Join us for Match Madness!
Give a gift to your favorite charity and help that charity both today and in the future.

Join us on March 13, 2012, from 7am to 7pm at Mokas Downtown for our first ever Match Madness event. This one-day, on site event is designed to generate new gifts to the endowed funds for local nonprofit organizations for long-term support, as well as current gifts to help meet immediate needs.

**Here is how it works:**
Donors stop by Mokas that day and “fill out their bracket” for the charity or charities of their choice. The donor makes a gift(s) to the specific charities’ endowed fund and the Community Foundation provides a matching gift in the form of an outright grant to the charity. New endowed donations between $20 and $1,000 will receive a 50¢ on the dollar match. Ten percent of each donation will go to the Fund for Greater Salina, a community grant fund offering annual grants to local charitable projects. Only funds collected at the event will count for the match.

**Example:** John Doe makes a gift of $100 to the Foundation for Charity A. $90 goes into Charity A’s endowed fund; $10 goes into the Fund for Greater Salina endowment; Charity A receives a $50 grant for immediate needs. Up to $25,000 in matching funds are available. Additional $100 grants will be made every hour throughout the day. At the end of the day, the organization that has raised the most for its endowment will receive a bonus grant of $500. Second and third place prizes of $200 and $100 will also be awarded.

GSCF will promote the event, track the donations, and provide tax receipts to the donors. For more information on Match Day, visit our website at www.gscf.org.
Post Rock Community Foundation Qualifies for $300,000 GROW II Grant

Post Rock Community Foundation has been awarded a $300,000 matching grant through the Kansas Health Foundation’s GROW Healthy Kansas community foundation initiative. Post Rock Community Foundation is one of fourteen community foundations in the state to receive funding this year, and one of 39 total community foundations in Kansas involved with the GROW II program. The Greater Salina Community Foundation and its affiliates, including Post Rock Community Foundation, account for eleven of the community foundations in the GROW II program.

Acceptance in GROW II is significant. For every endowed dollar donated to the Foundation, the Kansas Health Foundation will provide a match of either 25¢ or 50¢, up to $300,000. The only exception is for scholarship funds, which are not matched. If Post Rock is successful in fulfilling the entire match, the Foundation will have approximately $1 million in assets at the end of 2017. That level of endowment will generate about $50,000 in annual grants to serve the communities in the Lincoln County area.

“We are humbled by the generosity of the Kansas Health Foundation and its commitment to the communities we serve in central Kansas.” Said Betsy Wearing, President of the Salina Foundation. “This is a great opportunity for Post Rock and the communities in the Lincoln County area.”

The GROW (Giving Resources to Our World) initiative was launched in 1999 as a 10-year grant to start or strengthen community foundations in Kansas. The success of GROW led the Kansas Health Foundation to announce GROW II in 2009.

“Community foundations play a vital role in the strength and growth of a community or region,” said Steve Coen, president and CEO of the Kansas Health Foundation. “Through this initiative, the Kansas Health Foundation looks to help community foundations build their capacity and resources in order to make a positive impact on their communities for generations to come.”

For more information about Post Rock Community Foundation or to learn how you can contribute, please visit www.postrockcf.org.

Youth GrantMakers Council Announces Grants

The Youth GrantMakers Council is pleased to announce more than $6,600 in grants awarded this fall. The council received 12 grant applications representing more than $21,000 in requests. Awards went to:

$2000  Courtney Main & Megan Haugh- The Volunteer Connection
  · To address abuse and childhood hunger in Salina through various projects including welcome packs for children entering DVACK.

$1300  Caitlin Langdon- South High FCCLA
  · To support a “Week of Inclusion” program at South High School to address bullying through a Love is Louder assembly with speaker Cameron Ernst.

$1300  Jakob Oltman- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina
  · To recruit more students from Central to participate in the BBBS school-based mentoring program.

$1100  Tyler Cates & Monika Grant- Ell-Saline FFA Chapter
  · To establish “Middle School Environmental Awareness Day,” an education event regarding the Kansas environment.

$500  Tana Tyler- Pregnancy Service Center
  · To help fund “Living Pants Up in a Pants Down World,” a 2-day purity retreat for students in grades 7-12.

