann says. "We just didn't know what to expect from one minute to the next."

This crisis had taken the Petermanns hours away from their farm, and it had given them no time to prepare

for the challenges that the months ahead would bring. At first, they didn't know where they would sleep or eat. Their sole priority was staying close to Silas.

A hospital staff member encouraged the Petermanns to contact Wichita's Ronald McDonald House, a nonprofit organization that provides a home away from home for families with critically ill children. "When I called to make the reservation, they said a room had just opened up," Stephanie Petermann says. "Had I called earlier in the day, they wouldn't have had room for us." A Ronald McDonald House is right across the





**Jackson and Kennedy Drake help bake cookies at the Ronald McDonald House near Wichita's Wesley Medical Center. The Ronald McDonald House helped the Drake family years ago when Jackson was diagnosed with a serious illness. Read this story on our Web site at [www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org).**

street from the hospital, so the Petermanns could be with Silas at a moment's notice while also having a comfortable place to rest, eat meals, do laundry and connect with other families facing similar struggles.

More than 85 percent of the families helped by Wichita's two Ronald McDonald Houses live in Kansas, and approximately 85 percent of those families have low incomes. Without financial donations, a room at the Ronald McDonald House for one night would cost a family about \$65. A \$25,000 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation helps support more than 600 of these families in need. Contributions and grants make it possible for the Ronald McDonald House to charge just \$15 per night and offer additional scholarships to families that can't afford to pay.

"Many families from rural areas around the state need us because the hospitals in their towns just can't deal with that kind of crisis," says Patt Martin, a house manager at the Ronald McDonald House where the Petermanns stayed. "Even at \$15 a night, if you're here for months – and many families are – that can get expensive. So with the scholarships we're able to give here, we hope it just gives them a sense of relief financially."

The first few weeks in the hospital tested the Petermanns' strength and Silas' will to fight for his life. The tiny boy was often hooked up to a ventilator, and sometimes several days would pass before his parents could hold him again. "We waited 21 days for him to open his eyes," Michael Petermann says. At least six rounds of antibiotics helped Silas battle several infections, which can be life-threatening for a premature baby. He was also diagnosed with a bowel issue and treated several times for jaundice.

But even during the hardest days, Stephanie Petermann took to heart a conversation she'd had with another mother at the Ronald McDonald House whose daughter was in the hospital undergoing treatment for leukemia. One day, the mother came into the kitchen and said that her child had died. "She just told us to be thankful that we had a reason to be at the hospital with our children," Stephanie Petermann says. "To cherish every day, even the bad ones, because that's another day you have with your child."

Once Silas' health began to stabilize, he still needed to gain weight before going home. "When you have a child in the NICU, there really is no such thing as planning," Stephanie Petermann says. "After we'd been there for a while, it felt good to help the new families coming in and let them know that chances are things are going to be OK at the end, but it's going to be a very hard road to get there."

After 86 days in the hospital, the Petermanns were finally able to bring Silas home to the Holyrood farm where his father grew up.

On a warm and windy evening in mid-August, Silas snuggles into his mother's arms and drinks some pear juice from a bottle. He's now 4½ months old and weighs about 8 pounds, 5 ounces — a typical weight for a newborn. Doctors and developmental specialists are following his progress, but Silas no longer needs any medications or monitors.

His doting sister, Emily, loves to put Silas in his stroller and give him rides around the house. She's the one who suggested the name Silas, after a character in "Septimus Heap," a series of novels she likes. Her face lights up with a grin as she leans over the couch, watching Silas' every move.

After finishing his bottle, Silas gets a little workout by vigorously waving his arms, kicking his feet and balling his tiny hands into fists.

"He's always been this active from the day he was born," Stephanie Petermann says. "We were joking that that's why he came early, because he thought he ran out of room."

When Dad takes a turn holding him, Silas nestles against him and coos. "Hey Squeaker," Michael Petermann says softly to his son. "He's just now starting to coo and talk and grin a little bit."

The Petermanns say staying at the Ronald McDonald House during Silas' medical crisis lifted part of the burden from their shoulders, and they're grateful for the help and support that came from the staff and volunteers there.

"I would just say thank you and that I think they are wonderful people for giving their time and energy to the Ronald McDonald House, and I hope that they realize how special they are for doing that," Stephanie Petermann says. "I feel that my son is better off because of the fact that the Ronald McDonald House exists."

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2008

**\$12,590 to Loving Arms Learning Center** in Geary County provided financial-planning classes for low-income families and helped them design their own financial plans. This program targeted families that have lived in poverty for generations as well as families that have difficulty speaking English. This program aimed to produce more independent and more productive families by giving them knowledge and tools that will help them climb out of poverty.

**\$23,893 to Partnership for Harvey County Families, Communities in Schools** aimed to double the number of families it could enroll in free or reduced-cost parent education classes. This funding was intended to help at least 200 families and at least 5 child-care providers in an effort to reduce child abuse.

**\$1,127 to Farm Inc.** supported the Visitation and Exchange Center in providing a safe and nurturing environment for up to 100 Douglas County families with children so they could develop positive relationships. This funding aimed to increase the Farm's ability to serve families and make the center safer, more sanitary and nurturing. A goal of this project is to address problems with family violence, substance abuse and mental illness.

**\$6,640 to Franklin County Children's Coalition** provided parent-education classes to parents across the county. This funding gave start-up support and materials to a parent resource center that aims to offer support to families struggling with negative teen behaviors that can lead to substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, violence and dropping out of school.

**\$22,282 to Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority** supported an inter-generational community-based health and wellness program for families receiving housing assistance. The most prevalent health problems in low-income families – obesity, diabetes, heart disease and depression – can be significantly improved through healthy lifestyle choices.

**\$10,704 to Ford County Kids Count** helped reduce child abuse by supporting a parent education program. The number of substantiated cases of child abuse and/or neglect more than doubled in Ford County between 2006, when there were 10 cases, and 2007, when there were 22 cases.

**\$20,300 to Legacy**, a Regional Community Foundation, supported a community partnership in Winfield to address and prevent severe dental decay in young children. The project aimed to help about 2,000 families of children ages birth to 3.

## Looking to the future

Francisca Yavra, 17, reads to her 15-month-old son, Giovanni. When faculty members at her Topeka high school feared that Francisca might drop out, a new program for teen moms and their babies stepped in to help. Read this story on our Web site at [www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org).







Ehi Ighalo examines a chemistry project in a lab at the Kansas City Kansas Community College.

# Teaching Kansans

## SATURDAY ACADEMY OPENS THE DOOR TO A GIRL'S DREAM

At age 11, Ehi Ighalo started dreaming about becoming a pediatrician. So when a high school friend told her about the Saturday Science and Math Academy, Ehi wondered if attending the program at the Kansas City Kansas Community College could help make her dream a reality.

"I had no idea what to expect," Ehi says. "I didn't know anyone who had previously been in the program. I was afraid it would be just like school – that it would be boring and we'd have a lot of homework, but it was nothing like that."

Ehi and her Saturday Academy classmates were free to choose the science projects they wanted to focus on. "In our high school, we didn't have an anatomy class, but we were able to have it in the Academy," Ehi says. "We learned about the heart, and my partner and I studied heart rates so we were able to tell the right heart rates for each age range. That was really exciting for me because I really wanted to learn those things, so it motivated me to keep going to the Academy throughout the year."

Each year, the Academy accepts 60 middle school students and 60 high school students into its intensive weekly program. In 2008, a \$25,000 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation supported the mission of Saturday Academy, which is to increase the number of minority students entering higher education in the areas of math, science and technology.

"We try to have a ratio of one instructor to five students because many of our students live in the inner city where their schools have large classes without much equipment," says Marcia Pomeroy, director of Saturday Academy. "The ability for them to be in college campus labs with a small group makes a difference.



**Saturday Academy director Marcia Pomeroy, Ehi Ighalo and professor Ed Kremer agree that this weekend math and science program can put students on a great career path.**

It becomes like a small research team, and they're accountable to each other. If we did not have that kind of faculty representation, our teaching model would not be successful, and your grant has made that possible."

Pomeroy says a key component of why this program works is that it brings in teachers who relate well to the students and who want to be role models.

"You can talk to teachers who have been in teaching 30 or 35 years, and they will tell you that this is the highlight of their week because they really get to teach and they're with kids who want to learn," she says.

Ed Kremer, a professor of chemistry and other sciences at the community college, helped develop the Saturday Academy program 10 years ago.

"I knew that if we increased students' knowledge in math and science, they could go the medical school route or go to pharmacy school or any science field from that," Kremer says. "It's been a great ride so far."

The students aren't the only ones who benefit from the Academy's curriculum. "You're giving science teachers something to take back to their districts," Kremer says. "When they leave here, we have made them better teachers."

