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IMPORTANT GRANT DEADLINES



August 1

The Building for Tomorrow grant applications are due **August 1**.



September 30

The Ted Baldwin Donor Advised fund grant applications are due **September 30**.



November 1

The Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment fund grant application is due **November 1**. (Please allow time to complete the pre-application by October 15)

Please review the grant guidelines to make sure your organization qualifies to be considered for a grant. Visit www.kearneyfoundation.org/grants to view guidelines, apply and find more information.



“connecting people who care with causes that matter”

Investing in the Future

How one change will make a big difference.

Big things are in store for the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF)! Thanks to your support, we’ve been able to grow tremendously in our 27 years; and with growth, comes change. Starting in late July, KACF is switching to new software that will help us have an even bigger impact on the community.

We’ve been using our current system for a long time, but with our continued growth, we’ve decided to invest in technology that will help us grow even more. Our new software, Foundant, is used by 80% of community foundations in the United States. It’s proven to be a great resource for foundations serving Central Nebraska, too.

Foundant gives KACF the ability to combine our current software systems into one platform, making it easier for staff to get tasks done, because it cuts out the need to constantly switch and move information between programs.

“We were drawn to an all-in-one system. We were using spreadsheets, a separate scholarship/grants platform, financial software and PayPal for online donations. Now, all of these features are integrated into one system that has greater accessibility.”

—Angie Vlasin
Accounting Manager

Foundant also brings some new features, which makes things easier not only for the Foundation, but for those we serve.

“With this new software, we’ll have what’s called a ‘universal application’ for scholarships. That means students won’t have to fill out a separate application for each scholarship the Foundation offers. Applying for scholarships can be a daunting task. This will simplify the process by automatically identifying eligible scholarships.”

—Laurel McKellips
Program Manager

Because of this new software, it might look a little different next time you go online to donate. Once you click the donate button on the top right of our home screen, you’ll be taken to our donation portal. From there, you’ll be able to choose which fund (or multiple funds) you wish to donate to.

KACF is very excited about this transition, and the opportunities it provides. The world is constantly changing, and investing in new technology is a great way for the Foundation to keep up with those changes. Being able to adapt gives us the ability to continue to help those in the area in the best way we can.

“Investing in this new technology is a big step for the Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have been fortunate to grow immensely. This kind of change allows us to be an even better steward of the resources we have been given and deliver better value to the community.”

—Jonathan Nikkila
Board Chair

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

2022-2023 BOARD AND STAFF

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Local Scholarships

Impacting area students and tomorrow's leaders

Their Pursuit of Higher Education

Local scholarships are the building blocks for future generations, providing the financial assistance for local students to fulfill their dreams of higher education.

Christian Bly received the Shelton "Paying It Forward" Scholarship. This is a new scholarship that's given to a Shelton student pursuing a degree in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) related field. Bly applied for this scholarship after hearing about it from his guidance counselor. He plans to attend Southeast Community College in Milford and will be majoring in Automotive Technology. Bly hopes to one day own his own business in the mechanics field. "I want to be known as an honest and reliable mechanic and use my abilities to help others," Bly says. "I am extremely grateful to receive the "Paying It Forward" Scholarship. This is life-changing for me as it allows me to follow my dreams in the automotive industry and frees me from the financial burdens of excessive student loans."

Emma Bonsall received the Lynn Rosenlof Hoelting Memorial Scholarship. Bonsall will be attending the University of Nebraska at Kearney in the fall. She will be competing on UNK's cross country and track teams. Bonsall plans to study Communications and Spanish, with plans to enter the field of Ministry after college. "I am truly honored to have received this scholarship," said Bonsall. "[Lynn Rosenlof Hoelting] is truly an example and role model for me in just about everything I do! I love being involved and doing everything to the best of my ability just like she did, and I also strive to show to the world of athletics that girls are just as capable as guys are, which she also depicted greatly when she was the first girl to play baseball. She truly remains an inspiration in the field of women's athletics, and has truly inspired me!"

Trevor Kirchhoff received the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Mark Benjamin Building Opportunity Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a high school/GED graduate of Buffalo County or Kearney County who is going into the construction field. "My 6 year plan is that I will own my own company," Kirchhoff says. "I wanted to come out of school with no debt and this scholarship will help me with that." He plans to go to Northeast Community College in Norfolk, where he will major in Electrical Construction and Control.

McKinley Ritner received the Fort Kearny Conference Future Educators Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior in the Ft. Kearny Conference who is pursuing a degree in education. "I was drawn to apply [for the scholarship] because I want to become a teacher and I've been very active in [Fort Kearny Conference] activities," Ritner says. "Getting this scholarship means a lot to me, because it provides some financial relief for me and my family." Ritner will be attending the University of Nebraska at Kearney in the fall and majoring in Early Childhood Education. After college she hopes to move back to the Wilcox area and get a job at a local school.

