

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

# Giving & Matters

Greater Salina Community Foundation

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## A Lifetime of Volunteering

2011 Salina Award for Outstanding Citizenship

On the nomination form for the Salina Award for Outstanding Citizenship, it states that the nominee will have voluntarily and tirelessly given of his or her time for the betterment of Salina. This year's honoree certainly fits the bill. For as long as nearly everyone on the selection committee could remember, Ken Jennison has been supporting nonprofit organizations, raising money, volunteering time, organizing, marketing, or simply starting something from scratch where there is a need.

He started the 4-H development fund, and the 4-H ambassadors program, both of which have served young people in our community. Because of Ken's efforts, high school graduates involved in 4-H have the opportunity to receive scholarship support.

In 1999, he established the prostate cancer support group- which still meets today and has offered assistance to hundreds of survivors.

If you need a hand to get a project accomplished, Ken is your man. He has served on boards or committees for Salina Downtown, the Smoky Hill Museum, Salina Business Improvement Board, the YMCA, First United Methodist Church, the

Salina Community Theatre, the Salina Symphony, Kansas Wesleyan University, Central Kansas Foundation, the Salina Area United Way, Friends of the River, the Salina Boy Scouts, the Salina Arts & Humanities Commission, the Sunflower Lions Club, the Salina Rescue Mission and the Smoky Hill River Festival.

His involvement is more than helping to raise funds or promote events, both of which he is good at, but he is also a hands-on volunteer. To help promote Kansas Day, he demonstrated how to make butter for school children. He annually rings bells for the Salvation Army kettle drive. He is a judge for the Tri-Rivers Fair. He both raises funds and volunteers at the annual Fekas Christmas Dinner. Several years ago he raised \$20,000 for the Salina Rescue Mission by becoming a homeless person for a night; sleeping, or rather not sleeping, in a cardboard box.

Ken has spent a lifetime diligently volunteering to make Salina all it can be. It was truly a pleasure to present Ken Jennison with the 2011 Salina Award for Outstanding Citizenship. Ken was honored at the Foundation's 2011 Grant Luncheon, where he received a commemorative clock and a \$1,000 check.

Foundation President Betsy Wearing presents Ken Jennison with the 2011 Outstanding Citizenship award.



# Greater Salina Community Foundation Ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> on Prestigious National Benchmarking List

The Greater Salina Community Foundation ranked 22nd in the nation on one of three benchmarking lists released by the national Council on Foundations and CF Insights, an organization which compiles and distributes data and information on finances, operations and best practices for community foundations nationwide. This is the second year that the Greater Salina Community Foundation has been in the top 25 on this list.

The Foundation ranked 22nd on the top 100 list of community foundations according to gifts per capita for fiscal year 2010. More than 250 of the 700 community foundations nationwide participated in the survey. Gifts per capita is calculated by dividing the foundation's total gifts by the population of the foundation's service area. The

service area is defined by each community foundation.

The Greater Salina Community Foundation listed a service area population of 130,000, to include its regional affiliates. Although each has an independent board and name, the affiliate foundations share legal status with the Salina Foundation and therefore all assets are considered as a part of the Salina Foundation's totals. At the time of the survey, there were 11 affiliate foundations, and affiliate assets made up approximately 18% of the Greater Salina Community Foundation's total assets.

Foundations are most often benchmarked according to total asset size. The survey recognizes that every community foundation is unique; assets represent just one way to describe how a community foundation operates. Other factors,

such as grant making, fundraising and donor engagement all contribute to a community foundation's unique attributes and challenges.

The survey highlights attributes that characterize community foundations in ways beyond asset values.

"Gifts to the community foundation on a per capita basis is \$69.20 per person in our area. It speaks volumes regarding the generosity of our donor community," said Foundation president Betsy Wearing. "Not only does the ranking show how generous our community is, but also how the community foundation serves as a flexible giving vehicle for those with charitable intent. Gifts to the Foundation support a variety of charitable issues, some specific and some broad. The Foundation offers many different ways for donors to give back."



