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[www.kearneyfoundation.org](http://www.kearneyfoundation.org) | (308) 237-3114 | [kacf@kearneyfoundation.org](mailto:kacf@kearneyfoundation.org)

#### "Building for Tomorrow" Applications Now Online

The Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) "Building for Tomorrow" (BFT) fund is transitioning from paper grant applications to an online system called Kaleidoscope. This new software was purchased thanks to donations made through the Foundation's Edison Society.

Before Kaleidoscope, hardcopy grant applications were dropped off at the Foundation office. Now, the Foundation can go even greener and continue to social distance, while also making it easier for nonprofit organizations in our community to apply for grants.

"Since Kaleidoscope worked so smoothly for our 2019 scholarships, we wanted to see if it could do the same thing with our BFT grant applications," said Laurel McKellips, Program Manager at KACF. "Not only does Kaleidoscope simplify the process, it also allows applicants to save and continue their grant application whenever and where ever."

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 approaching deadline of **August 1**. Organizations are encouraged to read the grants guidelines by visiting [www.kearneyfoundation.org/building-for-tomorrow](http://www.kearneyfoundation.org/building-for-tomorrow) to determine if their organization qualifies. The next BFT grant cycle is **February 1, 2021**.

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



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"connecting people who care with causes that matter"

## Give Kearney Now

#### Grassroots Effort to Support Local Nonprofits Affected by COVID-19

Powered by the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF), Give Kearney Now is an online donation platform to help raise funds for local nonprofits who are working on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as those affected due to loss of revenue or an increase in expenses.

As of June 1, donors can support local nonprofits by visiting [www.givekearneynow.org](http://www.givekearneynow.org) and donating directly to their favorite charities online. There, donors can view the **44 local nonprofits** participating in Give Kearney Now. Each participating nonprofit is listed with a link to their organization's website and donation page.

These local nonprofits are providing food, rent assistance, utility assistance, medicine, mental health, childcare (and so much more) for people living and/or working in the Kearney area suffering financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Our local nonprofits are assisting those most vulnerable during these unprecedented times.

For instance, the Kearney area's local Salvation Army has been working on the front lines during COVID-19, providing for those affected in our community.

"We have long helped people in need with rental and utility assistance, as well as providing staples through our food pantry. But with the COVID-19 crisis, those needs have and are increasing. We have eliminated all pantry restrictions, currently allowing unlimited access and have also increased the number of households that we are able to help with rental and utility assistance," said Lisa Lieth, Case Manager at the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army anticipates an even greater need ahead as freezes on evictions and shut-off notices expire and unemployment benefits begin to be exhausted.

"We feel blessed to be able to funnel the generosity of many to those who most desperately need it in our community," said Leith.

But, the Salvation Army is not alone in its efforts to support others in the Kearney area during COVID-19. BraveHearts Equine Assisted Psychotherapy & Learning is focused on our youth during these trying times.

"With all that 2020 has brought to us, or perhaps taken away from us, our children and youth have taken a direct hit," said Nancy Lyon, co-founder of BraveHearts.

Loss of school, loss of social interactions and feeling lost in uncertainly are what youth are experiencing. Many parents have told Lyon that they have seen a regression in their child's behavior and academic skills throughout this pandemic.

"But help is just a corral away!" said Lyon. "Horses have a unique way of building those confidence skills, developing healthy coping skills and most of all, just letting them be kids. Your donation will provide scholarships for our summer and fall programs and your future caretakers will thank you."

Give Kearney Now allows donors to donate directly to local nonprofits such as these. Please consider supporting our local, hardworking organizations today. Your support helps our neighbors in need during these unprecedented times.

Give Kearney Now is a community campaign which gives donors a simple, safe and unified way to learn more about local nonprofits and to support them financially now, when it is needed most.

Visit [www.givekearneynow.org](http://www.givekearneynow.org) to donate and learn more about how these nonprofits are working hard in our community.