Endowed scholarship funds are an excellent way to leave a legacy for future generations to achieve their dreams. Give us a call at (308) 237-3114 if this is something in your charitable intentions.



Christian Bly
Southeast Community
College-Milford



Emma Bonsall
University of Nebraska
at Kearney



Trevor Kirchhoff
Northeast Community
College



McKinley Ritner
University of Nebraska
at Kearney

Inspiring Leadership

Making a difference for area nonprofits

Inspiring Local Leaders



A new program in the Kearney area is giving a boost to leaders of local nonprofits. LEAN IN (Leadership Enrichment for Area Nonprofits) started as a partnership between the Kearney Area Community Foundation and Elijah Landell, a leadership coach with Rising Tide Leadership Development.

"The purpose of us partnering was to equip local non-profit leaders with principles and tools to be more productive and efficient in their organizations," Landell says.

LEAN IN's first class recently finished their sessions. Landell says that the group was very open with each other.

"They recognized that all non-profits, no matter their purpose, have similar struggles," Landell explains. "This led to open discussions that helped the group bond and problem solve together."

Some of the key topics discussed in the course include:

- Growing from communication to connection
- Prioritizing
- Utilizing and growing each organization's influence
- Modeling attitudes and actions wanted in each organization
- Investing time, instead of just spending time with team members

"The result was a group of leaders who grew personally and in leadership and were able to quickly apply these principles," Landell says. "They were able to see the benefits of becoming stronger leaders in their personal efficiency, productivity within their teams, and the ability to find a harmony throughout the day between work and personal life."

The program will be inviting a new "class" of nonprofit leaders to participate in 2022-2023. If you are interested in learning more, or know a local nonprofit leader that would benefit from the training, please contact Judi at 308-237-3114 or judi@kearneyfoundation.org.

A Lasting Legacy

Having a charitable family endowment

Why Create a Family Endowment with KACF?

My family and I have received far more blessings than we could have ever imagined. This year my wife, Sara, and I are changing our philanthropic efforts. We are beginning the process of creating a charitable family endowment at the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF). We are transitioning our family giving from individual donations to an endowment for three reasons:



Nathan Bruner
KACF Board Member,
Attorney at
Bruner Frank L.L.C.

First, a charitable endowment allows giving to be flexible so that services to our community can be sustained far into the future. It was our desire to create a charitable fund that would last long past our lives. Further, the endowment will allow our favorite charities and causes to benefit in the years when we will not be around.

Second, an endowed donor advised fund will require our children to have civic responsibility and philanthropy built into them. Sara and I considered having our charitable fund be anonymous. However, we realized that being anonymous would let our children off the hook. KACF holding a family endowment, strongly encourages the naming of successors to help manage the endowment. We thought it was important to use the endowed charitable fund vehicle to teach our children to be community stewards.

Third, the endowment allows us to have incremental impact with the fund. We are able to start the fund, and with the help of KACF, the fund will be invested and grow with investment returns.



At KACF, endowments begin at donations of \$10,000. It is my challenge to our community to strongly consider starting an endowment at the Kearney Area Community Foundation to perpetuate your philanthropic dreams. In the alternative, grab some friends or family that have the same charitable interests, combine resources, and get started on your collective endowment journey.

No matter how you wish to donate, please keep the spirit of charitable giving alive in the Kearney Area. Our community's blessings are deep and wide; no doubt a result of the hard work and dedication of all stakeholders. The Kearney Area Community Foundation is here to facilitate all of your charitable goals!



Congratulations!

2022

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship awards five scholarships to Buffalo County students with financial need.

Recipients: Shyanne Beer, Nylin Bowers, Kadin Hines, Aleah Onate and Carlos Tamayo Diaz

Asher Family Scholarship awards three scholarships to seniors of Ravenna High School.

Recipients: Treydan Anderson, Hayden Hauge and Rowan Havranek

Aubree Joy Hubbard Memorial

Scholarship awards two scholarships to seniors of Elm Creek High School.

Recipients: Nathan Gillming and Chloe Harms

Betty Zwiener Rodehorst Memorial

Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School.

Recipient: Marinna Zwiener

Blanche Thompson Memorial Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School, who will be a first-year college student.

Recipient: Dillion Christiansen

Carol Cope Alpha Xi Delta Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a UNK student who is a member of Alpha Xi Delta National Women's Fraternity.

Recipient: Kati Harmon

C.D. Orr and Emily Orr Scholarship

awards a four-year scholarship to a Garden County High School senior.