Pomeroy speaks with pride about Ehi, a student she's felt high hopes about since the girl first entered the program as a high school freshman, "Ehi was always a very serious student. She was shy and at the same time, she had kind of a perfectionist side," Pomeroy says. "My hidden goal with Ehi was to bring her out more so that she could feel comfortable in any environment."

Ehi was the only Nigerian at Saturday Academy when she first came to the program, but Pomeroy found her a mentor named Ugachi who grew up with a similar background and understood her culture.

Little by little, the knowledge she gained and the relationships Ehi built at the Academy helped her career dream stay on track.

"Throughout the years, Saturday Academy helped me gain confidence," Ehi says. "I was able to put more effort into the things that I was doing as a student and

in life, and that helped me keep focus on the path to a medical career."

Saturday Academy soon became a family affair for the Ighalos after Ehi told her brother and sister how much the program was helping her. All three siblings attended Saturday Academy, and they each chose to study science in college.

"My family loves the Academy," Ehi says. "Especially my mom. I think she realized it really pushed all of us to do what we want to do. It really played a large part in our family in a positive way. My mom is referring some of her friends' kids to apply to be in the Academy because I think she loves the effect it had on us."

On a recent afternoon, Pomeroy and Ehi walked down a hall at the community college with their arms around each other's shoulders, chatting. Pomeroy reminisced about how the Academy helped Ehi's brother come out of his shell. "Your mother came up to me and said, 'You gave me back a different boy because of your program,'" Pomeroy told her.

Sixty percent of Saturday Academy graduates have chosen to study science, math, engineering or technology in college. Two former students are in medical school and others, like Ehi, are preparing to take the MCAT, an exam that qualifies students to apply for medical school.

"I think Saturday Academy is a really great opportunity, and I think other students need a program like this in their community because it's definitely a great influence on them and on their families," Ehi says.

As Ehi's confidence and leadership skills grew, Pomeroy recruited Ehi to become a mentor while she was still a student in the Academy. Last year she approached Ehi with a special opportunity. "She was one I felt had grown enough to be able to come back and be a faculty representative," Pomeroy says. But knowing that Ehi had been shy before, "I asked her, 'Would you feel

comfortable with that?'" She said, 'I would love to do that,' and she was such a success."

Once Ehi completes her biology degree at the University of Kansas in the spring, she'll apply to medical school and get closer to her dream of taking care of children.

Her gratitude for Saturday Academy has inspired Ehi to set an additional goal. "I want to come back to this program and help fund it because the Academy has been so great to me," she says.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** E-mail Marcia Pomeroy at [mpomeroy@kumc.edu](mailto:mpomeroy@kumc.edu)  
Visit Saturday Academy's Web site at [www.kckurbanacademy.net](http://www.kckurbanacademy.net).

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2008

**\$25,000 to the Kansas State Department of Education** supported the formation of five statewide task forces to implement new recommendations of the Kansas Educational Leadership Commission. The task forces also aimed to collaborate with five other states to write curriculum for higher education.

**\$8,340 to Flint Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area** supported workshops that mobilized local leaders on the issues of transfer of wealth and engaging youth in entre-

preneurship. This funding was needed to help raise interest and knowledge in rural communities about how to deal with the loss of businesses, jobs and adequate health care.

**\$5,000 to the La Leche League of Kansas** provided continuing education programs for health professionals so they could better support Kansas families in breastfeeding. This one-day event in Wichita aimed to increase health-care providers' knowledge of breastfeeding techniques so that they could address patient concerns that

stop many women from breastfeeding for at least six months. Studies indicate that breastfed babies have better brain development and lower obesity rates while their mothers have lower cancer rates and fewer cases of postpartum depression.

**\$25,000 to NAMI Kansas (National Alliance on Mental Illness)** supported the Peer-To-Peer Recovery Education Program, a 9-week intensive educational program in Hiawatha, Kansas City, Lindsborg, Newton, Prairie Village, Topeka and Wichita designed to help

up to 200 mental health clients a year gain knowledge and skills for living successfully with mental illness.

**\$15,655 to Prairie Band of Potawatomi Health Center** provided diabetes prevention education to people in the Native American communities of Northeast Kansas. Cases of diabetes and obesity are two to three times greater among Native Americans than among the general Kansas population.

**\$23,332 to Kansas State University** expanded an educational program on how to safely dispose of unused pharmaceuticals in order to prevent water contamination and accidental ingestion.

**\$19,525 to American Red Cross Midway Kansas Chapter** supported 50 additional community-training classes for low-income families in Sedgwick County on CPR, first aid and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training. This program aimed to serve 600 low-income Sedgwick County residents. In addition to training classes, this project provided first-aid kits to 100 low-income families. This project was needed because in 2007, 36 percent of deaths in Sedgwick County were natural deaths often caused by heart disease and cardiac arrest – 10 percent higher than the national average of 26 percent.



## When crisis strikes

Picture one of your loved ones suddenly collapsing and unable to breathe. What would you do? The American Red Cross wants you to know how to help when emergencies happen, and that's why they increased their CPR and first-aid training classes thanks to a Kansas Health Foundation grant. Read this story on our Web site at [www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org).

**\$25,000 to the City of Wichita Department of Environmental Services** supported the development and installation of an educational exhibit in Wichita designed to increase awareness about the world's limited supply of clean water. It's hoped that when the exhibit is completed, about 40 percent of the exhibit's 10,000 visitors each year will take the Clean Water Pledge to conserve and protect the health and quantity of Kansas' water.

**\$6,000 to Wichita Independent Neighborhoods** paid for a weekend environmental education workshop. This project addressed the multiple health problems that can be caused by contaminated air and water, including asthma and lead poisoning.

**\$23,598.25 to the New Day Christian Church** in Wichita aimed to educate about 1,500 young African-American males about important health issues including HIV/AIDS, drugs, gangs and domestic violence by supporting the development and distribution of a comic book series called Wichita Man. Each comic book was to include a local resource and referral section that would connect readers to local agencies that provide services for these problems.

**\$10,417.80 to Sedgwick County-Division of Human Services** provided expanded education and outreach to Sedgwick County residents about the availability and benefits of the Sedgwick County Prescription Discount Card. This project was needed because medication costs continue to rise, yet an estimated 60,000 residents of Sedgwick County are uninsured.

**\$7,000 to Olathe Salvation Army** paid for English and Spanish training in CPR and first aid. This funding was awarded for the purchase of training mannequins, first aid supplies and high-quality education materials

that will be available to all Johnson County residents.

**\$7,000 to the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society** doing business as Liberal Good Samaritan Center to educate senior citizens and caregivers on pain and how to manage it. This project was needed because the fear of pain, pain itself and the side effects of pain can stop active lives and change personalities. Two half-day pain training sessions for area professionals, caregivers and nursing students were planned.

**\$12,440 to Edwards County Hospital and Healthcare Center** promoted healthy lifestyles and reduced risk factors for chronic disease through workplace wellness programs and health fairs. This funding encouraged at least four businesses to increase workplace wellness by doing health screenings and working on policy development for smoke-free workplaces.

**\$24,880 to E.C. Tyree Health and Dental Clinic** provided a nutrition education program for congregants in African-American churches in Sedgwick County. This project is needed because chronic diseases including diabetes and cancer disproportionately affect the African-American population, and good nutrition can decrease risk factors for these diseases. This project was intended

to provide training and materials for participating congregations as well as peer counseling and quarterly events that all participants can attend.

**\$12,830 to Derby Citizens Recreation Association** supported the Nutrition Center at the Oaklawn Activity Center as it provided instruction in preparation of healthy meals, cooking classes and outreach programs. This program served people in south Wichita's Oaklawn/Sunview neighborhood who have limited access to health clinics or doctors' offices.

**\$2,794.95 to Harper Hospital District #5** supported a health fair that helped women take a preventive approach to their health care to reduce the risks of cervical cancer, breast cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis and diabetes. The project aimed to have many more women get health screenings for these diseases.

**\$13,187 to Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri** supported the "Fit for Life" program for thousands of Girl Scouts ages 8-12 in 10 Kansas counties to teach them the importance of physical activity and healthy nutrition. This program is needed because as many as one-third of girls ages 8 to 17 have a distorted perception about their weight.

**\$1,510 to USD 491 Eudora** funded a one-day health fair for children and

families that focused on health and wellness. This health fair provided access to and awareness of services and personal choices that can help all children and families in Eudora live healthier lives. Multiple health services, including free blood pressure checks and cholesterol screenings, were available, and reduced-cost flu vaccines and tetanus boosters were offered.

**\$2,175 to the Smoky Hills Public Television Corp., KOOD-TV,** provided workshops in Southwest Kansas for parents and child-care providers. This project partnered with Head Start in Southwest Kansas and rural Northwest Kansas to reach at-risk children and families, especially those in Hispanic communities, to teach parents how to help their children make healthy choices.

