



2014 Outstanding Citizen Ken Miller (right) shares a laugh with GSCF board alum Rev. Don Schroeder.

Ken Miller is our 2014 Outstanding Citizen

Every year the selection committee for the citizenship award faces the daunting task of selecting one recipient out of many excellent nominations. This year was no exception. The committee is made up of representatives from the City, the School Board, the Chamber, the media, the previous year's recipient and the GSCF board. When the 2014 selection committee made their decision this year, GSCF President Betsy Wearing smiled and thought about picture frames.

Described as an exemplary Salinan, Ken Miller was named this year's outstanding citizen at the Foundation's annual luncheon on May 20.

Miller has been a dedicated sports volunteer for the Visit Salina/Salina Area Chamber of Commerce sports programs, beginning in 1981 with the state 4A basketball tournament, progressing into the 90's with the Big 8 women's tournament, and continuing today with the NJCAA women's championship tournament. His efforts have included recruiting officials, hosting teams, serving as floor manager and even selling a few t-shirts when needed. He has also worked football, wrestling and other events. His calm, reassuring, and positive presence courtside has been welcoming for visitors and also an important influence when intervention was occasionally needed for an unruly fan.

Visiting student athletes respond well to his warm, supporting demeanor, which is not a surprise given that he spent his career as a high school teacher and coach.

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Legacy Grants Serve Women & Families

The 2014 YW Legacy grants support a variety of programs for women and their families. Established in 2006 from assets of the former Salina YWCA and private donations, the fund awards annual grants to initiatives that align with the mission of the YWCA.

This year, more than \$70,000 in requests were reviewed, a record number. The following grants were awarded:

- **\$6,000 Ashby House** to support a writing project dealing with homelessness with writer Ann Parr and residents of the shelter
- **\$2,700 Juneteenth Committee** to help fund the Salina Juneteenth celebration.
- **\$2,700 Child Advocacy and Parenting Services** to provide family mentoring services for Spanish-speaking families
- **\$2,200 Salina Art Center** to support a special project addressing women's bodies after childbirth
- **\$2,500 DVACK** to establish an art therapy program specifically designed for women and children who have been in abusive situations
- ***\$4,900 Salina Housing Authority** to provide scholarships and uniforms for seven women to get allied medical certificates to assist with employment opportunities
- ***\$5,000 Heartland Programs** to support Family Connections relationship and parenting education programs

Total Awards: \$26,000

**The Foundation is grateful to the Elden Miller Trust for supporting these grants.*

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He inspired youth to be their best through his enthusiastic approach and his ability to listen.

Miller has served as volunteer, board member and camp director for Camp Hope, a camp for child cancer patients. He also volunteers for the Love, Chloe Foundation, an organization that helps children diagnosed with cancer. He has been instrumental to the CASTLE summer program for elementary school kids at Sunrise Presbyterian Church, where he has also served as a deacon and elder. During the school year, he is a volunteer at Grace E. Stewart Elementary School. Miller says you can never have a bad day when you are working with kids.

Salina adults have also enjoyed the benefit of Miller's teaching skills. Through his involvement with Consumer Credit Counseling Services he has served as board chair and also worked directly with clients dealing with real-life challenges, and inspiring them to make better life choices. He also interacted with residents at Presbyterian Manor for seven years as a volunteer bus driver.

There is no criteria for the award that requires the recipient to have a relationship with the Community Foundation, but this year, the winner was a volunteer close to our hearts. Since 2006, Miller has served as a mentor for the Foundation's Youth GrantMaker's Council. He also served on the Foundation board for six years. It was during that time that Wearing discovered his love and talent for woodworking.

When the remodeling work began for the Foundation's new home on the 8th floor of the United Building, Wearing asked the builders to salvage some of the woodwork and an old transom window from the original 1929 construction. From them, Miller voluntarily crafted beautiful picture frames for the reception corridor at the new office. "Every time I walk into our office, I think of Ken," Wearing said. I cannot think of anyone who seeks recognition less and deserves it more."



Nonprofit representatives Amy Cole (KSU-Salina), Michelle Peck (Big Brothers Big Sisters), Desi Hammett (Child Care Aware), Susan Hawksworth (Smoky Hill Museum) and Marcia Demuth (Salina Art Center) gather after making their donations and greeting donors at Match Madness+.

Match Madness, a great day for charities

Since it began in 2012, the Foundation's Match Madness event has grown every year. More than 300 donors contributed more than \$106,000 to the endowments of local charities, the largest amount of donations in the history of the event. Donations were matched at 44% from a pool of funds contributed by GSCF and donors. Total benefit to Salina charities from this one-day event was more than \$152,000!

The success of Match Madness is based on the combined efforts of the Foundation and the participating charities. Forty-five charities signed up to participate this year. As in years past, the charities that promoted the event to their donors received the most contributions. New this year was a website for online donations. Donors appreciated the convenience of donating online.

Traditionally held in March, this year Match Madness was moved to May 20 to coincide with a national day of giving celebrating the 100th anniversary of community foundations in the United States. The May date also enabled the Foundation to hold Match Madness in conjunction with a public open house for our new offices on the 8th floor of the United Building. Donors enjoyed tours and refreshments throughout the day.

For 2015, the event will return to March. Mark your calendars now for Match Madness on March 10, 2015!

Scholars

Students pose for a photo at the Foundation's annual grant & scholarship celebration on May 20. GSCF awarded \$60,556 in scholarships this spring to more than 50 students.



GSCF welcomed Founding Donors, Sustainers and Board Alumni to a reception and dedication of our new offices on April 23.



GSCF President Betsy Wearing (right) visits with donors Mark & Jane Berkley.



Board member Martha Rhea (left) visits with founding donor Liz Duckers.



GSCF staff member and founding donor Linda Smith (right) tours founding donors Anne and Harry Jett.



GSCF board chair Dan Mendicina and board member Susan Young take a turn serving refreshments.



Board member Stephanie Klingzell-Carlin, board alum Lisa Peters and GSCF staff member Jenny Stack share a laugh.



Greater Salina Community Foundation

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A member of the Strnad family poses with the antique tractor in this undated photo.

A gem in the barn

In 1957, Republic County Farmer Henry Strnad and his brothers purchased an old Minneapolis Tractor from a scrap dealer in Mahaska, Kansas. The tractor was thought to be manufactured around 1912 and to be one of only a handful left. Fifty-seven years later, Henry and his family donated the tractor to the Republic County Community Foundation, a GSCF affiliate. Throughout our 15 year history, The Foundation has received some unique donations, but none more so than the gift from Strnad family. The antique tractor created quite a stir among collectors. In May, the tractor sold for \$135,000 in an online auction. Proceeds from the sale created the Strnad Family Fund. Every year, the fund will generate a grant to two of the Strnad family's favorite charities in their hometown of Munden Kansas. The story begs the question... what's in your barn or basement? And what might you be able to do with it!?