The Foundation's Youth Baseball Fund awarded more than \$2,200 in grants this spring. The fund was established to provide financial assistance to young ballplayers who might otherwise not be able to participate due to financial constraints.

# New Grant Lets School Children Go The Extra Mile(s)

The Greater Salina Community Foundation is pleased to announce a new grant designed to help Salina elementary schools offer school marathon programs for students in grades 1-5. Seven elementary schools have elected to participate in the grant program for fall 2011. The Foundation anticipates more than 2,500 students will participate.

A school marathon provides a structure for students to run or walk distances that add up to a marathon, 26.2 miles, over a period of 5-6 weeks. The School Marathon Grants were non-competitive and offered to all 10 Salina elementary schools as part of the Foundation's Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative. The initiative is funded by the Kansas Health Foundation. The Community Foundation has also received a local matching grant for the marathon project from the Community Health Investment Program at the Salina Regional Health Foundation.

Each participating school designed its own marathon program. Grants for each school are based on the number of students that complete the marathon. Total grants awarded will be approximately \$26,500.

## The 2011 School Marathon Grant recipients are:

- Coronado Elementary School
- Heusner Elementary School
- Meadowlark Ridge Elementary School
- Oakdale Elementary School
- St. Mary's Elementary School
- Schilling Elementary School
- Stewart Elementary School

Foundation program coordinator Jenny Stack walks with her children, Maddie & Brady, during the Meadowlark Marathon last year. A new Foundation grant program is expanding the school marathon initiative to include 7 local elementary schools this fall.

## Other grants awarded from the Physical Activity and Nutrition initiative included:

- \$32,000 to the City of Salina for the second year of a 3-year grant to continue the levy trail project
- \$8,000 to Salina YMCA for the second year of a 3-year grant to administer the community coalition for physical activity and nutrition
- \$5,000 to USD 305 to establish a golf unit at local elementary schools as a part of the PE curriculum
- \$2,000 to St. Mary's Grade School for the continuation of their school garden project.





# YGMC has a record year for grants awarded

Youth Grant Makers Council completed a successful year with an all time high amount of grants, \$12,193! In the fall, they awarded \$7,632 in grants and in the spring, the following grants were awarded:

- Building a Unique Drummer – Aaron Thomas (\$1,850)
  - To provide underprivileged elementary school students the opportunity to learn or improve their drumming skills.
- Assaria Kids Yardstick Garden (\$1,151)
  - To purchase new equipment for the garden that will make maintaining it throughout the summer easier for the students involved.
- Ell-Saline High School's Friends of Rachel Club (\$1,000)
  - To purchase supplies for various school activities that encourages togetherness, kindness, and compassion among students.
- South Middle School Robotics Club (\$560)
  - To purchase two Lego robotics kits in order to expand the current robotics club.



Members of YGMC pose here with Darby Miller, a Salina middle school student who was recognized as the 2011 Youth Citizenship Award winner. Darby is a cancer survivor who has used her own experiences to help others. Darby frequently speaks about childhood cancers and is writing a book for children diagnosed with cancer. She says that her illness and recovery, she is cancer-free; it changed her life. "I felt like I was not the same person," she said. In addition to her work related to cancer, Darby also volunteers for the Love, Chloe Foundation, the Salvation Army and the Make A Wish Foundation.

## PET Project Goes Cyber

**The 2011 PET Project took on a new look for donors but had the same great results for the community**

The PET Project made a \$5,000 grant to Project SEARCH Salina, a new program that provides on the job training, job coaching, and academic training with local employers for young adults with developmental disabilities. Project SEARCH is new to Salina, but is a program that has been successful in other communities. For the 2011-2012 academic year the program will take place at Salina Regional Health Center. The program is offered in partnership with the Salina School District. Students will participate in three 10-week internships at Salina Regional to learn transferrable job skills.

The PET Project is in its seventh year. It brings together young donors (20's, 30's and 40's) to contribute to and select an annual grant to benefit the community. This year, the program was conducted entirely on line. Donors were able to make contributions on the Foundation's web page. Grant applications, Q&A documents and video presentations from the charities competing for the grant were also posted on the Foundation's site and a special link was sent to the donors allowing them to vote for the project of their choice.

