



Mark Your Calendar!

- 03/01 - Responsive Grants Open
- 03/05 - Women Helping Women Grant Apps Due
- 03/06 - First Friday- Melinda Hutton, 4-6 pm
- 03/12 - 15th Annual **MATCH MADNESS**, 7 am-6 pm
- 04/03 - First Friday- Thomas Zimmerman, 4-6 pm
- 05/05 - Women Helping Women Grant Apps Due

A Promise Lives On: The Tyler J. Ritter Legacy Fund

Tyler J. Ritter was the kind of person who made others feel seen. A beloved son, brother, teammate, and friend, Tyler was known for his kindness, empathy, and ability to connect with people wherever they were in life.

A 2016 graduate of Sacred Heart Jr.-Sr. High School, Tyler was a proud member of the Sacred Heart Knights basketball team. He lived and breathed the game, but above all, he had a huge heart for people and made everyone feel like they mattered.

“Tyler was kind, compassionate, caring, and just wanted to be everybody’s friend,” shared his father, Mark Ritter.

Like many families in our community, Tyler’s family also experienced the devastating impact of substance use disorder. After breaking both wrists in 2017, Tyler became addicted to prescription opioids. Determined to reclaim his life, he entered himself into drug rehab in 2020 and fought hard to defeat his addiction.

By 2022, Tyler was clean, sober, and full of hope. He was excited to return to Salina and had an opportunity to play on the Kansas Wesleyan University basketball team for the upcoming school year.

Tragically, Tyler lost his life to addiction on December 21, 2022, at the age of 24.

At Tyler’s funeral, Mark made a promise to his son, a promise that now lives on through the memorial fund created in Tyler’s name.

“I couldn’t save your life,” Mark said, “but I’m going to try and save others.”

Turning Loss into Life-Changing Impact

After Tyler’s death, Mark established the Tyler J. Ritter Legacy Fund at the Greater Salina Community Foundation to honor Tyler’s life and

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SAVE THE DATE · March 12, 2026
 Celebrating 15 years of love and gratitude!



Ritter Legacy Fund (cont'd)

help others struggling with substance use disorder. By sharing Tyler's story, Mark hopes to reduce stigma surrounding addiction and raise awareness that it can affect anyone.

"At his funeral, I told him, 'Your death is not going to be in vain, and you will be remembered as someone who cared deeply for other people,'" said Mark. "That was probably Tyler's biggest trait—his huge caring heart."

A Gift That Opens the Door to Recovery

Three years after Tyler's death, his family awarded the first grant from the Tyler J. Ritter Legacy Fund to CKF Addiction Treatment, helping cover the cost of treatment for an individual who otherwise could not access care due to financial barriers.

"I chose CKF Addiction to receive the first grant from Tyler's fund because they're doing for people what Tyler's rehab center tried to do for him," said Mark.

CKF Addiction Treatment has been providing addiction health care since 1967 through residential rehabilitation, outpatient services and recovery. They believe in a world

where every individual suffering from addiction gets better. "We are profoundly grateful to be chosen as the very first recipient of the Tyler J. Ritter Legacy Fund," said Chelsey Eberwein, Manager of Adolescent Services & Community Engagement. "This meaningful gift will quite literally change someone's life and is a powerful testament to who Tyler was."

Through the Tyler J. Ritter Legacy Fund, Tyler's caring heart continues to remove barriers, open doors to recovery, and offer hope to those who need it most.



"Tyler was kind, compassionate, caring, and just wanted to be everybody's friend."

~Mark Ritter

Save the Date
GIVE ON MARCH 12!

15 YEARS OF LOVE AND GRATITUDE

**MATCH
MADNE\$\$**

GREATER SALINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**Join us in celebrating the
15th year of Match Madness with a
\$315,000 match pool — the largest one yet!**

Donate to your favorite nonprofit fund(s)
held at GSCF and we match it up to 50%!

Donations provide nonprofits with long-term support and
the match can be used for immediate needs.

WHAT'S AT THE EVENT?

- Donation Station
- Food Trucks
- Nonprofit Booths
- Free Throw & Half Court Shot Contests
- Salina Selfie Station



GIVE IN PERSON

Salina Fieldhouse

7 am to 6 pm on March 12



GIVE ONLINE

www.MatchMadnessGSCF.org

Midnight to 11:59 pm on March 12



MAIL CASH OR CHECK

(with completed donation form)

GSCF

PO Box 2876, Salina, KS 67402-2876

**Must be postmarked by March 12 and
received by March 19**

Choosing the Right Fund for You!

Giving is personal — there's no one-size-fits-all approach. That's why we offer a variety of fund options designed to support the causes you care about in the way you want to give. Explore the options below to find the fund that best matches your charitable goals.

Donor Advised Funds

A donor advised fund is a simple and flexible "charitable savings account." You make a gift, receive an immediate tax deduction, and recommend grants to your favorite nonprofits over time when and where you choose.

Designated Funds

Designated funds provide a permanent source of support for the specific charities you love. We manage the fund and distribute annual gifts to those organizations creating impact that lasts far beyond your lifetime.

