

“connecting people who care with causes that matter”

Go Green!

Help us save on costs by receiving this newsletter via email. Please send your email address to us at: kacf@kearneyfoundation.org

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

YEAR-END GIVING

Getting ready for your year-end giving? Here are some things to keep in mind when making your charitable plans:



- Have any mailed gifts postmarked by December 31, 2023.
- You can donate to a nonprofit directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)! Ask your financial advisor to find out how to make the biggest impact and possibly save on taxes.
- Making a stock contribution can be beneficial, especially if you've held the stock for more than a year and its value has increased by the time you donate it. You can deduct the stock's full market value without worrying about capital gain.
- Our annual giving day is a great opportunity to make year-end donations and support giving in our community. On December 7, donate during Give Where You Live! Check out the story on the front cover of this newsletter for more information. Or call Judi at (308) 237-3114 for ideas of unmet community needs.

2023-2024 BOARD AND STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jonathan Nikkila, *Chair*
Vickie Schaepler, *Vice Chair*
Bryan Kuntz, *Secretary*
Carol Pelster, *Treasurer*

Jeremy Armagost	Dave Oldfather
Brian Bosshamer	Mindy Oman
Jon Brandt	Ron Scott
Brette Ensz	Todd Thalken
Becky Forbes	Matthew Wecker
Brenda Jensen	Ashley Weets
Heidi Narber-Richter	Linda Younes

STAFF

Judi Sickler, *President/CEO*
Angie Vlasin, *Accounting Manager*
Laurel McKellips, *Program Manager*
Andi Hartman, *Communications Coordinator*
Jennifer Beck, *Donor Relations Coordinator*

Reach New Heights Give Where You Live 2023

It's that time of year! Give Where You Live (GWYL) is right around the corner! Our 11th annual 24-hour giving day is Thursday, December 7. Since 2013, together we have raised more than \$9.6 million for local nonprofits.

The Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) is excited to announce that this year's theme is Reach New Heights. We live in such a great community with amazing nonprofits and donors. We want to help area nonprofits reach new heights with their mission, whether that's helping them fund a new project or expand their reach in the community. We're also encouraging donors to reach new heights in their support of causes they're passionate about.



KACF will offer a \$100,000 match pool and \$35,000 in prizes will be awarded during GWYL.

With GWYL being only a few weeks away, now is a great time to begin deciding which local nonprofit(s) to support. Inside this newsletter is a form that lists this year's participating nonprofits, as well as a brief description of each nonprofit's mission.

You can fill out the form and bring it, along with your check, by our office on December 7, or mail it to us at:

**412 W. 48th St. Suite 12
Kearney, NE 68845**

Note: All mailed checks must be received by KACF on or before December 7 to be included in the GWYL totals or be eligible for prizes, so please plan accordingly.

For more information or to donate online, go to the website givewhereyoulive.net.

Can't donate on December 7? Early giving opens online on November 9! Donations made between November 9 and December 6 will be charged immediately to your credit or debit card.

Making a gift from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is a great way to support GWYL. A Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA goes directly to charity and is excluded from your taxable income. It provides an excellent opportunity to help local nonprofits and lowers your taxable income. It's a win-win for both you and your community. Since non-cash gifts (like an IRA, donor advised fund, appreciated stock or gift of grain) can take some time, please call Angie at KACF to plan in advance.

Sharing the Success

How Have Your Gifts Helped Area Organizations?

Give Where You Live is Impacting Local Nonprofits

Give Where You Live has been a big success for our community. Raising more than \$9.6 million for area nonprofits since its inception is an amazing achievement! But numbers don't always tell the whole story. How exactly has that \$9.6 million helped nonprofits in the area? We asked nonprofits who have participated in Give Where You Live to share their success stories. Here are a few examples of what they've been able to achieve thanks to gifts from donors like you!

- Axtell Public Library was able to have 60 children participate in their summer reading program at no cost.
- Crossroads Mission Avenue provided shelter for 24 families with 49 children, as well as providing more than 43,000 meals in 2021.
- Heroes Across Nebraska sent several local veterans to attend The National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe, Arizona.