**\$1,310 to the Barton County Health Department** provided health and wellness education to women and their families through the 2009 Woman to Woman Health Conference. This conference provided attendees with information on workplace wellness, improving their food choices, physical activity, stress reduction and ways to balance work and family.



Frank Munk, Oakley's former mayor, stands in front of the Palace Theatre marquee.

# Improving Communities

## OAKLEY TAKES ACTION TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE TOWN

With the smell of fresh popcorn in the air and a line forming at the ticket counter, Oakley's Palace Theatre might seem like any other small-town movie theater, but it's not.

The high school students who keep the concession stand stocked, clean the facility and sell tickets don't just work there – their class runs the place in exchange for college scholarships.

When the former owners closed the theater in 2001, Oakley Mayor Frank Munk came up with a plan for the town to buy the theater, donate it to the high school and let students take charge of it. “We couldn't let our theater go down the tubes,” Munk says. “I called a friend of mine, and he said, ‘Let's do it.’ It started as a nonprofit, and we had the whole town behind us.”

Schools saved bucketfuls of pennies for the theater, church members held a quilt raffle, and a bank sent over a cashier's check to help cover remodeling



**Lindsey Hoss, front row center, is surrounded by other Oakley high school students who help run the town's movie theater in exchange for college scholarships.**

costs. Town residents volunteered to deliver pizzas and give generous tips to the theater project. Each Sunday, 40 to 50 people would show up at the Palace to help rip out the old seats, haul trash to the dump, paint, replace the carpeting or hang curtains.

“There are things to do for your town if you just want to spend the time and the energy,” Munk says. “It doesn't take a lot of money either.”

The town's investment of about \$20,000 and countless volunteer hours to get the Palace Theatre back up and running has paid off handsomely because not only does the theater give Oakley's kids a fun and safe place to go on the weekends, but it also helps the high school students connect more with the community.

“If you take away the sports they do and you take away the theater, there's really nothing else for kids to



do here on a weekend,” says Jesse Janzen, the teacher who oversees the entrepreneurship class that runs the theater. “It’s worked out really well.”

Oakley has banded together with about 20 other northwest Kansas towns in search of ways to keep young people from leaving the communities where they grew up, and a \$22,348 Kansas Health Foundation grant supports that effort. This funding paid for a Fort Hays State University leadership program that worked with the Northwest Kansas Mayor’s Association to increase community involvement among young people.

“The more connection and the greater sense of belonging young people have in their community increases the chances they’ll come back to their community,” says Brent Goertzen, who heads up the Fort Hays State University leadership program.

Statistics show the urgent need for young people to return to their northwest Kansas roots, he says. Between 1990 and 2007, the state of Kansas increased its population by more than 12 percent, yet all but one northwest Kansas county lost between 8 percent and 22 percent of their residents. “Smith County had 50 percent less youth in 2000 than in 1980,” Goertzen says. “It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to know that these trends aren’t sustainable. Take another generation of decline like this and this part of Kansas is going to look radically different.”

So members of the leadership program hit the road to poll schools in northwest Kansas towns. They asked teenagers what it would take to keep them in town as adults.

“One of the major themes is they claim that they don’t have anything to do, so we’re working with communities to try to fix that,” Goertzen says.

He praises Oakley for how it has given kids the leading role in reviving the town’s movie theater.

“This is a tremendous service to let students see what running a business is like and also to see, ‘How do we promote the community good?’” Goertzen says. “Not every town is going to have their own theater, but other towns can use it as an analogy to get students involved.”

**BELOW: The students who run the Palace Theatre arrive early on movie nights to handle tasks like making popcorn.**



This year, 11 students are taking the entrepreneurship class that manages the Palace Theatre. They make purchase orders for supplies, pay all the theater's bills, run the theater's Web site, update the marquee, keep the theater clean, recruit volunteers to work at the concession stand and find businesses each week that will sponsor the movies.

"I think that the theater has brought the community closer together," says Lindsey Hoss, a student who helped run the Palace last year. The 18-year-old says her experience running the Palace helped prepare her for success as she starts her first year at Colby Community College.

"I learned that you have to be really responsible and you all have to work together as a team," Hoss says. "Everyone really needed to carry their own weight or someone else had to do a lot more."

All of the theater's profits go into a scholarship fund, and at the end of the year, the fund is divided evenly among the members of the entrepreneurship class. This year's goal is to give each student a \$1,000 scholarship.

Oakley also endeavors to raise about \$80,000 over the next year or two to buy the theater a digital projection

system, Janzen says. The companies that supply movies to theaters across the country are phasing out their 35-millimeter film reels, so if Oakley can't manage to get the money to switch to a digital system, the Palace Theatre would be in danger of closing again.

Munk and the entrepreneurship class are determined that Oakley won't lose its theater a second time. They plan to hold fund-raisers and contact local companies, banks and other groups to get the funding for the new equipment that will keep the Palace in business.

Munk's eyes twinkle as he watches friends, neighbors and families gather in the theater's lobby to buy tickets and refreshments before the Sunday night movie starts.

"I've seen several kids over the years turn around," he says. "We've had several come back to work and just be back in the community. They talk about their work at the theater, and they're pretty proud of what they accomplished."

"We pulled the town together, and it set an example of what you can do with just a little bit of money," Munk says. "It's good for the kids, and it's good for the whole community."



## A rough road

Fifty truckloads of trash littered the site near Goddard that Prairie Travelers wanted to turn into a walking trail. That was just the first of many obstacles these volunteers faced, but they refused to give up their quest to make physical activity more accessible to the entire community. Read this story on our Web site at [www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org).

### GRANTS AWARDED IN 2008

**\$18,118 to the Sedgwick County Zoological Society** supported a program for low-income and/or at-risk elementary students and teachers about growing food and healthy nutritional choices. This program helped children discover how easy it is to grow food, taught them the benefits of eating more fruits and vegetables and focused on the ways people can protect the environment by using locally grown foods and natural fertilizer.

**\$14,400 to the Wichita Audubon Society** supported an environmental education program for low-income and at-risk elementary school students in Cowley County. This project at the Chaplin Nature Center laid the foundation for healthier decisions in the future that can improve the community's air, water and food supply.

**\$22,496 to Forever Crowned with Glory Ministry of Training** increased

educational and employment opportunities by providing access and training on computer technology and after-school tutoring. This program served people in Sedgwick County, giving them access to computers and training that will help lead to jobs and better performance in school.

**\$9,330 to Infinite Growth Opportunities Foundation** supported Sowing and Growing Together, a garden

project in Wichita's Fairmount Park neighborhood that uses AmeriCorps volunteers, youth and area residents. This project aimed to provide nutrition education and a stable source of food by providing assistance for this neighborhood garden. The Fairmount Park neighborhood is considered a blighted area, and this project hoped to revitalize the neighborhood by helping its residents learn how to garden and grow their own food.

**\$25,000 to the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum Association** supported the Senior Wednesday program, a collaboration of 10 institutions in the Wichita area museum community that could reach more than 70,000 South Central Kansas residents older than 55. This project aimed to provide a high-quality learning experience each week for area seniors. Research shows that involvement in community events improves quality of life. Participants in this program reported strong levels of social interaction and physical activity, both of which have proven health benefits to senior citizens.

**\$25,000 to Reno County Health Department and Home Health Agency** helped conduct a survey assessing lifestyle-related health risks for Reno County adults. This project is needed to identify and build awareness of countywide health behaviors and concerns. This fresh health data will help

prioritize resources and develop targeted community intervention plans.

**\$21,621.01 to Olsburg Pride** supported the improvement of the community park to increase physical activity for about 300 residents. This funding was needed because the park did not provide a clean and safe place for children, and play is important to a child's development. This Foundation funding helped provide playground equipment and a new tennis/basketball court for the park.

**\$1,707 to Kansas City Church of the Nazarene** supported a paper recycling program. Paper makes up about 40 percent of landfill waste, which leads to landfill overuse. This project recycled and reused paper waste. This funding paid for paper recycling bins throughout the church, and the church used free paper recycling pick-up services through a local landfill company. That company gave the church \$25 per ton of recycled paper. The project aimed to encourage 50 percent of its congregation to participate in this program by November 2008.

**\$1,650 to the University of Kansas** provided expenses for administering the National College Health Assessment survey, designed to assess health-related attitudes, perceptions and behaviors of KU students. Anticipated health improvements from this assessment included fewer academic

problems because of excessive alcohol use, a reduction in drinking and driving and increased use of reliable birth control methods.

**\$14,300 to Ogden Youth Center** supported a school and community garden project that aimed to provide fruits and vegetables to more than 1,800 people. A high number of Ogden's families have low incomes and not enough food.

**\$10,000 to Wamego Community Foundation** supported the first phase of a collaborative effort to develop the Wam-Sag-Man Trail, a walking-biking trail between three communities in Northeast Kansas. Funding paid for survey and design work for the trail connecting the communities of Wamego, Saint George and Manhattan.