# A Look at the Foundation's Impact

## THRU PAST BOARD CHAIR EYES



In our 25 years, the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) has continued to grow and work for the Kearney and surrounding communities. In 1995 when KACF began, few community members knew what a community foundation was or could even imagine the impact it would have on our area.

"Since then, KACF has communicated to the public the value of the Foundation and why community leaders should be engaged and support it," said Marilyn Hadley KACF board chair in 2004–2006.

For instance, what started out as a corn field grew into an active, full-feature public park. The Yanney Heritage Park Foundation (YHPF) was originally created under KACF to develop and sustain the park.

"Still standing strong in 2020, there are no other parks from Omaha to Denver that have the wide array of facilities that Yanney Heritage Park does," said Tom Tye, founding board member and past chair of the Yanney Heritage Park Foundation. "Our partnership with the Foundation was instrumental in making this happen."

YHPF is only one of the many nonprofit organizations the Foundation had a part in helping grow into what we know it to be today.

"It's not a secret anymore," said Dave Chally, KACF board chair in 2008–2010. "The community has become familiar with the Foundation and its mission to enhance the quality of life in the Kearney area by effectively implementing crucial funds needed during times of uncertainty."

"You can see that right now with the funds and campaign that have come up as part of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mike Tye, KACF board chair in 2014–2016. "Basically, the Foundation is always there as a partner and resource to whatever those community efforts are."

With more than **\$57 million** distributed back to the community since 1995 in grants, scholarships and program support, the evidence of the Foundation's community impact has become known throughout its 25 years.

"Community foundations are built to work for the community," said Janice Wiebusch, a founding board member and KACF board chair in 1998–2000.

"And that's what the Foundation has been doing for the past 25 years. It has truly been a gift to the Kearney area."

Another program in the community, which would not have become a reality without the help of the Foundation, is the humane society. Two local ladies, who were passionate about not euthanizing lost and homeless animals in the community, came together and worked with KACF to establish a fund.

In 2002, the Kearney Area Humane Society Fund was created under KACF to educate the public about the humane care and treatment of all animals and actively encourage pet population reduction. This would later be known as the Kearney Area Animal Shelter as they branched out on their own to build a shelter, hire staff and attain their 501(c)(3) status.

"The Foundation has been building a portfolio of people, places and organizations within these past 25 years and you can see their finger prints on those projects within our community," said Chally.

"The community may not have been aware of the Foundation's mark on so many large community projects, but now that message is becoming more clear," said Mike Tye.

The growth, strength and integrity of the Foundation over the years has given the organization visibility and credibility, which grew KACF's audience and donor base year after year, allowing the Foundation to acquire more than **\$24 million** in total assets.

In its infancy, 18 years ago to be precise, the Foundation awarded just over \$10,000 in scholarships to local youth. In 2020, the Foundation awarded over **\$143,000** in scholarships in Kearney and the surrounding areas.

The Kearney Area Community Foundation was created to be here in perpetuity. What kind of impact will KACF have on the community over the next 25 years? One can only imagine.

### Thank you past and present KACF board chairs for your committed time!

1995-1998   Dan Lindstrom	2006-2008   Dan Bahensky	2014-2016   Mike Tye
1998-2000   Janice Wiebusch	2008-2010   Dave Chally	2016-2018   Bob Huddleston
2000-2002   Steve Chatelain	2010-2012   Rachelle Bryant	2018-2020   Jan Rodehorst
2002-2004   Lance Hehner	2012-2014   Sue Bigg	2020-2022   Nate Bruner
2004-2006   Marilyn Hadley	Watch for more articles in 2020 reviewing 25 years of making an impact.	



### Baldwins Move Charitable Giving Legacy

Last year, a local family decided to dissolve their family's private foundation, the Theodore G. Baldwin Foundation, and chose the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) to manage its assets. With that, the Ted Baldwin Donor Advised Fund was established. By creating a donor advised fund, the Baldwins will shift the management, reporting and oversight to KACF as they begin their retirement later this year.



