

Smith County

Foundation formed

Area residents will benefit from the formation of a new community foundation. The Smith County Community Foundation will provide the citizens of Smith County with important tools to build endow-

ments, increase philanthropy, and provide ongoing support to essential area nonprofit, programs and events.

A community foundation is a permanent, steady, and secure source

of grant making that addresses present and future community needs. The foundation is a vehicle for permanent charitable giving through current donations as well as

•Continued on page 2

2 Thursday, May 15, 2008

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bequests that will benefit the entire community. The foundation will offer a variety of giving options for donors including advised funds, nonprofit organization endowments and scholarships.

Communities such as those in the Smith County Community Foundation service area, will be strengthened by their ability to preserve wealth and serve today's citizens and future generations.

"The creation of the Smith County Community Foundation provides a tool for donors to enhance the quality of life in this area. The foundation has the flexibility to service many purposes by providing grants to community interests and organizations," said Joe Barnes, chairman of the Smith County Community Foundation. "We are excited about the foundation's future possibilities. Its greatest attribute is that it will provide benefits forever."

Community foundations are the fastest growing form of philanthropy in the nation. The formation of the foundation has taken place over a period of several years. Local cit-

izens researched the need and benefits of a foundation as well as options for establishing it.

The Smith County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation, which provides administrative support, accounting services, board development and consultation.

The Greater Salina Community Foundation also has affiliate foundations in Ellis/Rooks/Trego Counties, Russell County, Ellsworth County, Cloud County, Republic County, the Smoky Valley School District and the Catholic Diocese of Salina.

The Greater Salina Community Foundation is recognized by the Council on Foundations as having met rigorous national standards, one of only two community foundations out of the 65 in the state to receive that designation. As an affiliate, the Smith County Community Foundation can immediately offer the services of an established, larger, regional community foundation without the added expenses and administration of standing alone.

Continued from Page 1

A local governing board made up of citizens in area communities, including Athol, Cedar, Gaylord, Lebanon, Kensington and Smith Center, will be responsible for governance, community education and grant making decisions.

Those serving on the board of directors include: Joe Barnes, Demetre Evangelidis, Gary Frieling, Ruth Hofer, Barb Lehmann, Randy Merritt, Joan Nech, Kim Phelps, Jim Schlatter, John Terrill, Bryan Tillett, Don Wiens and John Zabel,

More information can be found on the web at www.smithcountycommunityfoundation.org.

"We are very happy to be working with this energetic local board to bring the benefits of a community foundation to the citizens in this area" said Betsy Wearing, president and executive director of the Greater Salina Community Foundation. "The Smith County Foundation will provide philanthropic services here forever. It is a very exciting time for these communities."