**\$25,000 to the Kansas University Endowment Association** supported the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita as it partnered with six public health departments to make recommendations for improving public health surveillance and prevention of sexually transmitted infections in the state's rural areas.

**\$25,000 to Meade Hospital District** supported a collaborative effort to develop a safe, handicapped-accessible walking trail in the community of Meade. The trail will be located near schools and a retirement home.



Aimee Geist, curator of education at the Ulrich Museum of Art, talks with a tour group about *Personnages Oiseaux*, the well-known work of art by Joan Miro found at the entrance of the museum.

# Focusing on kids

## ULRICH MUSEUM TOURS MAKE LEARNING FUN FOR KANSAS CHILDREN

Grade schoolers crowd around Aimee Geist, leaning in to get a closer look at the sparkling piece of glass she holds.

"This is just like the pieces of glass that make up the mural up there," Geist tells them, pointing to *Personnages Oiseaux*, a work of art by Joan Miro that graces the

entrance of the Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University. "It took about five years to make, and it's the largest piece by this artist in the entire world."

Geist asks the children to guess how many pieces of glass the mural contains. “Ten thousand?” a girl asks. “Ten MILLION,” a boy answers. “Those are good guesses,” Geist says. “There are about 1 million pieces of glass up there.”

With the kids still oohing and aaahing over the mural, Geist guides the group over to the Millipede sculpture. “We call her Millie,” Geist says, “and the artist, Tom Otterness, likes it when kids sit on her.” The children immediately take the hint, scrambling up the bronze sculpture to find good seats. Their hands shoot high into the air when Geist wonders aloud what happens to Millie when the sun shines on her. “She gets hot!” they say. “That’s right! Good job,” Geist tells them.

“Would it surprise you if I said that Millie weighs 7,000 pounds?” Geist asks. “DANG!” a girl responds with wonder in her voice.

As the curator of education at the Ulrich Museum, Geist leads tours for thousands of schoolchildren each year. “It’s a little song, it’s a little dance and it’s a lot of education whether they know it or not, but we’re having some fun while we’re doing it,” she says. “We want the kids to walk away saying, ‘Oh, I want to go back! How soon can I come back? I can’t wait to come back with my parents.’”

But the country’s economic woes have caused many Kansas school districts to slash funding for field trips.

“We’re free regardless, and there is no charge for any kind of tour at Ulrich, but there aren’t very generous funds for school field trips. Now more than ever, schools would not be able to come without financial help,” Ulrich director Patricia McDonnell says. “Things that you consider frills are getting cut from school budgets, and field trips are one of those things. Even though we’re a university art museum, we take very seriously our role in connecting with students of all ages.”

A \$22,375 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation supports arts appreciation programs at Ulrich for 5,000 elementary and middle school students. This funding helps provide one of the few free field-trip opportunities for area students. “One of the things that was so fabulous about this award from the Kansas Health Foundation is that this funding enabled us to stretch dollars to really support the bus reimbursement program,” McDonnell says.

The bus reimbursement program offers schools the gas money they need to bring their students to Ulrich and back. “Cloud Elementary was not going to get to come this year because their budget was cut, but because of this program, now they’re coming,” Geist says.

“Outdoor tours are always wonderful with kids because there’s more freedom to express yourself,” Geist says. “You can talk a little louder, wave your arms a little bigger and be a little more rambunctious. Our tours are purposefully not a lecture. We promote inquiry. We

require the kids to be reflective. You're not just here to listen, you need to share something about yourself. Education is a lifelong endeavor, and education can be fun. An art museum can be fun."

"We want them to go home and say, 'Mom, Dad, this was so neat! Can't we take the whole family back on the weekend?'" she says. "We want to grow the habit that this could be a Saturday afternoon activity."

Scientific research proves that the arts really make a difference in people's lives, McDonnell says. "There's huge value of the arts in our lives, and in a larger community, it gives us a different perspective on the world," she says. "In doing that, it expands us to become more tolerant and it exposes us to different cultures. The arts do absolutely enrich our lives and strengthen our communities by things such as increased scores in school testing and decreased crime rates."

Moving along on the tour, Geist delights the youngsters by leading

**AT RIGHT:** Casey Loving reacts as Ulrich curator of education Aimee Geist describes the Inverted Q sculpture at Wichita State University.

them in a game of Simon Says at the Fountain Wall sculpture. As water trickles down the rose-colored granite, Geist takes on the role of Simon. "Simon says put your left hand on the water wall," Geist tells the children before deciding to jump in and play along with them. "Ooh, it's cold," she says planting her hand on the wall. "The water's getting on my toes."

Next, Geist shows the children a small piece of granite identical to the stone that makes up the Fountain Wall. "Look at how it looks when it's dry and then look at what it looks like when it's wet," she says. "How is it different?"

"How does the water get down the wall?" one boy asks. "That's a great question! There is actually a pump station here that sends the water down the wall," Geist explains.



As the group walks to the next sculpture, Geist asks the kids to name some materials that wouldn't make good sculptures. "Sand," a boy says. "Yes, why wouldn't sand make a good sculpture?" she asks him. "Umm, because it would wash away," he says. "That's right," Geist replies.

"What else wouldn't make a good sculpture?" she prompts the group again. "Chocolate!" a girl pipes up. "Oh, that's right too," Geist says as the two share a laugh. "That would get pretty messy. But I don't know, I might like to have a sculpture made out of chocolate some days."

The kids giggle as Geist talks to them about Howl, another sculpture she shows them. She kneels on the

ground with the group around the coyote, explaining that she wants them to howl out to their friends or family so people far away can hear them. "Ow-oooh!" the kids reply. "They can't hear that," Geist says. "You have to throw your heads back and really let them hear you!" The children sit up on their knees and take deep breaths as Geist counts to three. "OWW-OOOOH!" they shout. "That's much better," Geist says, throwing her own head back in laughter.

Some of the children are disappointed to see the tour end, but their moods brighten again when Geist passes out stickers that they can each take home. The robot stickers promote the museum's new fall exhibit. "Thank you for coming," she tells the kids. "I hope you can come back again soon!"

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** Call the Ulrich Museum of Art at (316) 978-3664  
Visit the museum's Web site at [www.ulrich.wichita.edu](http://www.ulrich.wichita.edu)

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2008

### \$11,195 to CASA Spirit of the Plains

provided funding for recruitment, training and monitoring of volunteers. This project was needed to ensure that Kansas children who come into the court system because of abuse or neglect have the support they need to be healthy. CASA staff and trained advocates make recommendations and referrals to the court for interven-

tion and treatment by monitoring the progress of the child and the parent with their mental health appointments, substance abuse assessments, parenting classes and other services. A CASA advocate is sometimes the one constant person in these children's lives, often staying with a child's case for several years. CASA advocates serve as the "eyes and

ears" for the judge, and the number of children CASA serves continues to increase each year.

### \$12,916 to CASA of the Fourth Judicial District helped

recruit and train additional volunteer advocates for children from abusive or neglectful homes and helped cover the costs of the advocates' travel to



visit CASA children. In the course of a year, CASA volunteers in Franklin, Anderson, Coffey and Osage counties pay an average of more than \$6,000 in travel expenses to visit the children assigned to them. That does not count the extras such as treating the children to ice cream, attending school events, etc. Those travel costs keep some people from volunteering as CASA advocates. In 2007, CASA of the Fourth Judicial District served 68 children and could have served 34 more children if there had been more volunteer advocates.

#### **\$9,120 to Sunflower CASA Project**

increased the number of CASA volunteers available in Clay County so that more abused and neglected children could be helped. This funding was needed because there were children waiting for a CASA advocate in Clay County, and CASA needed to recruit, train and supervise an adequate number of volunteers to serve these children. This grant allowed CASA to increase the hours of the Program Coordinator, doubling the amount of time available to recruit, train and supervise volunteers.

**\$25,000 to Botanica** supported a program that aimed to give about 11,000 children in Sedgwick and Butler counties a closer connection to nature.

**\$25,000 to the Eisenhower Foundation** in Abilene supported the Five

Star Leaders program for teens. This program addresses a deficit in civic literacy that exists among young people today, and it aims to help develop a new generation of leaders and decision makers in Kansas. This program challenges students to work together to solve a problem, confront a crisis or accomplish a mission.

**\$25,000 to Diversity Kansas** paid for an evaluation of the OurTown Youth Leadership Institute, a program designed to enhance leadership skills and foster community engagement among youth participants.

**\$13,350 to Assistance League of Wichita** supported the Operation School Bell program. This funding aimed to provide clothing, coats, shoes, backpacks and/or grooming kits to 3,300 Wichita Public School students in need.