Field of Interest Funds

Field of interest funds focus your giving to a broad cause you care about — such as education, public health, youth development, or the arts — while allowing the Foundation to direct grants where they are needed most within that area.

Organization Funds

Organization funds help nonprofits build financial stability and strengthen their mission. These funds provide long-term support for operations, growth, and future sustainability.

Scholarship Funds

Scholarship funds invest in students and strengthen our community's future. You can support learners pursuing higher education, technical training, or specific fields of study creating opportunities for generations to come.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds allow you to support the community's greatest needs — today and tomorrow. They give the Foundation flexibility to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges as they arise.

Ready to get started?

Starting a fund is easier than you might think!

Most funds require a \$10,000 minimum, with up to five years to reach that balance. You can open your fund with just \$1,000 and build it over time through additional gifts.

To make getting started even more impactful, the Dane G. Hansen Foundation is offering a \$2,000 match on the first \$2,000 contributed to any new fund (excluding scholarship funds). Limited matching funds are available.

Whether you're ready to begin or simply want to explore your options, we're here to help you create a fund that reflects your passions and your legacy.

Let's start the conversation! Call us at 785-823-1800 or email Michael Chambers at michaelchambers@gscf.org

New GSCF Funds (established 10/01/25-12/31/25)

- Anonymous Fund
- Ann M. Parr Fund
- Brenda Schewe Fund
- Burton & Bonnie Thompson Fund for Osborne Hospital
- Burton & Bonnie Thompson Scholarship Fund
- Central Kansas United (CKU) Soccer Initiative Fund
- Larry and Joy Smith Family Legacy Fund

Matching Funds Available!

Funds for the Future:

- Dennis Wayne Oborny
- Larry & Sharon Root

New Give Back 5 Pledge (as of 01/18/2026)

- Jessica Stoppel



NEWS & Impact

A Milestone Moment for the Boys & Girls Club of Salina



"Thanks to a partnership with the Salina YMCA, we can serve a complete meal to our members every day." ~ Heather Neuhofer-Tracy, Site Director

What started as a dream for many became a reality for Salina's youth on January 6.

The Boys & Girls Club of Salina opened its doors for the very first time at Oakdale Elementary School, welcoming a small but mighty group of members affectionately known as "The Founding Five." What began with five children has already grown to 25 active members, and continues to grow each week as more young people walk through the doors looking for a place to learn, connect, and belong.

This milestone was made possible by the generosity, enthusiasm, and belief of supporters in our community.

"The community support has played a pivotal role in making this dream a reality," said Heather Neuhofer-Tracy, Site Director.

A 1:1 matching campaign, in addition to local grant funding, and community partnerships has helped give the Boys & Girls Club a strong foundation for success.

A Successful Match Campaign

Before the Club even opened its doors, more than \$520,000 was raised for its endowed fund and \$580,000 for operations, thanks in large part to a local matching

challenge from the Ted and Almita Augustine Donor Advised Fund.

For every \$1 raised for the endowed fund, the Augustine Fund matched it dollar-for-dollar, up to \$500,000. The generosity from local donors and the match strengthened the club's long-term sustainability and its ability to serve youth from day one.

Local Grants

Early investments from charitable funds at the Foundation also helped equip the Club for success. A \$5,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund supported critical startup needs, including director training and essential technology.

"Miss Lindsey and I checked in members for the first time with the greatest of ease," said Heather. "Thanks to the grant, we were able to purchase computers, printers, and card scanners to ensure smooth operations."

Additional support from the L.P. "Pat" Mullen Fund and the YW Legacy Fund provided \$10,000 for sports equipment, art and STEM supplies, and games, giving youth hands-on opportunities to explore, create, and grow. Through activities in arts, health, STEM, recreation, education, and career readiness, members



Members get to choose the activities they participate in, from art to sports and board games to books



are developing technical and problem-solving skills while building creativity, teamwork, and confidence.

Community Partners

Community partnerships continue to expand the Club's reach. In February, the Salina YMCA became the Club's sponsor for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), allowing members to receive a five-component meal each day.

"At the start of the program, we could offer a juice box and Goldfish or a cheese stick and crackers," Heather shared. "Now, thanks to Salina YMCA, we are able to serve a complete meal to our members every day."

More to Come

While fundraising continues with \$3.3 million already secured towards a permanent facility, meaningful work is already happening in the current space.

A Dream Come True!

"Dreams do come true. My passion has always been to create a sense of belonging for every child—no matter how they look, where they come from, how they behave, or how they express themselves. Belonging builds a safe, inclusive environment where students feel seen, valued for their unique identity, and supported in reaching high expectations. Together, we will ensure that every child finds it at the Boys & Girls Club." ~Millie Moye, Founder & Educator



The team has grown to include three Vision Leaders and is working toward serving 50 active members by the end of the school year, with plans to launch a mobile club this summer to reach even more youth.

"Thank you for helping us build a brighter future for Salina's kids," said Lance Patterson, CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Hutchinson.

This progress reflects the collective commitment of donors, charitable funds, and community partners working together to strengthen opportunities for local youth now and in the years ahead.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SALINA



GSCF's vision is to impact today and transform tomorrow through trusted leadership, stewardship and generosity. By working alongside our nonprofit partners, and through the generosity of our donors, we are moving this vision forward in meaningful ways.