Recipient: Mallory Zorn

Charles and Jeanette Mumma Scholarship

awards three scholarships to seniors active in the Buffalo County 4-H program.

Recipients: Joshua Bogus, Reese Jones and Noah Summers

Charles and Verna Lee Falk Scholarship

awards two scholarships to seniors of Wilcox-Hildreth High School, with a preference to those pursuing degrees in healthcare or agriculture.

Recipients: Logan Knaus and McKinley Ritner

City of Oshkosh Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a Garden County High School Senior.

Recipient: Mallory Zorn

C.J. Williams and Lena A. Williams

Scholarship awards a scholarship to a Garden County High School senior.

Recipient: Josie Marquez

Class of 1948 Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School, enrolled full-time in a Nebraska college, university or technical school.

Recipient: Shyanne Beer

Colene Pfeiffer Memorial Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School with preference given to those majoring in education.

Recipient: Tierney Bruns

Don Newth Memorial Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School, who will be a first-year college student.

Recipient: Nick Alworth

Donald Kaup Memorial Knights of Columbus Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior residing in Holt or Rock County.

Recipient: Ryan Steinhauer

Dr. A.A. Jaeke Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Shelton High School who is enrolled full-time with preference to those pursuing a degree in the medical field.

Recipient: Samantha Snyder

Dwight and Lois Gangwish Scholarship

awards scholarships to current, and past graduates of Shelton High School.

Recipients: Angel Lehn, Taylor Lewis, Breanna Plihal and Samantha Snyder

Ella Johnson Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a current, graduating senior of Ravenna High School pursuing a degree in a 2-year or 4-year program.

Recipient: Rowan Havranek

Elm Creek Public School Foundation

Clara Marshall Scholarship awards five scholarships to seniors of Elm Creek High School.

Recipients: Kylee Bober, Chloe Harms, Avery Sindt, Brady Spotanski and Gabriele Trampe

Elm Creek School Foundation

Scholarship awards five scholarships to seniors of Elm Creek High School.

Recipients: Kylee Bober, Nathan Gillming, Chloe Harms, Brady Spotanski and Gabriele Trampe

Faye Wendt Memorial Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School with preference to those who attend UNK, majoring in education.

Recipient: Taryn Flood

Ferol G. Carney and Patricia A. Carney

Memorial Scholarship awards a multi-year scholarship to a senior of Garden County.

Recipient: Trey Kirch

Today, the Kearney Area Community Foundation manages **61 scholarship funds**. We have awarded **114 scholarships** equaling more than **\$256,404 in 2022** to local students enrolled in a technical college, community college and/or university. This year, we worked with **79 scholarship recipients**.



A majority of scholarships are awarded to those with financial need



95% of scholarships were awarded to students pursuing higher education in Nebraska



14% of scholarships are awarded to those with majors in agriculture or medical fields



9 out of 64 scholarships are available to nontraditional Nebraska students

Want to apply? Visit

www.kearneyfoundation.org/scholarships
(Keep checking back as applications begin to reopen for the 2023 season)

Ft. Kearny Conference Future Educator Scholarship awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from a Ft. Kearny Conference high school pursuing a degree in education from UNK.

Recipient: McKinley Ritner

Garden County High School Alumni

Scholarship awards two scholarships to seniors of Garden County High School.

Recipients: Nick Alworth and Mallory Zorn

Holy Cross Lutheran Mitchell Scholarship provides financial assistance to Holy Cross Lutheran church members.

Recipients: Morgan Boldt, Steven Boldt, Matthew Dahlke, Meghan Dahlke, Sadie Fiddelke, William Fiddelke, Jordyn Kohtz, Lauren Kohtz, Ryan Koski, McKenna Ortgiesen and Quinten Shaffer

Jane S. and Franklin V. Bernhard

Scholarship awards a scholarship to a Shelton High School senior.

Recipient: Christian Bly

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

Ag Committee Scholarship awards two scholarships to graduating high school students from a Buffalo or Kearney County high school pursuing a degree in agriculture.

Recipients: Chase Oscar Johnson and Kobe Martenson

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

Bruce Blankenship Leadership in Business Scholarship awards a scholarship to a student pursuing a degree in the field of business.

Recipient: Konner Hyde

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

Friends of Law Enforcement Scholarship awards a scholarship to a student from Buffalo County pursuing a degree in law enforcement or a similar field.

Recipient: Ayden Moore

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

Mark Benjamin Building Opportunity Scholarship awards a scholarship to a student in Buffalo or Kearney County pursuing a degree in the construction trades field of study.

Recipient: Trevor Kirchhoff

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

Student Leader Scholarship awards two scholarships to seniors from a Buffalo County high school who are enrolled full-time at CCC or UNK.