"Through the years, we had seen the Community Foundation develop many of the same goals and ideals that the Theodore G. Baldwin Foundation had, and we wanted to continue to provide a charitable outlet by streamlining the Theodore G. Baldwin Foundation to that of KACF," said Mike Baldwin, a local attorney.

In 1983, 11 years after the passing of his father, Mike established the foundation with money left by his mother, Ellen, when she sold her shares of the J.A. Baldwin Mfg. Company. Later changed to Baldwin Filters, the company was started in 1936 by Mike's grandfather J.A. Baldwin and was later led by his father Theodore (Ted) Baldwin.

Since its inception, the Theodore G. Baldwin Foundation has awarded more than **\$5 million** in grants to local nonprofits. "It wasn't our money to begin with, so it is easier to give away something that never belonged to you," said Mike. "We just want to help."

Mike and his wife, Jo, are happy to continue the tradition of granting money to nonprofits, schools and government entities. "The transition in grant making is easy and KACF helps us accomplish our charitable giving goals," said Jo.

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 in the Kearney area.

The Baldwin's three children will be their successor advisors, providing opportunity for their family to continue to give to the community for years to come.

"We continue to encourage others to set up funds through the Foundation, which allow them to see the benefits of KACF. We promote the Foundation because it's an easy thing to do," said Mike.

**The deadline for applications is September 30, 2020.**

For more information regarding the Ted Baldwin Donor Advised Fund and how to apply for a grant, please visit [www.kenarneyfoundation.org/ted-baldwin](http://www.kenarneyfoundation.org/ted-baldwin).

If you or someone you know is also interested in setting up a Donor Advised Fund with the Foundation, please contact Judi Sickler, President/CEO of KACF via phone or email at (308) 237-3114 or at [judi@kenarneyfoundation.org](mailto:judi@kenarneyfoundation.org).



### New Grant Opportunity Through Klinkacek Community Enrichment Fund

Arthur E. Klinkacek wanted to give back to his community and he did just that with a gift of more than **\$2 million** to the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) from his estate.

In honor of Arthur Klinkacek's wishes to help communities and youth in the Kearney area for years to come, the Foundation created two charitable funds. One designated to scholarships for area youth, and the other for community enrichment purposes in the Kearney area.

In 2019, the Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship Fund was launched and has awarded **\$80,000** in scholarships in two short years.

Beginning in 2020, the Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment Fund will award grants to local organizations for programs and projects that will enrich the lives and communities for those in Buffalo County.

"The Klinkacek Community Enrichment Fund is endowed so it will give back to our community for years to come," said Judi Sickler, President/CEO of KACF. "What an amazing and generous way for someone to leave a legacy that will continually make an impact on local lives."

Since these grants may be larger and more competitive, there will be a pre-application form and review process.

Once the pre-application is approved, nonprofits will be given access to an online grant application, unique to the Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment Fund.

This online portal will allow committee members to score each application in a safe and secure way, helping us do our part in social distancing while still providing for those local nonprofits working hard in our community.

**Grant applications will be scored using the following criteria:**

- Creativity/innovation
- Community impact
- Feasibility
- Collaboration
- Financial plan
- Leadership
- Overall impression
- Alignment with Kearney Area Community Foundation priorities



**Pre-applications will be available July 20.**

Please visit [www.kenarneyfoundation.org/klinkacek](http://www.kenarneyfoundation.org/klinkacek) for the grant pre-application form.

If you or someone you know is interested in benefiting our community through a bequest or will, please contact Judi Sickler at [judi@kenarneyfoundation.org](mailto:judi@kenarneyfoundation.org).

Today, the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) manages **53 scholarship funds**. We have awarded **104 scholarships** equaling more than **\$143,000 in 2020** to local students enrolled in a technical college, community college and/or university. This year, we worked with **81 scholarship recipients**.

## Scholarship Recipients

### Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship

established with an estate gift, awards four scholarships to Buffalo County students with financial need.