For more information on the PET Project, contact Jenny Stack at the Foundation, 785-823-1800.

# Technology & Arts Grants Awarded from Mullen Fund

Pat Mullen was a self-taught engineer and inventor. He was a life-long Salina native who valued innovation and education. With a generous gift from his estate, the Foundation established two field of interest funds to create grants for the education of youth in the areas of arts and humanities, and science, technology & invention.

The Foundation is pleased to announce the following grants from the L.P. "Pat" Mullen Fund. This is the second year grants have been awarded from this fund.

## [\\$7,000-Salina Arts & Humanities](#)

This is the second year of a three-year grant to establish the mobile arts lab. The mobile arts van brings art activities to Salina children in unusual venues, reaching those with limited opportunities in the arts, especially in remote or indigent neighborhoods. The van will create a path for children grades pre-K to 6 to explore art and learn about arts opportunities in Salina. The project also involves Salina teens, who serve as helpers and mentors.

## [\\$7,000-Salina Community Theatre](#)

The grant will assist in the purchase and installation of dance floors in the new classrooms of the education wing. The new floors will be "sprung" flooring, much like contemporary basketball courts and running tracks, with a flexible subfloor which will allow for healthier conditions and fewer injuries for the young dancers. The youth theatre program at SCT has grown significantly in recent years, including a 400% increase in enrollment of the dance classes.

## [\\$5,000-Salina Art Center](#)

The grant will expand a successful program serving at-risk youth in Salina. The *Snapshots* program brings high school students from USD 305's Opportunity Now program together with artists and writers for a semester-long photography and art course. The program will be extended to students at Salina Central, South and St. John's Military School and will provide students experiences that will foster an understanding of art techniques, processes and skills that will help students be successful in the future.

## [\\$6,250-Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High School Robotics Program](#)

The grant will be used to purchase robotics kits and support software for a new robotics program. The equipment will be used to explore the relationship between science, math and computer programming. Robots provide "hands on" understanding of physics principles that reinforce the math, science and computer skill needed for future careers.

## [\\$4,000-Salina Central High School FIRST Robotics Team](#)

This is the first year of a multi-year grant for the Salina Central Robotics Team. The team plans to offer a mentoring program to encourage more area schools to participate in the FIRST Robotics organization. Members of the team will work with area grade school students to introduce them to robotics. Funds will also support the efforts of the Central team with the purchase of robotic kits, parts and registration fees for competitions.

## [\\$1,070-Salina Community Theatre](#)

The grant will purchase a laptop computer and special software for hands-on technology classes in theatrical lighting and scene design for youth grades 4-12. The lighting and video software will allow students to create innovative scenes for classes and live performances. The equipment will also allow be used by theatre staff to educate local schools and theatres in the region as they acquire similar technology.

Total Mullen grants awarded: \$30,320

# Spring Fund for Greater Salina Grants Awarded

The Foundation is pleased to announce grant recipients for the spring 2011 Spring Fund for Greater Salina grants. A total of \$34,850 was awarded. The Foundation received 27 grant applications with requests totaling more than \$100,400. Grant requests are capped at \$5,000.

**\$3,600 Saline County Commission on Aging-Sunflower Adult Day Services-**Funds will be used to purchase a comprehensive internet-based information system to enhance patient care and improve program management.

**\$5,000 Saline County Smart Start-** Funds will be used to help secure significant state funds that help improve the quality of early care and education for children ages 0-5 and encourage further education for the staff which provides that care.

**\$2,500 Salina Art Center-** Funds will support the summer art program that provides children preschool through middle school with in-depth visual arts learning experiences taught by artists and art educators.

**\$1,500 Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure-** Funds will be used to purchase new embossers and print passports to continue the "Passport to Discovery" education program.

**\$2,000 Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank-** Funds will be used to help with utilities, rent and deposits for families who are recently unemployed.

**\$2,000 Smoky Hill Museum-** Funds will increase the entertainment and activities offered at the Smoky Hill Museum Street Fair, celebrating our community history and the heritage of Saline County.