~Jessica Fuller, Director of Grants & Scholarships

Connecting with Our Community

A Strong Start to 2026!



The new year is off to a meaningful and energizing start at the Foundation.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to share a few recent highlights that reflect the power of philanthropy at work in our community.

In November, our team had the privilege of joining Tyler J. Ritter's family at CKF Addiction Treatment for a special check presentation. Mark Ritter awarded the first grant from the Tyler J. Ritter Memorial Fund, covering a full month of inpatient treatment for someone beginning their recovery journey. It was a moving moment — one that demonstrated how generosity can honor a loved one's legacy while offering hope and healing to others.

In December, we hosted a Community Connect event featuring six new nonprofit fundholders. It was an inspiring event filled with conversation, collaboration, and shared purpose. Events like these remind us how strong our nonprofit community truly is and how much can be accomplished when people gather around a common goal.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce \$20,000 in new Dane G. Hansen Foundation Matching Grants to encourage the creation of new funds. If you've been considering establishing a fund, this is a wonderful opportunity to amplify your impact.

We also invite you to help shape the future of local grantmaking by completing our brief 10-question Community Needs Survey. Your insight helps guide thoughtful, responsive giving in the years ahead.

And of course, mark your calendars for March 12, 2026. Match Madness is back — and this year features our largest match pool ever at \$315,000!

See you at the Fieldhouse on March 12!

~ Michael Chambers, VP of Community Impact

First Friday Connections

We continue to enjoy hosting First Friday events, and our most recent gathering featured Salina Central High School student Liam Deniau-Young, a talented wood turner. His handcrafted wooden boards, vases, and charming penguin and house sculptures beautifully filled our Berkley Conference Room.



December Community Connect

Community members gathered to learn more about Boys & Girls Club of Salina, Community Housing Development Corp. of Central Kansas (CHDO), Kansas Legal Services, Salina Innovation Foundation (The Temple), Salina Presbyterian Manor and Smoky Hill Equality Coalition.



Community Needs Survey

Help shape the future of local grantmaking by completing our quick 10-question Community Needs Survey. Scan the QR code to participate!



In the Region

Community Foundation for Cloud County: The Morgans



Cloud County youth will have more opportunities thanks to a generous gift from lifelong Cloud County residents Mark and Dorothy Morgan. With deep roots in the community, the Morgans were actively involved in 4-H while growing up and later continued that tradition as they raised their four daughters—Deb, Patti, Tami, and Susie—on the family farm.

Both Mark and Dorothy value education and hands-on learning. Dorothy taught at a country school, while Mark participated in FFA, experiences that helped shape their belief in the power of practical learning and youth development. They see the importance of investing in young people and wanted a way to make a lasting impact while keeping their charitable dollars close to home.

By establishing permanent funds at the Community Foundation for Cloud County, the Morgans can do both—support the next generation and work with a local organization they know and trust.

The Morgan's designated fund will support annual grants to the Cloud County Children's Trust to help cover medical needs for children. It will also provide funding to the Kansas 4-H Foundation to pay the dues for all Cloud County 4-H members. In addition, the fund will support the FFA programs at Concordia and Clifton-Clyde High Schools by covering conference registrations and Ag Days expenses.

In addition, their scholarship fund will award three scholarships each year to Cloud County graduates, including home schooled students. Scholarships will support students pursuing a degree at a technical school, community college, college, or university in Kansas, with preference to those involved in 4-H or FFA or those planning to major in agriculture or education.

"We are very grateful for this generous gift," said Brenda Gilliland, Executive Director of the Community Foundation for Cloud County.

"Mark and Dorothy's generosity will touch countless young lives by helping children access the care they need, giving students the chance to lead and learn, and opening doors to education. It's a gift that strengthens our community today and builds hope for tomorrow."
~Brenda Gilliland, Executive Director



Designated funds provide a permanent source of income to support your favorite charities even long after you are gone, allowing you to *Impact Today and Transform Tomorrow!*



Serving 10 regional affiliates and 13 counties throughout north central and western Kansas.



PO Box 2876 • 119 W. Iron Ave., 8th Floor
Salina, KS 67402-2876

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Director's Message

We like to say the community foundation is *your home* for charitable giving. Home is where stories are honored, dreams take shape, and where generosity grows into lasting legacy.



In this issue of Giving Matters, "home" is defined in many different ways:

- Honoring a child through a donor advised fund that helps others facing substance use disorder
- Investing in the future of your hometown with funds to support causes you care about, like public health, FFA, 4-H and youth education
- Giving at Match Madness to your favorite nonprofit's organization fund so it's here for the next generation
- Connecting donors and grant dollars to local nonprofits like the Boys & Girls Club of Salina to expand access to high quality youth programming

Whatever cause moves you, we're here to help you turn generosity into lasting impact, and be *your home* for charitable giving.

Impact Today. Transform Tomorrow!

Jessica L. Martin
President & Executive Director

Our mission is to improve lives and enrich communities.