**Recipients:** Marina Escobar, Hannah Keim, Jessica McKeon, and Arlet Nava

### Asher Family Scholarship

created by Dr. Ron and Sharilyn Asher, awards two scholarships to Blue Jay alumni and seniors of Ravenna High School.

**Recipients:** Jacob Jarzynka and Kooper Schirmer

### Betty Zwiener Rodehorst Scholarship

awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School who is attending a college/university in Nebraska.

**Recipient:** Kiesha Schott

### Blanche Thompson Memorial Scholarship

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

**Recipient:** Dahnna Miller

### Carol Cope Alpha Xi Delta Scholarship

awards scholarships to college students attending UNK, who are in the Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Recipients:** Sophia Anaya, Megan Bahns, Ashley Pachta, Sara Salzman, Lauren Shackelford, Michaela Walker, Makenna Wilkins, and Carissa Wolfe

### C.D. Orr and Emily Orr Scholarship

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

**Recipient:** TBD

### Charles and Jeanette Mumma Scholarship

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

**Recipients:** Sarah Glatte, Riley Hadwiger, Nicole Messbarger, and Allison Wilkens

### Charles and Verna Lee Falk Scholarship

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

**Recipients:** Skye Knaus and Jacob Wendell

### C.J. and Lena Williams Scholarship

awards two scholarships to Garden County High School seniors.

**Recipients:** Austin Dormann and Jacob Inversion

### 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:** Jack Drahota

### Colene Pfeiffer Memorial Scholarship

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

**Recipient:** Conner Hand

### Don Newth Memorial Scholarship

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

**Recipient:** Madeline Leach

### Donald Kaup Memorial Knights of Columbus Scholarship

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

**Recipient:** Lainey Paxton

### 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:** Kolby Sutton

### Dwight and Lois Gangwish Scholarship

created by the donors, awards up to four scholarships to current, and past graduates, of Shelton High School.

**Recipient:** Kendra Fieldgrove

### 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:** Kooper Schirmer

### Elm Creek Public School Foundation Clara Marshall Scholarship

established from the Clara Marshall Trust, awards five scholarships to seniors of Elm Creek High School.

**Recipients:** Hallie Gutzwiller, Lane Gutzwiller, Karsten McCarter, Kara Stone, and Megan Warner

### Elm Creek School Foundation Scholarship

awards five scholarships to seniors of Elm Creek.

**Recipients:** Gage Clabaugh, Blake Egenberger, Morgan Minkle, Chase Swartwood, and Megan Warner

### 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:** Conner Hand

**91% of scholarships were** awarded to students attending higher education in Nebraska



**73% of scholarships were** awarded to students residing in Buffalo County



**55% of scholarships are** awarded to those with financial need



**13% of scholarships are** awarded to those with majors in agriculture or medical fields



**8 out of 53 scholarships are** awarded to those attending a 2-year technical school or community college

**How to apply? Visit [www. KearneyFoundation.org/scholarships](http://www. KearneyFoundation.org/scholarships)**

**(Keep checking back as applications begin to reopen for the 2021 season)**



**Ferol G. Carney and Patricia A. Carney Memorial Scholarship**

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

**Recipient:** Adrienne Olson

**Ft. Kearny Conference Future Educator Scholarship**

created by an anonymous donor, awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from a Ft. Kearny Conference high school pursuing a degree in education from UNK.

**Recipient:** Makenzie Clouse

**Garden County High School Alumni Scholarship**

awards two scholarships to seniors of Garden County High School.

**Recipients:** Kara Barnhart and Dahnna Miller

**Holy Cross Lutheran Mitchell Scholarship**

created from the estate of Leland and Clara Mitchell, provides financial assistance to Holy Cross Lutheran church members.

**Recipients:** Sarah Berke, Morgan Boldt, Steven Boldt, Lillian Bombeck, Riley Kahle, Alexander Kemp, Ryan Koski, Bryce Kovarik, Sydni Kroll, Noah Limbach, Kayla Millikan, Mariah Watson, and Helen Whittaker

**Jane S. and Franklin V. Bernhard Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a senior of Shelton High School enrolled full-time in a technical or trade related program.