**\$1,750 Kansas Wesleyan University-** Holocaust Remembrance Week- To provide funding for Holocaust Remembrance Week which included a series of lectures and events from Dr. Edith Eger, a Holocaust survivor.

*The following grants were made possible through a partnership with the Salina Regional Health Foundation Community Health Investment Program (CHIP). Grants funded through this partnership meet specific funding criteria established by CHIP. Grant review, allocation of funding and grant administration is provided by the Community Foundation.*

**\$5,000 Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center-** Funding will provide scholarships for low-income families who do not qualify for government assistance

**\$2,000 St. John's Missionary Baptist Church-** Funds to assist with "Kids to College," a new program which will expose low-income or potential first generation college students college opportunities and the process of qualifying for, selecting and applying to college.

**\$1,000 Youthville-** Funding to establish a Youthville Saline County Foster Fund to help local foster children and foster families with individual needs not covered by the state or community resources.

**\$1,500 Christ Cathedral Montessori School-** Funds to buy additional preschool learning materials for the 2011-2012 school year. Materials will enhance science, language and mathematics studies for the students.

**\$5,000 Salina Child Care Association-** Funding will provide scholarships for low-income families which will allow parents to maintain jobs and provide children with quality early childhood care and education.

**\$2,000 Salina Christian Academy-** Funds to purchase equipment for a new, comprehensive physical education program that will focus on exercise and healthy habits for life.

**\$34,850 Total Grants Awarded**

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**Fund for Greater Salina Grants are made possible by generous donations to the Fund for Greater Salina Endowment. Significant donors to that endowment include:**

Bob & Marcia Anderson  
Clark, Mize & Linville, Chtd.  
Don & Opal Dieckhoff  
Tex & Betty Fury Fund  
Joy D. Peterson Memorial Fund

Joe & Mildred Pankaskie  
Chester B. & Laurabelle Smith  
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Michael & Alice Sullivan

# 2011 YW Legacy Grants

The YW Legacy Fund was established in 2006 from assets of the former Salina YWCA and private donations. This fund makes grants to initiatives that support the mission of the former YWCA in our community using 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

Since inception, the fund has awarded more than \$104,000 in grants.

## The following grants were awarded:

**\$2,500 Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland-** Provided funds for the Women of Achievement event which honored outstanding women leaders

**\$2,700 Salina Juneteenth Celebration-** Assist with funding for Juneteenth Celebration which promotes awareness, knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture

**\$1,000 THE CASTLE Project at Sunrise Presbyterian Church-** Provide funds for a summer program which offers

healthy lunches, character development lessons, music, art and sports programs for children grades k-6

**\$3,500 Child Advocacy & Parenting Services, Inc.-** Assist with funding the Family Mentoring and Support Program to help provide counseling and guidance for low income families

**\$1,500 Ashby House-** Assist with funding for exercise therapy equipment which will help promote physical and mental health for the women living at the shelter and battling substance abuse

**\$2,425 Heartland Programs-** Funding will allow a summer school class for 15 children who are dual-language learners to prepare them for kindergarten

**\$950 Salina Child Care Association-** Provide funds to replace 6 existing baby cribs that no longer meet newly released standards

*The following grants were made possible through a funding partnership between the YW Legacy Fund and the Elden Miller Trust. Grants funded through this partnership meet specific funding criteria established by the Miller Trust. Grant administration is provided by the Community Foundation.*

**\$5,000 Women Helping Women Fund-** To provide dollars for immediate grant distribution while the program builds a permanent endowment.

Grants will assist women who find themselves with no other option for help.

**\$7,000 Salina Adult Education Center-** Assist with funds for Transitions, a pilot project which will assist with the transition to postsecondary education for women who have earned their GED

**\$26,670 Total**

For more information, please call Betsy Wearing President & Executive Director 785-823-1800.



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## Goodbye & Good Luck

YGMC Coordinator Caitlin Cox presents a check to students at South Middle School for their robotics club. Caitlin graduated from Kansas Wesleyan University this spring and is leaving the Foundation to teach special education at Stewart Elementary School. She will be greatly missed!