

We are a rope — individual fibers braided together to make a stronger whole.

Giving Matters

Greater
Salina
Community
Foundation

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Blueprint for Leadership

Summer Safari serves Salina youth

What do you get when you combine 13 total strangers, 3 knowledgeable instructors, and 20 hours of leadership training? One great community service project! That's exactly what happened with the culmination of the 2007 Blueprint for Leadership program. After completing five weeks of leadership classes consisting of everything from visioning to collaboration with games and activities designed to increase leadership skills, class members worked together to develop a service project that would benefit children and youth in north Salina. Safari Friday Fun & Fitness was born.

Over 10 weeks this summer, in conjunction with the Free Summer Lunch Program sponsored by Heartland Programs and USD 305, the Blueprint for Leadership classmates would meet each Friday at the Salvation Army Community Center to work with youth in various activities. Each Friday a new program was provided to the children in attendance, ranging from Tribal Beads (beaded necklaces) to Safari



Blueprint for Leadership class member Linda Lilly works with youth at the Summer Safari at the Salvation Army Community Center.

Health (hygiene clinic) to a Reading Adventure complete with a storyteller. Additional programs included Record Your Travels (scrapbooking), Energy Expedition (yoga) and Journey to Fun (games and activities). Participants were also given many different items to take home at the end of each program to reinforce the theme of

the day, including jump ropes, safari-themed books and a Safari Friday t-shirt.

Each Blueprint classmate brought their own area of expertise, knowledge and skills to the project, making for an interesting blend of activities and styles. Over the course of the project,

See Safari, back page



The Foundation said goodbye to board members (from left) Margaret Logan, Brenda Smith, Amanda Gutierrez, Sydney Soderberg and Jane Alsop at the June meeting. Not pictured are retiring members John Divine, Brenda McDaniel and Gary Hunter.

Board grows and evolves with the Foundation

An organization is only as good as its leadership. At the Greater Salina Community Foundation, we have been blessed with outstanding leadership on our Board of Directors. As the Foundation has grown and evolved, the Foundation board is evolving as well.

The board held a mini retreat last spring with governance consultant Sandra Hughes. From that, it was determined that the board could begin to reduce in size. We started as a very large board at 26 members. Additionally, the board elected to reduce the number of standing committees.

Outside of the standing committees, board members will serve on various short-term committees or task forces to address current issues or projects.

Board meetings have also evolved. Using a consent agenda to get through work that comes through

committee, significant time at board meetings is now spent discussing issues and opportunities facing the Foundation for the future.

“The changes are designed to give board members an opportunity to not only oversee finances and activities of the Foundation, but to have time to really look at the vision, areas of growth, and our response to community and national issues.” said Betsy Wearing, Foundation president. “We want our board members to be engaged in our work, and we want to utilize their expertise as best we can.”

The Foundation recently welcomed six new members to the Board of Directors. They are: Rafael Sanoguel, Blue Beacon International; Mollie Carter, Sunflower Bank; Chris Venicx, Philips Lighting; Melanie Terrill, community volunteer; Margaret Yarnevich, Central and South High Schools; and Lisa Peters, USD 305. ■

Looking ahead...

Don't shoot the messenger, but fall is here and that means the holidays are not far behind. Here are a few important reminders and helps for the coming season.

Reminder for year-end giving

If you are planning to work with the Foundation for year-end giving, you may want to consider getting an early start. Some gifts are difficult to process quickly when year-end is near. We want to be sure we can help you accomplish your giving needs. Give us a call if we can help with your charitable giving this season.

Hurry! IRA charitable rollover ends December 31

A special IRA rollover provision, which is effective until December 31, 2007, allows individuals who are 70½ or older to take tax-free withdrawals from their IRAs as long as that money goes directly to a charity, such as the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

Although the donor cannot claim the gift as a tax deduction, the IRA withdrawal that's donated directly to charity is excluded from income. And there's another benefit: the withdrawal counts against the required minimum distributions for the year. Important things to know of you want to take advantage of this tax break:

- The provision is limited to withdrawals from IRAs. Money in a former employer's 401(k) or similar plan will need to be rolled into an IRA before a direct contribution can be made to a charity.
- The IRA distribution must go directly to the charity. The IRA administrator should send a check to the organization. If the check is made out to you, you'll owe taxes on the withdrawal.
- Private foundations and donor-advised funds are not eligible for tax-free IRA distributions. A gift to any existing fund at the Foundation other than a donor advised fund is eligible.

For more information, call your financial adviser, or the Foundation office at (785)823-1800.

Holiday Shopping Made Easy!

We can't help with the baking or the travel plans, but we can relieve that shopping burden a bit.

Simplify your holidays while at the same time giving a gift that truly touches the heart. Make a contribution to the Greater Salina Community Foundation in honor of friends, colleagues or loved ones.