**Recipient:** TBD

**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:** Skye Knaus and Jacob Wendell

**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:** Jorge Salinas

**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:** Jack Drahota (CCC) and Megan Warner (UNK)

**Kenneth L. Erickson FFA Scholarship**

created by his family, awards a scholarship to a Ravenna High School senior who is an active member of FFA (Future Farmers of America).

**Recipient:** Jacob Jarzynka

**Kurt Keaschall Memorial Pleasanton Scholarship**

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

**Recipient:** Riley Hadwiger

**Kurt Keaschall Memorial Ravenna Scholarship**

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

**Recipient:** Jacob Jarzynka

**Lance Corporal Kyle Codner Memorial Scholarship**

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

**Recipients:** Ry Cheney and Sara Palmer

**Lynn Rosenlof Hoelting Memorial Scholarship**

was established by her family to honor Lynn and inspire Kearney High School students to achieve success in life.

**Recipient:** Kari Struebing

**Mary E. Hehnke Educational Scholarship**

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

**Recipient:** MaKenna Christiansen

**McKenna's Rae of Hope Character Scholarship**

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

**Recipients:** Michaela Becker, Renee Box, Kaleb Luke, Arlet Nava, and Claire VanLaningham

**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:** Miranda Moore

**Oren and Joyce Vogt Scholarship**

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

**Recipients:** Madison McAlevy

**Pauline Fulton Memorial Scholarship**

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

**Recipient:** Macey Forker

**Pleasanton Career Builder Scholarship**

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

**Recipients:** Grady Chandler, Jakson Keaschall, Brady Klein, Sarah Lucht, and Paige Weisdorfer

**Pleasanton High School Alumni Scholarship**

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

**Recipients:** Cadee Nichols

**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:** Adam Betke and Abraham Schroeder

**Richard Dunn Memorial Scholarship**

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

**Recipient:** Austin Dormann

**Robin and Judy Marshall Scholarship**

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

**Recipient:** Kara Stone

**Ronald and Jaquelyn Kegley 4-H Scholarship**

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

**Recipient:** Nicole Messbarger

**Roy and Doris Abood Scholarship**

established by their sons, awards a scholarship to a first generation college student enrolled at UNK.

**Recipient:** Tessa Eldridge

**Shawn Reiber Memorial Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a current, graduating senior in Buffalo County.

**Recipient:** Jack Drahota

**Shelton FFA Boosters Scholarship**

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

**Recipients:** Wyatt Ohlman, Sara Palmer, and Kyle Wiehn

**S.T.A.N.D Scholarship**

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

**Recipients:** Kirsten Johnson, Marcus Lauber

**Ted Headley UNL Ag Scholarship**

awards up to three scholarships to seniors of Shelton High School pursuing a degree in agriculture.

**Recipient:** Wyatt Ohlman

**Troy and Kay Bauer Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to an Amherst High School senior to those majoring in the agricultural or medical field.

**Recipient:** Jarin Potts

**UNK Pi Kappa Alpha Alumni Scholarship**

awards two scholarships during the first-year of higher education to a freshman or first-year student at UNK.

**Recipient:** TBD

**Vanity Fare Scholarship**

was set up by an anonymous donor and awards a scholarship to a senior of Paxton Consolidated Schools.

**Recipient:** Davin Helmer

**Violet Wadzinski Memorial Scholarship**

established by her husband, awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School with financial need.

**Recipient:** Jacob Jarzynka

**Youth Leadership Kearney Scholarship**

awards up to three scholarships for high school seniors who graduated from the Youth Leadership Kearney program attending college/university in Nebraska.

**Recipients:** Reagan Heelan, Nicole Messbarger, and Benjamin Soria



**4 out of 53 scholarships** are awarded to those majoring in education



**5 out of 53 scholarships** are awarded to nontraditional students