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kacf@kearneyfoundation.org

Upcoming Deadlines

UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1
The Kearney Area Community Foundation manages 69 scholarship funds that award more than 100 scholarships. With scholarships available to those enrolled in a technical college, community college and/or university, there's sure to be a scholarship fit for you! Please visit www.kearneyfoundation.org/scholarships to view local scholarships.

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW (BFT) GRANTS DUE FEBRUARY 1
The BFT grant typically funds projects or programs in the Kearney area and surrounding communities. Grants are made to nonprofit, federally tax-exempt 501(c)(3) qualified organizations, or organizations delivering a project or program which have a fiscal relationship with a qualified charity.

Applications are accepted on a biannual basis with the deadlines of **February 1 and August 1**. Organizations are encouraged to read the grant guidelines by visiting www.kearneyfoundation.org/building-for-tomorrow to determine if their organization qualifies.
If you have any questions, please call (308) 237-3114 or email the Kearney Area Community Foundation at kacf@kearneyfoundation.org.

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

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

2025-2026

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Shattering a Giving Record

Donors and Nonprofits Add to the Community's Recipe for Success

The Kearney area community has come together in an amazing way to show their support for local nonprofits. Every year since 2013, donors have proven their generosity during Give Where You Live (GWYL) and 2025 was no different. For our 13th annual 24-hour giving day, not only did donors help us reach our goal of raising \$2 million for the first time, they went above and beyond as donors raised a RECORD-BREAKING **\$2,364,072**. Thank you, Kearney area donors, for "giving where you live"– this community is amazing! On behalf of the participating local nonprofits, we thank you for your generosity.

What Impact Has Give Where You Live Had?

- Since Give Where You Live was launched in 2013, together we have raised more than \$15,869,469 for our community!
- This year, we had a record-breaking 207 local nonprofits participate!
- We had 7,892 unique donors. In addition to local donors, there were also donors from out of the state who all came together to support the community in 2025! Together we make a difference!

Thirteen Years of Giving



"connecting people who care
with causes that matter"

Enriching Local Nonprofits

through project and program support

Fall Grantees

Arthur E. Klinkacek left a large impact on the community in the form of a \$2 million gift to the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) from his estate. In honor of his wishes to help locally, the Foundation created the Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment Fund, for community preservation and enrichment purposes. Since its inception, **more than \$814,000** has been granted to local causes.



This fall, 11 nonprofit organizations were awarded a total of \$84,000 in grants.

- **America 250 Buffalo County Celebration** received \$5,000 to help pay for an eagle sculpture.
- **Buffalo County Historical Society** was awarded \$2,000 to support special projects for America's 250th birthday.
- **City of Ravenna** received \$10,000 to help build a pickleball court.
- **Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska** was awarded \$10,000 to help build a new Early Head Start childcare facility.
- **Economic Development Council of Buffalo County** received \$5,000 for the Build Kearney project, which will engage the community and implement strategies to address affordable housing.
- **The Friends Program of Kearney** received \$10,000 to support a mental health initiative within their program.
- **Gibbon Public Schools** was awarded \$4,500 to help build a new ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant playground for their elementary school.
- **HelpCare Clinic** received \$7,500 to upgrade outdated technology and patient record systems.
- **Holdrege Area Early Childhood Partnership** was awarded \$2,500 to expand their program to offer extended care hours to increase access to childcare in and around the community.
- **Kearney Community Sustainable Housing** received \$20,000 to support the construction of a 6-plex unit to help with transitional housing.
- **Kearney Public Schools Foundation** received \$7,500 for the Emerson Elementary School Full STEAM Ahead project to enrich students' education.

To learn more about the Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment grant, go to kearneyfoundation.org/klinkacek. The next grant deadline for local nonprofits is April 15.

A Season of Celebrating Milestones

Last year, the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) celebrated 30 years of impacting this community. What began as a bold vision to promote local generosity has grown into a trusted institution - connecting donors to causes they care about and helping our community respond, grow and thrive through changing times. For three decades, your Foundation has been shaped by generous donors, thoughtful board leadership and dedicated partners who believe deeply in the power of giving close to home.



Judi Sickler
KACF
President/CEO

This month, I am also celebrating a personal milestone - 25 years with KACF. When I started, the Foundation was five years old. We had three months of operating reserves, two staff members and \$5 million in assets. When we made deposits at the bank, we asked for the paper clips back. Those early days required creativity, grit and a lot of belief in what this organization could become.



This season has brought a few meaningful milestones - some organizational, and one personal that came with a few more candles on the cake (gulp)! I've had the privilege of witnessing - and helping advance - remarkable growth and community impact. From new funds and community initiative to moments when our community stepped up in extraordinary ways, the Foundation has continued to evolve while staying grounded in its mission and values.

Together, these milestones are not just about the passage of time; they are about trust, relationships and a shared belief in what's possible when a community comes together. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has been part of this journey and excited for what the next chapter holds as we continue building a strong Foundation for generations to come.

There's still work to be done!

Celebrating Stakeholders

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

— Winston Churchill

Thanks For Your Support

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

Thank you to our 2025 Stakeholders!*

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



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

*January 1 - December 31, 2025. We sincerely apologize if your name doesn't appear on this list and should. We have many donors that ask to remain anonymous, but if you would like your name listed, please contact our office so we can indicate your wishes in our records.