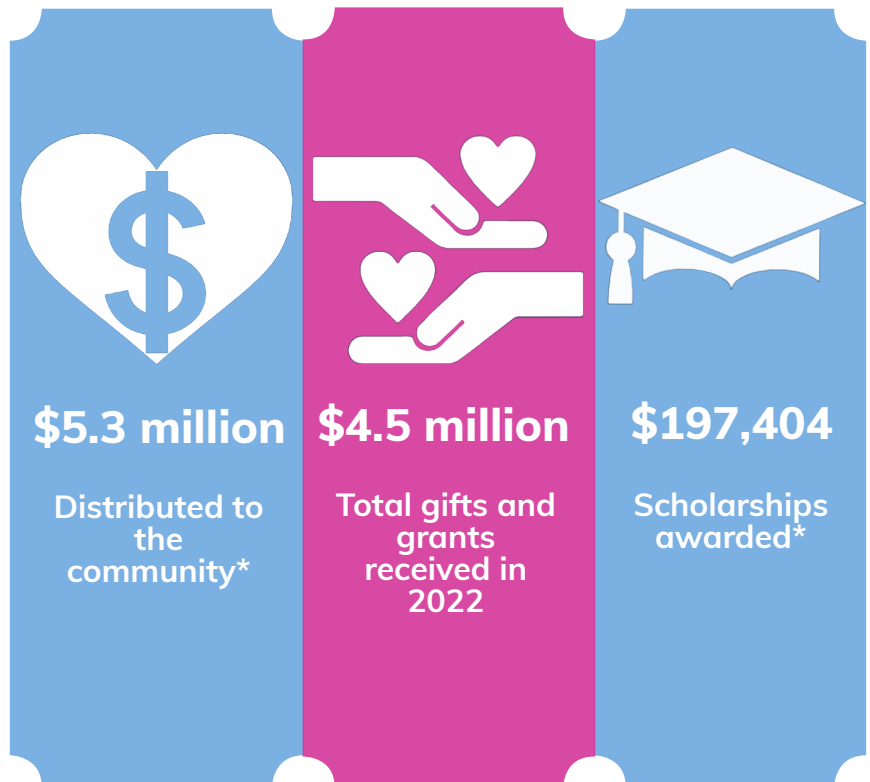


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www.kearneyfoundation.org | (308) 237-3114

2022 Impact



*Includes allocations for future distribution.

**2023-2024
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“connecting people who care with causes that matter”

**Granting Smiles:
Making a Difference**

A New Fund Aims to Help Area Veterans

A new fund at the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) is helping local veterans with a challenge that some people may not think of. The Smiles for Vets Fund aims to help veterans in the area pay for much-needed dental work.

The fund was created from the estate of Carla Middleswart, a local woman who wanted to leave behind a legacy of helping veterans. “Carla’s wishes were that after all bills and beneficiaries had been paid, the rest of her estate was to go for the benefit of veterans,” says Jean Widdowson, Middleswart’s sister and executor of her estate.

The inspiration for the fund comes from experiences in Middleswart’s life. Middleswart and Widdowson’s father was a Korean War veteran and he paid for Middleswart to have some much-needed dental work done at a time she could not afford it. “When her life ended too soon, it made sense to me that her estate might do the same for her veteran friends,” Widdowson says. “With the help and input of Carla’s dentist, Smiles for Vets became a reality.”

After receiving an application, a committee will review it to see if it meets the selection criteria, then decide how much assistance they are able to give to each applicant. The dental office is able to bill the fund at KACF directly, making things as smooth as possible for the veteran receiving the grant.



“This is one way some of our finest heroes can receive needed dental care that might otherwise have been out of reach,” says Widdowson. Since the fund’s creation, several area veterans have already received grants, with one recipient expressing their gratitude, saying, “I appreciate your help to veterans, such as myself, very much.”

The fund is making a difference, not only for area veterans, but for the legacy of one local woman. “Carla tried never to miss an opportunity to thank a veteran for their service,” Widdowson says, “Veterans were her great love and she appreciated their service to our country.”

Local veterans who need help paying for dental work can fill out an application for assistance. Many local veterans’ organizations have the application, but it is also available at the KACF office. To get the application or to find out more information, contact KACF by emailing andi@kearneyfoundation.org or calling (308) 237-3114.

Enriching Local Nonprofits

through project and program support



Building for Tomorrow bi-annual grants

Keeping Your Money Safe

Avoiding Identity Theft

Steps to Protect Your Information

In today's world, it is important to take steps to protect your personal and financial information. Here are some steps you can take to prevent identity theft.

- Never share your personal or account information over the phone, through the mail or on social media unless you initiated the call and have a trusted relationship with requestor.
- Shred receipts, financial documents, account statements and other important documents after you no longer need them.
- Check your credit report regularly and report any discrepancies.
- Do not fall victim to a scam. If someone is trying to pressure you into immediate action, hang up and call a trusted person to talk the situation over. You can also call your local bank or police station to report the scam.