Heroes Across Nebraska

- Kearney Literacy Council was able to provide tutoring materials for adults looking to become more proficient in English or preparing to live in the U.S.
- Kearney Special Olympics used the funds raised to purchase swimsuits for their athletes.



Kearney Special Olympics

- Kids & Dreams Foundation uses the money to put on the annual Kids & Dreams Autism Conference.
- Merryman Performing Arts Center installed audio induction loops in their theater to provide accessibility to people who are hearing impaired.



Merryman Performing Arts Center

- Ravenna Public Library used money raised to support their Summer Reading Program to purchase a 3D printer.
- Shelton Activities Booster Club purchased crash pads for the football team which allows players to safely learn proper football techniques.

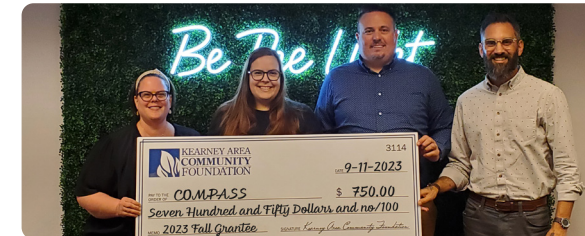
Want to see more Give Where You Live success stories from local nonprofits?
Check out kearneyfoundation.org/gwyl-success-stories.

Building for Tomorrow

bi-annual grants

Recent Grantees

Kearney Area Community Foundation's "Building for Tomorrow" fund recently awarded \$9,965 in grants to eight local nonprofits. These organizations are using their grants to impact people living in and around Kearney, improving our quality of life.



- **COMPASS** received \$750 to help purchase a new laptop for staff working with foster families and families in crisis.
- **Families CARE, Inc.** received \$1,000 to help provide a work station for youth and adults to access needed services and support.
- **Foster Care Closet** received \$2,000 to provide new clothes to youth in foster care.
- **Girls on the Run Nebraska** received \$1,000 to teach Kearney youth life skills through running.



- **Kearney Community Theatre** received \$965 to help offer a production of "Stuart Little" to area 3-8 graders.
- **Kearney Creates** received \$750 to support their website to chronicle and celebrate Kearney's art.
- **Museum of Nebraska Art** received \$1,500 to support The Interactive Gallery, which provides an environment for all learners to explore art related topics.
- **Nebraska Diaper Bank** received \$2,000 to provide supplemental supplies to local families experiencing a diaper need.

Building for Tomorrow applications are accepted on a bi-annual basis, with the next deadline on February 1, 2024. To view guidelines or apply, please visit our website: www.kearneyfoundation.org/building-for-tomorrow.

Seeing the Impact

Your Giving is Making a Difference

Giving Impacts the Kearney Area

As a lifelong resident of the Kearney area, I have seen the growth and vibrancy of our giving and our volunteer community. It is amazing to see the projects that have come to our region thanks to the vision and generosity of people who care. This has created opportunities for people of all ages to engage throughout the area for youth, the public, seniors and more.



Vickie Schaepler
KACF Board Member,
Retired Union Pacific
Human Resources

The Kearney Area Community Foundation brings together these organizations and provides a platform for giving and resources to grow. They engage in nearly every community in Buffalo County and the region, from scholarships, to building and developing beautiful vibrant parks, and supporting organizations, too numerous to name. Communities that have come together to enhance their community centers, build greenhouses, improve entertainment venues and continue to dream.



Having been involved in many community organizations and served on statewide boards, it's exciting to see what our community has accomplished in the many areas we have engaged from Pleasanton to Axtell, Amherst to Elm Creek and so many more. I'm proud to be a part of Kearney and the giving community which makes our communities grow.

Exciting times and enthusiasm for our future growth! As we reach for "New Heights" I hope you will consider supporting the many organizations that will join "Give Where You Live" on December 7.