**\$21,000 to Mo Kan 20/20 Vision** engaged student leaders in the Greater Kansas City area in identifying and addressing teen health issues through the 20/20 Olympics. Diverse groups of students from nine school districts teamed up to create presentations on serious teen health problems and make presentations to the Board of Education in their areas. The winning teams received Gold (\$500), Silver (\$300) and Bronze (\$200) medals and students from those teams chose an agency to receive each cash award.

**\$5,000 to the American Cancer Society Heartland Division** provided transportation for Kansas children attending Camp Hope near Claflin. This funding was needed because transportation to Camp Hope has been identified as a major barrier to many children who are eligible to attend camp.

**\$16,342 to Heartspring in Wichita** expanded programs designed to strengthen the social and communication skills of Kansas children with Asperger syndrome. These programs include a summer day camp and a scout program.

**\$25,000 to the Kansas Wildscape Foundation** provided opportunities for Kansas kids to experience the outdoors along with adult mentors and to promote active lifestyles. This program seeks to help reverse the trend of families becoming less involved with nature and increase physical activity in the state. Each year, about 45 Kansas sites sign up to host free O.K. Kids events including hiking, bird watching, fishing and bike safety.

**\$15,000 to the Shadow Buddy Foundation** in Lenexa paid for Spanish translation and printing of 170 copies of a resource guide to educate children about disabilities, illnesses and other medical challenges. About one in nine Midwest children will be diagnosed with a catastrophic or lifelong

illness, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. This funding for a Spanish translation of this resource guide is needed because according to U.S. Census results, Kansas' Hispanic population has increased almost 123 percent between the year 2000 and 2006.

**\$24,700 to Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters** helped the Little Moments Big Impact program support additional matches for Kansas children wanting adult mentors. This funding provided the background checks needed for potential adult mentors. The goal is to match an additional 1,300 children in 2009, and that at least 50 percent of matched youth will report an improved ability to avoid substance abuse, teen pregnancy and delinquency.

**\$14,608 to American Red Cross-Kansas Capital Area Chapter** provided basic first-aid training for elementary school students. This program served children by teaching them skills including rescue breathing techniques, first-aid procedures for choking as well as when and how to make emergency phone calls for help. This program is needed because injuries kill more children and cause more disabilities than all diseases combined. This training assures that friends and siblings can help when they're the first ones on the scene.

**\$3,852 to USD 458 Basehor-Linwood** provided screenings for children ages birth to 3 for the district's Parents As Teachers program "How Well Can Your Child Hear?" This project aimed to catch any hearing, speech and language concerns as soon as possible to help children develop to their full potential. Parents received forms with the results of their child's screening. If a child did not pass the screening, written recommendations for follow-up services were included.

**\$22,392 to Konza Prairie Community Health Center** in Junction City provided portable equipment and supplies for preventive oral health services delivered twice a year to children on-site at schools, health fairs and other events aimed at children. The services included screening, teeth cleanings, fluoride application and sealants for children from birth to kindergarten. This program is needed because 55 percent of Kansas children experience dental decay by the time they reach third grade.

**\$24,980 to Rainbows United in Wichita** helped fund WonderPoint, a community assessment center that aimed to increase the number of infants and toddlers who receive developmental screenings. The Kansas Health Foundation money provided services to parents and their children ages 5 and younger.

**\$20,000 to the Arc of Sedgwick County** expanded Circle of Friends, a mentoring program that links special education students with regular education peers. This project is needed because mentoring programs are shown to improve lives by reducing drug abuse, teen pregnancy, drop-out rates and teen crime statistics. These problems tend to be linked to peer pressure and a student's need for acceptance, and Circle of Friends is meant to help develop that acceptance for students with special needs. This program established groups in schools as well as monthly social opportunities away from the school setting.

**\$10,000 to American Red Cross Wyandotte County Chapter** provided water safety, swimming and lifeguard training to pre-school through high-school children in Wyandotte County. Kansas City, Kan., has one municipal pool to serve the entire community, and without this training, that pool would not even open for use by the community's most disadvantaged youth. This training provided teens with needed part-time jobs and gave other children access to physical recreation.

**\$7,800 to Boys and Girls Club of Topeka** gave scholarships to children ages 6 to 18 to attend a summer program focusing on character development, health and life skills, education and career development, sports, fitness



## Helping children

A 2-year-old girl wanders alone around a Dodge City parking lot with no one to take care of her because her mom is using drugs. When the toddler's case came into the court system, CASA got involved to be a voice for this little girl. Read this story on our Web site at [www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org).

and the arts. This funding was needed because more than 81 percent of the children this program serves live at the poverty level. This program provides constructive activities from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and ensures that each child will get at least two meals a day.

### **\$6,329 to Girls Club of Ottawa**

expanded weekly education and service activities to girls in grades 6 through 8. These activities are meant to reduce risk factors, build character, raise self esteem and foster a greater connection to the community. Girls in this program prepared food for Habitat for Humanity volunteers, provided companionship activities at a nursing home, hosted a Halloween party at a

day-care facility and gathered donations of food and toys for Kansans in need.

### **\$10,000 to Communities in Schools of Ottawa**

supported Helmet Head, a program to reduce bicycle injuries among second-graders in Ottawa by giving each of the students a bike helmet. This project is needed because every day, almost 690 U.S. children are injured in bicycle-related accidents.

**\$25,000 to YouthFriends** supported MentorMail, an e-mail mentoring program that matched children in Kansas City, Kan., with caring adults. This mentoring will develop the character, capabilities and confi-

dence of Kansas students in an effort to prevent unhealthy behaviors. E-mentoring can get more students placed with mentors and overcome social anxieties that may inhibit traditional mentoring relationships. Kansas Mentors estimates that 50,000 children in our state need a mentor. This program makes mentoring more accessible to busy professionals because whether they are on a business trip or on a tight deadline, volunteers can maintain regular contact with students online.

### **\$8,065 to USD 379 Clay Center Community Middle School**

increased the number of adult mentors taking part in "mentor lunches" with middle school students as part of the Positive Addictions program. In this project, an adult was matched with four students for mentor lunches. Those lunches aimed to involve guided discussion about positive addictions and bring 60 more adults into Clay County schools each month to serve as positive role models.

### **\$25,000 to Pawnee Mental Health Services Inc.**

provided a summer camp adventure for children with serious emotional disturbances. These children have substantive impairments that limit or interfere with their functioning in family, school or community activities. Left unaddressed, these impairments could lead to immediate

and future societal problems. Camp STARS (Strength, Teamwork, Attitude, Relationships, Self Esteem) helped the children develop attitudes, skills and habits of behavior that enhance their overall health now and in the future.

**\$3,000 to the City of St. Paul** bought new baseball uniforms for children participating in a youth recreation program. The old uniforms were about 10 years old and the city had no other money available to replace them.

**\$20,340 to Sunflower House** in Shawnee supported "P.S. It's My Body!" an education program that taught young children, parents and teachers about how to prevent and resist abuse. This program was needed because one in four girls and one in six boys are victims of sexual or physical abuse before the age of 18, statistics indicate. Children in this program learned to report unwanted touching early and will be less likely to believe that abuse is their fault.

**\$17,293 to Prairie Advocacy Center** in Topeka supported victim advocacy and crisis counseling to children ages 3 to 17 who have witnessed violence or survived sexual and/or physical abuse. This project aimed to reduce the intensity of the child's emotional, physical and behavioral reactions to the crisis and to help children return to their level of functioning.

**\$10,000 to GaDuGi SafeCenter** in Lawrence supported the creation of a prevention program targeting sexual violence and bullying. This program involved support groups and theater-based violence prevention workshops and served youth ages 12 to 17. This program helped children develop confidence, responsibility, teamwork and a greater sense of self and community. This program was needed because in a study of 769 male students in grades 7 to 12, 52 percent of them reported engaging in sexually aggressive behavior, and the risk of rape is four times higher for women ages 16 to 24.

**\$2,225 to the Sedan United Methodist Church** promoted healthy choices among preschool children and their families. Almost all of the children who attend The Little Scholar Preschool sponsored by this Sedan church live with mothers who work outside the home and travel to their jobs in nearby towns. Many of these families often eat fast food and have trouble finding enough time to teach their children about healthy choice and prepare them for success in kindergarten. This program built wellness awareness among parents, delivered wellness lessons to the preschoolers and provided nutritious take-home snacks for the students.

**\$25,000 to Post Rock Family Services**

supported activities for elementary school students in the after-school program, including life-skills programs on topics like conflict resolution, stress management, nutrition, physical activity, smoking prevention and dental hygiene.

**\$5,611 to the City of Marysville** increased the number of children ages 5 to 18 who participate on the local swim team to promote physical activity and decrease obesity. At least 40 more children, including 15 kids from low-income families, were expected to join the summer swim team with the help of this funding.