Carol Pelster
KACF Board Member,
Vice President/
Branch Manager at
NebraskaLand Bank



In addition to monitoring your personal and financial information, you also need to be aware of fake nonprofit organizations. You want your donation to count so here are five things to do before donating to a charity.

- Search online for the cause you care about and include phrases like "best charity" or "highly rated charity". Also, search for the charity name and include words like "compliant", "rating" or "scam".
- Check out the charity's website. Does it give details about the programs you want to support or how it uses donations?
- Find out if the fundraiser and charity are registered. Each state should have a charity regulator.
- Check if the donation will be tax deductible. Confirm the organization has registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt organization. This information can be found on the IRS website.
- Use one of the following organizations to help you research the charity.
 1. BBB Wise Giving Alliance
 2. Charity Navigator
 3. CharityWatch
 4. Guidestar.org

Lastly, check with your local Kearney Area Community Foundation staff. They will be happy to help you determine whether the charity is legitimate or not and help you find a charity you are passionate about to donate to!

Spring 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 the community, the Foundation created the Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment Fund, for community preservation and enrichment purposes. An endowed scholarship was also established to help local students entering college.

This spring, four nonprofit organizations were awarded a total of \$20,000 in grants.

- **Buffalo County Community Partners** received \$8,000 to help fund training for Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Spanish speaking individuals. The training is designed to help people experiencing a mental health challenge or is in crisis.
- **Buffalo County Historical Society/Trails & Rails Museum** was granted \$5,000 to help fund the event the society is holding for Kearney's Sesquicentennial (150th) celebration.
- **Kearney Rescue Cats** was awarded \$2,000 to help fund their efforts to assist mobile home neighborhoods in Kearney that are dealing with a large number of feral cats. The cats will be trapped, neutered, vaccinated and returned to their original location.
- **Two Rivers Public Health Department** received \$5,000 to help fund their LifeSmiles Dental Program, which provides preventative dental screenings, education and other resources to families with children in preschools, Head Start schools and WIC clinics.

If you are interested in setting up an endowment to fund your charitable wishes, contact our President/CEO Judi Sickler at the KACF office at (308) 237-3114.

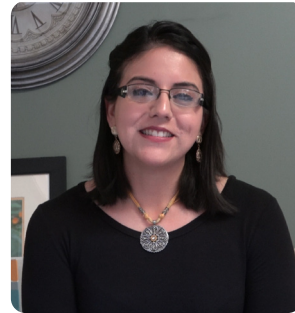
Want to learn about past grant recipients?
Scan the QR code to see videos about each of them!



Interested in a grant from the Kearney Area Community Foundation?

The Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment Fund's grant cycle is triannual with deadlines of March 1, July 1 and November 1. To view guidelines, pre-apply or find more information, please visit www.kearneyfoundation.org/klinkacek.

Building for Tomorrow applications are accepted on a bi-annual basis, with the next deadline on August 1. To view guidelines or apply, please visit www.kearneyfoundation.org/building-for-tomorrow.



Martha Marfileno
Bilingual Central Navigator
& Wellness Coordinator
Buffalo County Community Partners



Broc Anderson
Community Engagement Director
Buffalo County Historical Society/
Trails & Rails Museum



Sue Pedersen
Trapper
Kearney Rescue Cats



Von Lutz
Clinical Section Manager
Two Rivers Public Health Department

Recent Grantees

KACF's "Building for Tomorrow" Fund recently awarded \$35,300 in grants to 14 local nonprofits. These organizations are using their grants to impact people living in and around Kearney.

- **Amherst Public Schools** received \$2,500 to help build a Kindergarten through 3rd grade playground.
- **Buffalo County Community Partners** was granted \$1,500 to purchase medication safety lockboxes to help prevent overdoses.
- **The Buffalo County Historical Society/Trails & Rails Museum** was awarded \$2,890 to provide online tools for the public to access Buffalo County records and images from anywhere.
- **Crane River Theater** received \$3,000 to buy audio and video equipment to enhance their productions and marketing.
- **Double R Horse Rescue** was granted \$1,000 to purchase hay to feed the rescued horses under their care.
- **The Friends Program of Kearney** was awarded \$4,000 to go toward their mentorship program, providing access to local activities and events for their participants.
- **K-9 Freekz** received \$750 to purchase kennels for their local fosters.
- **Kearney/Buffalo County CASA** was granted \$2,900 to help provide background checks for their volunteers.
- **Kearney Community Sustainable Housing** was awarded \$5,000 to help with organizational startup costs. They plan to establish up to 72 transitional housing units.
- **The Kearney Housing Development Corporation** received \$5,660 to go toward their Meals on Wheels program to reach those with nutritional needs.
- **Kearney Noon Rotary Dolly Parton Imagination Library** was granted \$3,000 to help provide books for more children (birth-age 5) in Kearney.
- **Kearney Rescue Cats** was awarded \$2,000 to help address the feral cat population in south-central Kearney through a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) system.
- **The Kearney Symphony Orchestra** received \$300 to help cover participation fees for local students involved in Concerto Day.
- **United Way of the Kearney Area** was granted \$800 to purchase a computer and accounting software.