Here is how it works:

- You select the charitable fund or funds to which you wish to contribute. (More than 55 local charities have funds in the Foundation).
- You provide us the name and address of the person or persons you wish to honor.
- You make a contribution to the Foundation (\$25 minimum gift per card to be sent)
- We send a beautiful holiday card with an announcement of the gift made in the honorees name. (If you wish, you can personally sign the cards before they go out.)
- We provide you with a tax deduction for your contribution.
- You avoid crowds, long lines and parking problems.

Visit our website at www.gscf.org or give us a call at 785-823-1800 for an order form or for more information. Then kick back and leave the shopping to us!

Make a Wish Come True for a Local Charity

Keep the true spirit of the season alive in your family, office or social group. Make a gift to the organizations that serve our community every day.

The Foundation is once again producing the *Make A Wish Come True Catalog* to help connect donors with the needs of local charities. The catalog includes information and a wish list for a number of local nonprofit organizations.

Office groups have pooled resources and used the catalog to shop for items they can present to a charity as a group. Families have used the catalog to introduce children to charitable giving in a tangible way. School groups, youth groups and individuals have all found the catalog helpful for holiday projects.

Nonprofit organizations have benefited by receiving items from their wish list including office supplies; linens, toys; even office equipment and appliances have been donated.

The catalog will be available in November. If you would like to receive a copy, give us a call at 785-823-1800. Copies will also be available at the Public Library.

YGMC recruitment is underway

Summer conference has members energized

Is summer already over? For the returning members of the Youth GrantMakers Council it is. For them, the end of summer marks the beginning of school and the start of recruitment season. The Council said goodbye to 5 seniors last spring and with the start of school began looking for new members to join the 9 returning members.

Over the summer the council designed new posters and brochures to generate interest among local teens. YGMC looks for innovative, resourceful, high school students who want to learn about philanthropy and leadership, and who want to have fun while bettering their community.

Beyond recruitment, additional enthusiasm is being generated by members John Kum and Chloe Seim, volunteer advisor Stephanie Carlin, and the new Youth Coordinator Caitlin Cox. The group attended the Summer Leadership Conference for young grant makers in Michigan. At the conference, they met fellow grant makers, learned new marketing techniques, and were bombarded by ideas of how to reach youth in the community. Four airplane flights, one sunburn, and two hundred pictures later, they are all eager to share what they learned with the rest of the council this year!



Welcome

The Foundation is pleased to welcome Caitlin Cox to our staff as the Youth Coordinator. Caitlin takes the place of Kelli Schwarz-Rump, who moved to the Wichita area last spring. As Youth Coordinator, Cox will be the advisor to the Youth GrantMakers Council (YGMC), along with other responsibilities. Cox graduated from Salina Central High School in May. As a high school student, she was a founding member of the Council and served for three years, including two years as an officer.

"Her experience as a council member and her commitment to the success of the YGMC program makes Caitlin an outstanding choice for this position." said Betsy Wearing, Foundation President.

The Youth Coordinator position is part time, allowing Cox to attend Kansas Wesleyan University in the fall. She is majoring in elementary education and plans on teaching in Salina, where she hopes she can stay an active part of YGMC.

Membership applications are currently available and are due August 27th. The new members will be announced September 7th, followed by the annual Kick-Off Retreat on September 16th. The Youth GrantMakers Council is looking forward to having a fantastic year! ■

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Mark Your Calendar!

Foundation co-hosts estate planning workshop

The Foundation is pleased to work with Kennedy & Coe, LLC to offer a program on estate planning this fall. *Estate Planning Hallmarks: Compliance and Complexity* will be offered via web cast at the Kennedy & Coe office at 3030 Courtland Circle on September 20 from 8:45-3:00. Six hours of continuing Education credits, including 1 hour of legal ethics will be offered.

The program features well known estate planning gurus Roy M. Adams and Conrad Teitell. There is no charge for the program, which includes a light lunch, but reservations are required.

For more information, call the Foundation office at 823-1800, or visit our website at www.gscf.org and click on current events.

Fund for Greater Salina Grants

Applications are being accepted until September 12 for the Fund for Greater Salina. Grants will be awarded to selected non-profit organizations, or individuals or groups with a charitable project that will benefit those in the greater Salina area. Approximately \$32,000 in grant dollars will be available.

Those interested in applying can find the application, grant guidelines and supporting information on the Foundation's web site, www.gscf.org, or can write or call the Foundation office for a grant application form, P.O. Box 2876, Salina, KS 67402-2876, (785)-823-1800. Applications must be received by September 12 to be considered. Awards will be announced in the fall.

SAFARI from page 1

181 children were taken on a Summer Safari!

Funding support for Blueprint For Leadership and the class project comes from a generous endowment gift from the Kansas Health Foundation.

The Blueprint class included individuals from across the occupational spectrum, including banking, law, area non-profits and others. Members of the class were: Caren Bachman, Brian Beier, Janet Callarman, Carl Ellis, Heather Ferrell, Cathy Gilpin, Michelle Griffin, Christopher Jordan, Amy Kutschka, Dennis Lauver, Linda Lilly, Maribel Panuco and Cheryl Tatum.

For more information on Blueprint for Leadership visit our website at www.gscf.org. The next class will be offered this winter. ■