**\$20,680 to GraceMed Health Clinic** improved oral health for low-income children from birth to age 10 in Sedgewick County by providing education, preventative and restorative dental care. This project was needed to treat Early Childhood Caries, also known as Baby Bottle Tooth Decay, a preventable disease causing dental pain, infection and tooth loss. This project also connected at least 200 families with public sources of dental insurance.

**\$25,000 to the Score 1 for Health Voucher Program** in Kansas City provided uninsured children access to dental care and vision treatment. This program is needed because 38 percent of the children screened in Score 1 in 2006-2007 had obvious dental decay that was in need of treat-

ment and 14 percent of the children needed vision care. Score 1 for Health provides free, in-school health screenings to more than 13,500 children every year. This program uses multiple communication methods to educate children and their families on the results of their screenings. If follow-up treatment was needed and the family could not afford it, Score 1 gave a health-care provider a voucher for the treatment.

**\$2,500 to USD 260 Derby-Tanglewood Elementary** supported a bully prevention program for students and staff members. This funding provided anti-bully shirts to be worn by all students and staff and Tanglewood to continue the promotion of the school's bully prevention program. This project was needed because students who feel safe do better in school, and these T-shirts served to remind students of Tanglewood's anti-bully stance.

**\$4,000 to USD 382 Pratt Public Schools** provided healthy after-school snacks for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Children in this program learned how to develop healthy eating habits. Better nutrition also helped these children have more energy and be able to focus better in school.

**\$17,021 to St. Patrick Catholic School** in Wichita provided American Red Cross first aid, CPR and baby-sitting classes to middle school students and teach-

ers from eight schools in Hutchinson, Newton and Wichita. Many of these students come from low-income homes and this project was needed because their schools do not have full-time nurses on site. This training helped them learn how to deal with emergencies including illness, injuries and household accidents.

**\$9,664 to Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas** provided funding for a bullying prevention program in elementary schools. This program aimed to teach children how to empathize with classmates and why it's important to report bullying to adults.

**\$25,000 to Compeer Program of East Central Kansas** supported a weekly "lunch buddies" program in elementary schools for children displaying behavioral or emotional problems. This program helped students develop trusting relationships with adults and aimed to reduce disciplinary problems and suspensions.

**\$15,420 to the Mid-West Educational Center** provided fourth- and fifth-graders with a hands-on history tour of the Underground Railroad in Kansas. This project also showed teachers how to integrate multicultural themes into elementary social studies. This project addressed the scarcity of minority role models in Kansas classrooms as well as the lack of books pertaining to people of color.

**\$6,700 to Community Foundation for Independence** provided equipment and tutoring stipends for a program targeting at least 30 at-risk students in Montgomery County. This program was needed for children who are at risk of academic failure. It built character by teaching them confidence, goal-setting and anger management.

**\$25,000 to USD 446 Independence** increased the number of children attending Kids CREW, an after-school program designed to promote academic achievement, leadership skills and healthy development. Recreational and healthy living classes were offered daily, and former Kids CREW participants who are now in middle school had the chance to be trained as junior mentors. Every nine weeks, the program set up motivational field trips and activities with local businesses or agencies to encourage literacy and maintain a high standard of behavior.

**\$7,500 to USD 349 Stafford High School** supported an effort for students to give monthly public health lessons to students, staff and community members during the school year.

**\$24,817 to Marshall County Community Resource and Education Center Inc.**, supported a project that aimed to promote healthy eating habits and physical activity in 1,800 children ages 5 and younger.



Volunteer Emily Burns, center, keeps a hand and a close eye on J.R. Garcia during his weekly Miles of Smiles ride.

# Overcoming Challenges

**MILES OF SMILES TAKES RIDERS ON LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEYS**

Emily Burns carries 5-year-old J.R. Garcia into the dusty Garden City arena where Twister, the horse he rides, is waiting patiently.

“OK, are you ready to go for a ride?” she asks the smiling boy who has cerebral palsy. “One ... two ... THREE!” Burns says as two volunteers help her lift J.R. up to sit on Twister’s back.

Burns and the other volunteers each keep one hand on Twister and another on J.R. as they slowly guide the horse around the arena. The boy flashes a wide grin and waves whenever he rides past his family. “Mom!” he calls out.

Children aren’t the only little ones with disabilities at Miles of Smiles. As Twister takes J.R. around in circles, a miniature horse named Magic stands nearby, watching the action.

Magic’s former owner donated her to Miles of Smiles after the tiny horse injured one of her feet so badly that it was cut off. Magic makes a good and gentle friend for many of the children in the program. Sometimes when she sees a child in a wheelchair, Magic will walk right up to him and lay her head down in his lap.

Some might think that walking without one of her feet would be hard for Magic, but her uneven gait doesn’t slow her down one bit. In fact, the miniature horse often prefers running. One recent morning on her way to the arena, Magic’s need for speed kept her escort, Sara Brown, struggling to keep up and breathless by the time the two reached their destination.



**Miles of Smiles instructor Ellen Lynn holds 5-year-old J.R. Garcia as he strokes Twister, the horse he rides.**

“Magic is a perfect example of how even with a disability, you have a purpose in life,” says Brown, director of programs for Miles of Smiles.

After taking a few laps around the arena, Twister and two other horses stand still so their young riders can do some exercises. The children try to hold their arms out wide at their sides to practice their balance, and then instructor Ellen Lynn asks them to lie back on their horses. “Take a nap. There you go,” Burns tells J.R. as she gently helps him lie with his back flat against Twister. “Good job! Now sit up,” she says, adjusting his navy blue helmet to fit more snugly.

A special education teacher, Burns has been a volunteer with the Miles of Smiles therapeutic riding program since she was in high school. When asked



**AT LEFT:** Miles of Smiles helped Mershon Jones, shown here with Foxy, physically and mentally.

to share a story about someone she helped that will always stay in her mind, Burns talks about Mershon Jones. The Miles of Smiles program aims to foster independence, improve self-esteem and provide better mobility to people with disabilities, and that's exactly what it has done for Jones.

About 20 years ago, Jones was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and over the years, the disease progressively robbed more of her physical capabilities and confidence, leaving her in a wheelchair. Her husband helped take care of her, but when he died in 2006, Jones wasn't sure if she was going to be able to live in the house by herself. She was afraid to drive, and many of the things she had wanted to do someday — like take a cruise to Alaska — felt impossible.

them gave me the motivation I needed to get out of my house. It's been an empowering thing to get the courage to drive myself."

Two summers ago, Jones began driving one hour each way from her Dighton home to the Miles of Smiles site for weekly riding lessons, but driving wasn't the only fear she needed to conquer.

"She was so scared to get on the horse," Burns says. At first, it was physically impossible for Jones to sit on a horse because her leg muscles wouldn't stretch enough. It took four people to get her on a horse, and the volunteers walked beside her throughout her rides. "She felt uneasy if her feet just dangled, so we held the bottom of her feet so she felt more secure," Burns says.

Then a friend told her about Miles of Smiles and encouraged her to think about joining the program. "I love horses so much," Jones says as she strokes the nose of a chestnut-colored horse named Foxy. "The chance to be around



After about six weeks of lessons, Jones had gained enough flexibility and confidence that she felt more comfortable sitting on a horse.

It takes much longer for some clients to even think about getting on a horse. Seven-year-old Kermit Hunter, who has autism, took his journey toward riding in small steps. At first, he got used to wearing his helmet. Next, he stood closer to the horse. Later, he petted the horse and learned how to help groom the animal.

Kermit had been taking lessons for more than a year when the boy, who rarely spoke, took everyone at Miles of Smiles by surprise one day. "His mother lifted him up to help brush the top of the horse and he just grabbed onto the horse's mane and said, "UP! Let's go!" as the shocked volunteers scrambled to untie the horse and take Kermit for his first ride, Brown says. "That was huge progress for him."

Jones says she's learned a lot in her own life by watching children like Kermit sample adventures and gain new skills.

Over time in the program, Jones gained lots of self-esteem, made a bunch of friends and spent many hours with the beloved horses at Miles of Smiles. Riding

horses has not only helped her face her fears, but it's also given her many physical benefits. "My posture's better," she says. "It exercises my legs, and I have to balance myself as the horse moves side to side."

Last year, she put her newfound confidence into action by finally taking the cruise to Alaska that she had been dreaming about. "It was such a wonderful time, and I never would have done that without Miles of Smiles," she says. "This is one of the happiest, best things in my life."

Even though horseback riding helps their health, many Miles of Smiles clients can't afford it. Without financial help, an hour of riding would cost about \$85, but a \$5,593 Kansas Health Foundation grant provided scholarships for at least 27 Southwest Kansas riders this year. "That scholarship money was a blessing — it really was," Brown says. "I had never written a grant before, and I didn't know what to expect, but there were so many of our riders who benefited from that."

