



Breaking News

Mom takes plea in toddler case

Foundation grows by \$5 million

By **Cristina Janney**

Newton Kansan

Posted Jun 17, 2010 @ 03:21 PM

NEWTON –

Despite tough economic times, the Central Kansas Community Foundation is growing and thriving.

Since the Greater Newton Community Foundation merged with the Central Kansas Community Foundation 18 months ago, the foundation has grown by 45 percent. The merger foundation started with an endowment of \$6 million, which has grown to more than \$11 million.

While direct contributions to charities have been waning in light of the economic downturn, donating through estates is becoming increasingly popular.

“The foundation does not depend on annual gifts, but legacy gifts and annuities. These have not been impacted by the economy,” said Sandra Fruit, foundation executive director.

Some of the foundation’s growth has come through its three affiliates in Hesston, which was started within the last year, Hillsboro and Peabody.

Hillsboro’s foundation likely will surpass \$1 million this year, and Peabody’s foundation likely will exceed \$500,000 this year, Fruit said.

“Hesston is just getting started, but I think there is potential for tremendous growth there,” she said.

Fruit said she has been in talks with other communities in the Harvey/Marion/McPherson county area that also may form affiliate foundations in the near future.

The Central Kansas Community Foundation also was given a boost in 2009 when it received a GROW II grant from the Kansas Health Foundation.

The Hillsboro foundation received \$300,000 in matching grant funds, and the Central Kansas Community Foundation received \$600,000 in matching grant funds, \$180,000 of which was designated for the Peabody foundation.

The Kansas Community Foundation matched funds for new endowments created under the local foundations.

“This helped people get the maximum bang for their buck,” said John Torline, associate executive director for the Central Kansas Community Foundation.

Three of the larger endowments created last year under the GROW II program were a fund for the Carriage Factory, the Railer 125 campaign and a fund for Leadership Marion County.

The Carriage Factory has raised \$250,000 in a \$1 million fund-raising campaign, and the Railer 125 campaign raised \$100,000. Central Kansas Community Foundation manages 132 funds.

Many of these funds are donor advised, which means the donor’s family makes recommendations to the foundation board about how the money should be used.

“Donor-advised foundations are very, very popular right now. A lot of families are making their charitable giving that way. We are happy to help them with that,” Fruit said.

The foundation also was honored by a \$1.6 million gift from the estate of Melvina Killion. The Killion family owned a chain of Killion gas stations in the area in the 1940s and '50s.

“She was retired and living in Phoenix, but it was nice that she choose to send money back to Kansas that was earned in Kansas,” Fruit said.

As a new generation grows up and moves out of rural communities, they are taking those communities’ wealth with them.

“We talk, especially in small towns, about the transfer of wealth and the inheritance drain,” Fruit said. “Basically, in any small community when an elderly resident passes away, the children come back to town, visit with friends and neighbors and reminisce about how wonder it was to grow up in a small town.

“On the way out of town, they pull mom and dad’s cash from the bank. When that money is gone, it seldom comes back.”

The Central Kansas Community Foundation offers free estate planning for individuals who wish to include charitable giving in their estates.

The foundation holds the funding and funnels it to the charities or causes of the donor’s choice. Even if a specific charity would become defunct, the board has the discretion to allocate the funds according to what it believes the wishes of the donors would be.

“(The foundation) allows people to remember their favorite charities. The foundation is a natural vehicle to make sure the person’s last wishes are honored,” Torline said.

Copyright 2010 The Newton Kansan. Some rights reserved

Loading commenting interface...

[Contact us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) |

The Newton Kansan | Newton, KS 67114

Copyright © 2006-2010 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons](#) license, except where noted.

SEO by [eLocalListing](#) | [Advertiser profiles](#)