Recipients: Keania Brumfield (CCC) and Dreidyn Cabanting (UNK)

Kenneth L. Erickson FFA Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a Ravenna High School senior involved in FFA.

Recipient: Hayden Hauge

Kurt Keaschall Memorial Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton and Ravenna High School with preference given to those attending a two-year technical school.

Recipients: Kobe Martenson (Pleasanton) and Rowan Havranek (Ravenna)

Lance Corporal Kyle Codner Memorial

Scholarship awards two scholarships to seniors of Shelton High School with financial need.

Recipients: Christian Bly and Samantha Snyder

LeRoy and Joyce Hongsermeier

Scholarship awards a scholarship to a Ravenna High School senior pursuing a degree in an agriculture related field.

Recipient: Morgan Schroll

Lynn Rosenlof Hoelting Memorial

Scholarship awards a scholarship to an outstanding female athlete, student and leader of Kearney High School through a nomination process.

Recipient: Emma Bonsall

Mary E. Hehnke Educational Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a female senior of Garden County pursuing a degree in education.

Recipient: Kamry Kramer

McKenna's Rae of Hope Character

Scholarship is a character-based scholarship where candidates are identified through a nomination process.

Recipients: Nylin Bowers, Delaney Ham, Maylee Kamery and Isabelle Rich

McKenna's Rae of Hope Mental Health

Field Scholarship awards a scholarship to a high school senior, college student, or graduate in a mental health program.

Recipient: Delaney Ham

Oren and Joyce Vogt Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School with financial need.

Recipient: Hunter Douglas

Path to Success Scholarship awards a scholarship to seniors of Buffalo County with financial need studying trades.

Recipient: Nylin Bowers

Patricia Trubl Scholarship awards a scholarship to current and past graduates of Shelton High School.

Recipient: Christian Bly

Pauline Fulton Memorial Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a graduate of a Nebraska high school who has been accepted into the nursing program at UNMC - Kearney division.

Recipient: Kaylee Rhoades

Pleasanton Career Builders Scholarship

awards scholarships to seniors of Pleasanton High School who have participated in community activities.

Recipients: Carter Klein, Chase Pawloski, Payden Tracy and Madeline Verzal

Pleasanton Career Builders Scholarship

in honor of Bob Bednar awards a scholarship to a Pleasanton High School senior.

Recipient: Chelsea Fisher

Pleasanton High School Alumni

Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School with financial need.

Recipient: Marinna Zwiener

Ravenna Public School Foundation

Scholarship awards two scholarships to current, graduating seniors of Ravenna High School who are enrolled full-time in a Nebraska college or technical school.

Recipients: Taylor Larsen and Alivia Rager

Richard Dunn Memorial Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School.

Recipient: Kaylee Leach

Robin and Judy Marshall Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Elm Creek High School with financial need.

Recipient: Kylee Bober

Ronald and Jaquelyn Kegley 4-H

Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior graduating in Buffalo County and involved in 4-H activities.

Recipient: Jaylea Pope

Roy and Doris Abood Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a first-generation college student enrolled at UNK.

Recipient: Brenda Rodriguez

Shawn Reiber Memorial Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a current, graduating senior in Buffalo County.

Recipient: Aleah Onate

Shelton FFA Boosters Scholarship

awards scholarships to seniors of Shelton High School who participated in FFA (Future Farmers of America).

Recipients: Kellen Gegg, Madison Krehmeyer, Taylor Lewis, Jaylea Pope, Brianna Simmons and Noah Summers

Shelton "Paying it Forward" Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a Shelton High School Senior with preference given to those pursuing a degree in STEM subjects.

Recipient: Christian Bly

S.T.A.N.D Scholarship (Shelton Teens

Against Negative Decisions) awards scholarships to current, graduating seniors of Shelton High School.

Recipients: Breanna Plihal and Samantha Snyder

Ted Headley Ag Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Shelton High School pursuing a degree in agriculture.

Recipient: Noah Summers

Troy and Kay Bauer Scholarship

awards a scholarship to an Amherst High School senior who plans to major in the agricultural or medical field.

Recipient: Tenley Hadwiger

Vanity Fare Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Paxton Consolidated Schools.

Recipient: Josie Callihan

Vernon and Beverly Reinertson

Scholarship awards scholarships to seniors of Ravenna High School pursuing a degree in a 2-year or 4-year program.

Recipients: William Fiddelke and Hayden Hauge

Violet Wadzinski Memorial Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School with financial need.

Recipient: Hayden Hauge

Youth Leadership Kearney Scholarship

awards scholarships for high school seniors who graduated from the Youth Leadership Kearney program and are attending college in Nebraska.

Recipients: Sydney Haffener, Reagan Lowe, Payton Schirmer and Garret Schmaderer