Jones reaches out to take a Foundation staffer's hand at the end of a visit. "I just can't thank you all enough," she says. "The Foundation will never know how much it means that it funds this program. If it wasn't for you guys, I wouldn't be able to ride, and this has changed my life."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** Call director of programs Sara Brown at 620-260-9997  
Visit the Miles of Smiles Web site at [www.miles-of-smiles.org](http://www.miles-of-smiles.org)

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2008

**\$14,525 for Arc of Douglas County** increased independent living and quality of life for Kansans with disabilities. This program supported online and in-person workshops to help people with disabilities around the state learn about non-traditional service options such as supportive home care and personal assistance that are available to them through the Kansas Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver.

**\$9,500 to the City of Bel Aire Senior Center** supported a needs assessment, built a social support network and integrated existing services for adults who are 55 and older. This funding was needed because cases of elder abuse, senior malnourishment and deteriorating mental health have been reported in Bel Aire. This program gathered the information and assembled the support services necessary to raise the quality of life for Bel Aire's seniors.

**\$11,700 for the Elizabeth Layton Center** supported the Compeer program, which seeks to reduce isolation and improve self-esteem and social skills among adults and youth with mental illnesses. This project was offered to adults and children who participate in Franklin County's Compeer program. This is currently the only Compeer program in Kansas to hold monthly skill-building activities such as crafts,

cooking and fitness for all current matches as well as all Compeer participants waiting for a match.

**\$25,000 to Inter-Faith Ministries Wichita** supported the Street Outreach Program in providing services to chronically homeless people with the goal of assisting them in moving into permanent housing. This project helped homeless individuals find shelter, food, a health clinic and a nurturing environment to help them move into permanent housing.

**\$1,600 to Recovery and Hope Network** created a resource guide for people with mental illness and their advocates that would detail free and low-cost treatments, prescriptions, housing, food and transportation for Douglas County residents who are mentally ill. With this guide, it was hoped that people would be able to more quickly access the resources they need.

**\$24,950 to the Sedgwick County Health Department** provided equipment and supplies for a program serving 615 pregnant women that was designed to decrease the number of premature and low birth-weight babies born in Sedgwick County. The women who participated in this program experience a higher than average incidence of premature and low birth-weight births. Babies born

too early and too small are at higher risk for lifelong physical and cognitive problems, affecting families and communities emotionally and financially. This program provided comprehensive prenatal services, group educational sessions and a free home visitation program.

**\$5,000 to the Special Olympics Kansas Pittsburg Affiliate** supported a summer sports program for special needs children and adults. This grant helped fund the sports activities that this group hosts every year, and the group aimed to recruit new athletes in the area.

**\$20,000 to the Guadalupe Clinic** in Wichita expanded health services for the uninsured. This funding paid for physician assistants and nurses to provide health care to thousands of uninsured people in Wichita and the surrounding communities who live within 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. This program offered walk-in appointments and educational classes on common medical issues that helped patients understand how to improve their health.

**\$25,000 to Union Rescue Mission** supported a program that allows homeless men to perform community service in exchange for dental care. Decayed teeth affect overall health, self confidence and the ability to

be employed, decreasing the opportunities for these men to escape homelessness. Program participants did community service with the police department or performed yard work or other cleanup at GraceMed Dental Clinic. Each man was required to perform five hours of volunteer work for each dental appointment he needed.

### **\$16,562 to the National Kidney**

**Foundation** provided outreach and screenings for kidney disease to low-income and minority groups in Sedgwick County. Kidney disease is the ninth leading cause of death in Kansas, and poor people and minorities are especially at risk. The cost of providing care to one person on dialysis exceeds \$50,000, so this project saved health care costs and improved quality of life. Based on previous screening results, the kidney foundation anticipated that about 265 people out of the 500 screened will be identified with one or more risk factors for kidney disease. Because kidney disease is irreversible, prevention and early intervention are vital.

### **\$21,600 to Douglas County Dental**

**Clinic** expanded on-site preventive dental hygiene services to elementary school children, senior citizens and developmentally disabled adults. This project used portable dental equipment to serve at-risk people who have limited access to dental care.



## Reaching out

**An older woman from Beloit calls a hotline in Wichita to say that her husband is afraid someone will come and take away his farm if she attends the informational meeting in her town about Alzheimer's disease. Breaking through the stigmas surrounding this disease in rural Kansas is a key goal for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association. Read this story on our Web site at [www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org).**

The groups targeted by this project have 80 percent of the dental disease that goes largely undiscovered or treated until an emergency arises, creating more serious health issues and increased taxpayer expense.

**\$25,000 to Shawnee County Medical Society Foundation** supported a program that improves the oral health of low-income, uninsured Shawnee County residents. This project was needed because many people there have never been to a dentist, and that can cause periodontal disease and other health problems. Through this program, low-income people received educational materials, a toothbrush, dental floss and toothpaste. Thirty low-income uninsured

patients received emergency and follow-up dental care

**\$20,130 to First Care Clinic** provided screenings and eye glasses for medically underserved diabetic patients in Central Kansas. Many of these patients don't have the money to pay for exams, glasses or other medical necessities.

**\$22,100 to United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican-American Ministries** improved clinic patients' access to medications and provided Spanish and English translations of medication information and instructions. Access to medications will help prevent serious illness and damaging complications from chronic conditions.



Sharilyn McGee and her daughter, DeJa, are reflected in the mirror in a Lawrence Arts Center dance studio.

# Growing Creativity

## A LAWRENCE MOM AND DAUGHTER DANCE INTO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Sharilyn McGee's battle with addiction began when she was 14 years old. Alcohol was her drug of choice as a child, and at age 27, she started using crack cocaine.

She took her first hit of crack in the back seat of her cousin's car. "The first time is an amazing high, but you never get it again ever in life, and that's what makes

you keep using it," she says. "It's like a dog chasing its tail. It just got so out of control that I lost my apartment and my son was taken away from me."

McGee wanted a better life, so she decided to get help in 1993. After finishing rehab at a treatment facility, she went to live at First Step House in Lawrence, a halfway house for women recovering from substance abuse.

"I was so angry and so negative when I was there at first," she says. In the beginning, a dance therapy program sponsored by the Lawrence Arts Center did nothing to improve her bad moods. "I was a grouch," McGee says. "I was thinking, 'What does this have to do with me getting clean?' I never had structure in my life. Everything in my life was African-American and I felt that other people didn't know what my life was like. Then having some white people try to structure my life, it was like, 'Come on now, that's just too much.'"

But her dance instructor, Candi Baker, stayed patient and loving with her. Slowly, McGee realized that she actually enjoyed dancing. "I had never been exposed to it," she says. "It was a way for us to express ourselves and also to help us learn how to exercise. If I had cravings, it gave me some exercises to do to take my mind off of it. It became something that I really looked forward to. The dancing just showed me that there were people out there who really did care about us."

With support from a \$23,445 Kansas Health Foundation grant, the Lawrence Arts Center aims to incorporate art into various programs like First Step House that help 9,000 at-risk children and low-income adults lead

healthier lives. "We support and nurture the creative potential that is in all people," says Baker, who now runs the Arts Center. "We're so grateful for the support of the Kansas Health Foundation, because it helps us reach out to so many people."

In 1995, McGee's daughter, DeJa, was born. McGee ached for her little girl to have the bright future that had seemed out of her own reach for such a long time. When DeJa turned 3, McGee enrolled her in dance classes at Lawrence Arts Center. "I thought it would be good for DeJa to learn how to dance and get along with other people," McGee says. "There were a lot of things offered here."

One of McGee's favorite memories stems from 6-year-old DeJa's performance as a mouse in the holiday classic "The Nutcracker." "It was just so touching to see her," McGee says. "I got to just see that she could do whatever she would want to do."

McGee's life still wasn't easy, but it began to look up as well. She got a job and continued attending Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

Through the years, DeJa kept dancing. While she studied ballet, jazz and tap, she also enjoyed Lawrence Arts Center classes in performing arts and pottery.

"Sometimes we dance together," McGee says. "It builds your self-esteem. DeJa used to be such an



**Molly Gordon uses a parachute in her movement therapy class for developmentally disabled people at Lawrence Arts Center.**

introvert, but now she knows how to talk to people, and she's just a different person."

McGee's freedom from her addictions is hard-fought. Sept. 1 marked her 16th year of sobriety, but she still faces challenges on her journey toward staying clean. Last October, McGee's best friend relapsed after 10 years of sobriety. "This is a life thing that needs to be taken care of all the time," McGee says. "Now I'm really determined to do whatever it takes. At the treatment center, a speaker said, 'Out of all of you 100 people, only one of y'all is gonna stay clean.' I hate to say it, but I'm the only one left now."

DeJa knows her mother's past. "We have a good, open relationship," McGee says. "DeJa's like, 'I don't want to drink.' She knows if I wouldn't have been drinking and drugging, I would have had an education. It took the whole focus out of my life."