$440  Jonathan Peuchen, Kourtney Kincaid, and Taelor Hull- Southeast of Saline High School
  · To purchase recycling bins and increase and promote recycling in the classrooms.

All YGMC grants are written by youth, for youth, and decided by youth.

This year’s YGMC members are Miranda Basinger, Ansley Bender, Lara Brockway, Dane Butts, Damion Cooper, Dekeysha Cooper, Hunter Lindquist, Kate Martens, Brooklyn McElderry, Cindy Nguyen, Vaughn Plumer, Sara Prendergast, William Reid, Jack Rhodes, Alyse Weishaar, and Emily Wood. Funding for the Youth GrantMakers Council program comes from donations of all amounts, Foundation investment income and the generous support of its Funding Partners: The Earl Bane Foundation, The Darwin & Delma Sampson Fund and Donna Vanier.

Alyse Weishaar and Kate Martens wrap gifts for a needy family adopted by YGMC members this Christmas.
School Marathons Made a Difference

The Foundation was pleased to offer noncompetitive grants to all Salina Elementary Schools to host marathon programs last fall. Seven schools participated. The project was funded through the Foundation, with support from the Kansas Health Foundation, Wichita, and the Salina Regional Health Foundation.

While we are still working on tracking important benchmarks like academic performance and classroom behaviors, we already know the 2011 School Marathons were a success. Here are comments from teachers whose students were involved in the program:

“Students are encouraging each other more and helping those who have missed a day by walking with them.”

“Since students have to do homework during recess if it is not turned in, it seems some habitual offenders are getting their work turned in because they know it will cut into their running time.”

“The marathon is a very non-threatening environment that allows parents to participate with their children at school.”

“It has given some low academic kids a pat on the back because they are good at running.”

“Parents have reported that their kids were not wanting to come to school. But once the marathon started, they want to come to school and are even eager to get here early.”

“Some students have running buddies with their same athletic ability but not necessarily someone that they would normally play with at recess. This is a great way to get children to socialize with other students they might not normally hang out with.”

“Walking with my students gives us positive talk-time and sometimes they will share a concern from home they might not share in class. If something is eating at them, the marathon walk gives me an opportunity to listen and offer support, sometimes heading off a problem that might have kept them from having a successful school day. And the exercise is a bonus!”

“This has worked better than any team activities we have tried in the classroom.”

“Tardies are significantly down during the marathon.”

“Most of my students didn’t even know what a marathon was before we started this. Very few of them get to participate in organized sports. Every one of my students is on track to complete the marathon. They love it and are so proud of their accomplishment.”
Foundation Recognized for (Still) Meeting National Standards

The Greater Salina Community Foundation is being recognized by the Council on Foundations, Washington, DC, for again having organizational and financial practices that are in accordance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. In order to achieve confirmation of compliance with the National Standards, community foundations must undergo an extensive review of their organizational and financial policies and procedures. The review is very specific and often takes more than a year to complete.

The decision to adopt and adhere to the standards was initiated by the Foundation staff and supported by the board of directors starting in 2005. That year the Foundation began the confirmation process and was awarded compliance in 2006. At that time, the Foundation was one of only 150 foundations in the country, and the second in Kansas to achieve national standards compliance. In 2011, the Greater Salina Community Foundation applied for renewal of standards compliance.

The renewal process covered all legislative and tax changes that have occurred in the last five years as well as best practices that have been adopted by the Council on Foundations. The reconfirmation process began in the spring. Reconfirmation was approved in December.

“Being recognized by the Council for meeting these rigorous standards demonstrates our ongoing commitment to quality and provides an additional indication of trust for our donors and the entire community,” said Betsy Wearing, President and Executive Director.

PET Project Gives Way to New Ideas

Good ideas can sometimes run their course. Seven years ago we introduced the PET Project. Philanthropy, Transformation, Empowerment. The Project connected the Foundation with young donors in the community. Donors made a contribution, and the Foundation worked with the donor group to select a grant in an area of their choosing. Along the way, there were cocktail parties, luncheons and lots of learning about the needs of our community and the programs that address those needs.

Over the course of the Project, more than 200 donors participated. Together, they made $42,750 in grants in our community and built an endowment of more than $17,000 to be used for future grants.

Like the demographic it was designed to serve, the PET Project can’t stay the same. It is time to move on to other new and fresh ideas. This spring, the Foundation is introducing two new programs, Match Madness and the Throw Down Tournament.

Throughout the course of the PET Project, grants were made to:

- St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church – to support a summer music and art camp for low-income children
- Bullying prevention/Center for Prevention of Hate Violence – to provide education to Salina’s high schools and middle schools on how language is the basis for bullying and violence
- Salvation Army – to purchase new computers for use by the children attending the after school program
- Heartland Programs – to support a summer program preparing English language learners for kindergarten
- Bethany Home – to establish a Wii-hab program encouraging physical activity and socialization for seniors
- YMCA trail – to enhance the community hiking trails including laying a path to connect the trails across the soccer fields
- Project Search – to support a new program for post secondary education and job training at Salina Regional Health Center for handicapped students

The National Standards address six key areas of community foundation operations:

- Mission, Structure and Governance
- Resource Development
- Stewardship and Accountability
- Grantmaking and Community Leadership
- Donor Relations
- Communications

The structure of the Greater Salina Community Foundation affiliate program ensures that all eleven of our affiliate foundations also meet National Standards. The National Standards seal, pictured here, was developed for community foundations to signify that they have been confirmed in compliance with National Standards. The seal is an indication of the integrity and demonstrated excellence of the compliant foundation.
Briefly

Find us on Facebook!

Look for the Foundation on Facebook! Watch for our Philanthropy Friday posts. Good things can happen if you “like” our page! In December, we gave out three $25 Giving Cards. Winners were drawn randomly from among all those who like our facebook page.

Throughout 2012, we will give away a $50 Giving Card on the last Friday of every month to someone who has liked and shared a post from our page that month. Check us out and you could be a winner!

Giving cards can be purchased on our website at www.gscf.org. You can use them for any occasion, and several styles are available. The recipient can redeem the card to benefit any charity or church in the United States.

Who’s the Fastest Hand in Salina?

The Foundation is partnering with Salina’s Young Professional Network (YPN) to host a fun event this spring. The first ever Throw Down Tourney (Rock-Paper-Scissors) will be on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at the Salina Community Theatre’s new Black Box. It should be a blast! Watch for more information on this event and plan to join us for food, drink, and to see who has the quickest hand at a game everyone can play. The winner gets to make a grant to his or her favorite charity, a cool T-shirt and of course, bragging rights!

Holiday Cards Successful

In our 11th year of offering our Holiday Cards, the Foundation raised a record amount for our organization fund endowments. Many generous donors made gifts in honor of friends and loved ones in lieu of shopping. For the 2011 holiday season, we sent 119 cards and raised a total of $8,130. The program grows each year. In 2010, we raised $7,270. Thanks to all our card donors!

Kids Make Wishes Come True

Congratulations to students at Meadowlark Ridge Elementary School who collected a record $1,351 in change and purchased items for local charities using the Foundation’s Wishbook catalog. This is the 7th year Meadowlark students have used our catalog to benefit other kids in our community. This year the students purchased items for: Ashby House, Morrison House, Child Advocacy and Parenting Services; Heartland Programs and YMCA.
Upcoming Deadlines

**Fund For Greater Salina** - This is an unrestricted community grant fund supported through donations and investment returns. Grants will be awarded to selected non-profit organizations, or individuals or groups with a charitable project that will benefit those in Saline County. Grants are capped at $5,000. Applications must be received in the office by March 7, 2012 to be considered. Awards will be announced in April.

**YW Legacy Grants**
The YW Legacy Fund makes grants to initiatives that support the mission of the former YWCA in our community. Approximately $15,000 in grant funds will be available this year.

Grant requests should address one or more of the following criteria:

- Encourage women’s growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision for peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people
- Help children attain their greatest potential
- Create an environment to assist in the physical and mental health and well-being of women and their families
- Pursue the elimination of racism wherever it exists

Applications are due by March 12, 2012. Awards will be made in early May.

All grant applications are available on the Foundation’s website at www.gscf.org. Click on Apply for a Grant or call the Foundation at 785-823-1800.

**Scholarships**
A variety of scholarships for high school and college students are available through the Foundation. To view the list of available scholarships and application information, go to the Foundation’s website and click on Scholarships. The deadline for scholarships may vary, but most are due by March 31.