With sunlight spilling through the windows of a Lawrence Arts Center studio, a poised 13-year-old DeJa shows off some jazz moves while her mother and Baker watch with grins on their faces, coaching her every now and then. After a while, McGee steps in to take her daughter's hand, twirl her around and make her laugh. Glowing with pride, she holds DeJa close and gives her a kiss on the cheek.

"I'm really shy as a person, but when I'm on the stage or dancing, it's a great expression," DeJa says. "It feels good to express yourself. It's like an out-of-body experience."

And much to her mother's joy, DeJa shares the vision of a bright future for herself. "I want to be on Broadway one day," she says.

McGee believes that dancing helped give her a second chance at life. "The Lawrence Arts Center is a place in my heart, and it always will be for me because of the things that Candi offered us," McGee says. "She opened a big picture for us, and that was a really, really good thing."

## MOVEMENT THERAPY CLASS

Molly Gordon teaches a weekly dance class for developmentally disabled people at Lawrence Arts Center. This class, partially funded by the Kansas Health Foundation, "is not only fun for them, but sometimes the

rhythm and the music will help them focus in a way that can be hard for them," Baker says.

Gordon's students love to do the hand jive from "Grease" as well as movement exercises with a parachute, hula hoops, rhythm sticks and a mini trampoline. "Come on, Danny, we're gonna dance! Ready to spin? Whoa!" Gordon encourages one student as "Walking on Sunshine" blares through the studio's speakers. Gordon's favorite part of teaching these students is "their love and passion and joy just for life in general," she says. "They come in eager ... and that's one thing I firmly believe in is that we all have that side in us to enjoy the movement regardless of whether we call ourselves a dancer or not," Gordon says. "So it's been really rewarding and refreshing, and it's just a joy.

I always get a burst of energy just being around them."

## CITY YOUTH THEATER

Drama therapist Christie Dobson works with City Youth Theater, a Lawrence Arts Center program supported in part by the Kansas Health Foundation that helps students write and perform plays about social issues. The theater group produced "Bang, Bang, You're Dead," which is loosely based on the Columbine school shootings, and performed it for many student groups in the area. "My goal has always been art and advocacy," Dobson says. "Get brilliant teenagers and put them on a stage and let them tell it like it is. That's where you'll find some of the answers to preventing problems that kids face because kids listen to kids."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** Call the Lawrence Arts Center at (785) 843-2787  
Visit the center's Web site at [www.lawrenceartscenter.com](http://www.lawrenceartscenter.com)

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2008

**\$25,000 to the Wichita Grand Opera** provided opportunities for youth interested in vocal performance and local professionals to participate in the chorus and cast for the season's opera performances. Medical evidence shows that music releases endorphins and is an effective method to combat the effects of depression and anxiety.

**\$12,080 to Coterie Theatre in Kansas City** supported the Dramatic AIDS Education Project, an HIV/AIDS education and prevention program for Kansas teens. This program aimed to reduce the risk of teenagers contracting HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases by bringing the AIDS prevention message to schools, social service agencies,

community centers and juvenile detention centers. Research indicates that this type of program is more effective than a lecture format to educate teens about this issue.

**\$24,990 to Breakthrough Club of Sedgwick County** supported the production and performance of a therapeutic

play based on the life experiences of Breakthrough Club members. This project aimed to reduce high-risk behaviors such as suicide attempts and improve the community's knowledge about mental illness to reduce the stigma and increase acceptance of people with mental illnesses.

**\$5,266 to Kansas State Research and Extension – Kearny County** supported a weekly intergenerational after-school program at the Kearny County Senior Center for senior citizens and elementary school students in Lakin and Deerfield focusing on nutrition and physical activity. This funding helped the project pay for art project supplies and healthy foods for weekly snacks and cooking lessons.

**\$10,000 to the Kansas City Symphony** helped Support School Music, a program in the Lansing school district that takes live performances into local schools in its efforts to promote healthy lifestyles. Students who participate in band or orchestra tend to have the lowest current and lifetime rates of substance abuse. By helping to sustain the school music program, this event will allow more students to reap the benefits of studying music.

**\$3,000 to Shawnee Regional Prevention and Recovery Services** supported a theatrical presentation that depicted substance abuse, the destruction it causes and the hope and recovery that can result from 12 Step Programs. This project aimed to decrease under-

age drinking, family violence and homelessness. It addressed some key concerns of addicts as well as needs of their families, co-workers and friends whose lives are affected.

**\$20,664 to Van Go Mobile Arts supported Locally Grown JAMS (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense)**, a program that provided exposure to the arts, life skills and health/wellness education for at-risk youth ages 14 to 21. Van Go strives to improve the lives of at-risk youth through art, job training and social services. Locally Grown JAMS equips low-income teens with much-needed tools for healthier lifestyles. Seventy percent of Van Go youth live in poverty.



## Hands-on training

In a garden at Newton's Sunset Elementary School, some students peer at seeds in their teacher's hand while others water plants or smell flowers. They're as close to nature as they can get and they're learning at the same time. The Earth Partnership for Schools program, run by Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston, hopes to help kids appreciate the environment. Read this story on our Web site at [www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org).



# SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US ONLINE

We encourage anyone touched by a Recognition Grant or involved with one of the nonprofits mentioned in this report to join us in making their stories known. There's an easy way to do that.

Visit the Kansas Health Foundation Web site at [www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org), and on our home page, you'll

find a section devoted to this Recognition Grant Report. In that section, you can upload your own stories, photos and videos about what Recognition Grant recipients have done to improve life in your community. Please share these stories with us. Together, we can learn from each other how to make Kansas communities healthy places to live.

## RECOGNITION GRANT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### What are Recognition Grants?

Recognition Grants expand the Kansas Health Foundation's support to a broad range of health-related organizations throughout the state. While the majority of the Foundation's funding is initiated by the Foundation, the Recognition Grants Program is designed to fund unsolicited requests. It is specifically targeted to grassroots groups doing innovative work that fits within the Foundation's mission of improving the health of all Kansans. Recognition Grants are grants of up to \$25,000 per organization. Using a competitive process, the Foundation awards up to \$2 million annually for Recognition Grant projects. Any tax-exempt, nonprofit organization using the funds for charitable purposes and proposing a project that supports the Foundation's mission is eligible.

### What kinds of projects fit into the Foundation's mission to improve the health of all Kansans?

The Kansas Health Foundation defines health broadly, and we look at all of the aspects that health involves, including the social factors that contribute to a healthy population. The Foundation joins with the World Health Organization in defining health, believing that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

### If I did not receive a Recognition Grant during the most recent funding cycle, can I reapply?

Yes. Keep in mind that this is a competitive process, and each cycle offers a new opportunity to apply.

## If I did receive a Recognition Grant during the spring cycle, can I apply in the fall cycle as well?

No. You can only be a recipient of a Recognition Grant once within the calendar year.

## When can we apply for Recognition Grants?

Application deadlines are March 15 and Sept. 15 each year. Completed applications must be received by 5 p.m. on the due date.

## Who decides which Recognition Grant applications receive funding?

An independent review committee made up of Kansans from all walks of life who live in different areas of the state evaluates all grant applications received in each cycle.

## What is the selection criteria?

Committee members weigh the following factors:

- Focus on prevention (To what degree does the initiative prevent high-risk health behaviors?)
- Meeting a clear, identifiable need
- Creative approach
- Operational strength of the applicant organization, including project leadership
- Ranking when compared with other applications received during the funding cycle

## What kinds of projects don't qualify?

- Medical research
- Contributions to capital campaigns
- Operating deficits or retirement of debt
- Endowment programs not initiated by the Foundation
- Political advocacy of any kind
- Vehicles, such as vans or buses
- Emergency medical equipment
- Construction projects or real estate acquisitions
- Direct mental health services
- Direct medical services

## Could you please explain why our application did not receive a Recognition Grant?

Unfortunately, we do not provide reasons why applications are approved or denied. Lots of excellent projects apply for Recognition Grants each year, and the Kansas Health Foundation cannot possibly fund them all. An organization that didn't receive a grant in the spring might get one in the fall or the next year if it reapplies.



### **Does the Kansas Health Foundation have a new application process?**

Yes. We have a new online application form. Please do not submit previous versions of our Recognition Grant applications. The new online form streamlines the application process and offers advantages such as immediate e-mail notification that your application has been received. For more information about our application process, go to our Web site at

[www.kansashealth.org](http://www.kansashealth.org) and click on the Recognition Grants section of our home page.

### **Where can we get more information?**

Go to the FAQs page in the Recognition Grants section on our Web site. If you have further questions not answered on that FAQs page, please call us at (316) 262-7676 or (800) 373-7681.



**Kansas Health Foundation**

Dedicated to Improving the Health of all Kansans

309 East Douglas, • Wichita, KS 67202-3405

316-262-7676 • 800-373-7681 • [kansashealth.org](http://kansashealth.org)

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