



Doyle & Maureen Comfort with scholarship recipients Navy Midshipman Jake Weir and Marine Corps Midshipman Kelsey Hyatt.

Mark Your Calendar!

- 09/1- 10/1 GSCF Responsive Grant Cycle
- 09/04 - First Friday- Jerry & Nancy Lonergan, 4-6pm
- 09/05 - Women Helping Women Grant Apps Due
- 10/02 - First Friday- Summer Sassarita & Cary Brinegar, 4-6pm
- 10/05 - GSCF Office Under Construction- *call first to make sure we are open*
- 10/08 - Make Your Mark Awards

A Legacy of Service, Continued

The Colonel Maureen Comfort, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, Retired and Mr. Doyle Comfort KU NROTC Fund

For Doyle and Maureen Comfort, an appreciation for military service didn't happen all at once. In many ways, it grew over a lifetime.

Doyle joined the Army Reserve during the Vietnam War, serving from 1968 to 1974. At the time, service was simply part of life for many in his generation. It wasn't until years later, learning more about his father's World War II service and watching Maureen's military career, that he began to fully appreciate what it meant.

"I don't think I really had a full appreciation for military service until later in life," Doyle said. "An appreciation came later."

Maureen's path was different. Inspired in part by her mother's experience in the Cadet Nurse Corps, she joined the Army Reserve and earned her nursing degree during her military career as a reservist. She served from 1987 to 2018, retiring as a colonel in the Army Nurse Corps after five mobilizations.

As they grew older, Doyle and Maureen began uncovering stories they hadn't known about their own families.

Doyle learned the extent of his

father's service aboard the USS Wichita during World War II, including 13 battle stars. Maureen discovered



Orley Deane Comfort, Doyle's father

letters her father had written while serving in the Army during the Occupation of Japan and learned more about relatives who served in World War

I and World War II. Doyle's research eventually uncovered ancestors who served as far back as the Revolutionary War.

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Legacy (cont'd)

"Nobody talked about it," Maureen recalled. "You go to Find A Grave and read obituaries, and it's like, wow, I didn't know."

That realization helped inspire The Colonel Maureen Comfort, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, Retired and Mr. Doyle Comfort KU NROTC Fund.

While working on their estate plans, the Comforts began thinking about the legacy they wanted to leave. A scholarship felt different from simply making a gift. "With a scholarship, it gets renewed every year," Doyle said. "It'll never get lost."

Supporting Naval ROTC students at the University of Kansas was a natural fit. Both families have strong connections to KU's program. Doyle's cousin, Marine Corps Major General Clayton Comfort of Minneapolis, Kansas, was a KU NROTC graduate and fighter pilot who was awarded two Bronze Stars with valor while serving in Vietnam. Maureen's brother, Ron Hoffmann, also graduated from the program and served as a U.S. Navy nuclear submarine officer.

Today, the fund is already connecting that history to a new generation. This year's recipients are Navy Midshipman Jake Weir, who hopes to

become a Naval Aviator and fly F/A-18s, and Marine Corps Midshipman Kelsey Hyatt, who aspires to become a Marine Corps pilot.

Meeting the students has made the scholarship even more meaningful for Doyle and Maureen. The financial assistance can help recipients focus on school and the demanding NROTC program rather than needing additional employment. But the Comforts also see something larger in the students they support: discipline, leadership, camaraderie and a commitment to something beyond themselves.

Most importantly, they hope the scholarship keeps their family's story alive.

Someday, they hope their own children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will look back, learn about those who served before them and understand why that history mattered enough to preserve.

"If you don't recount your family history, it will be lost. Honor your own stories and tell them too."

~ Madeleine L'Engle

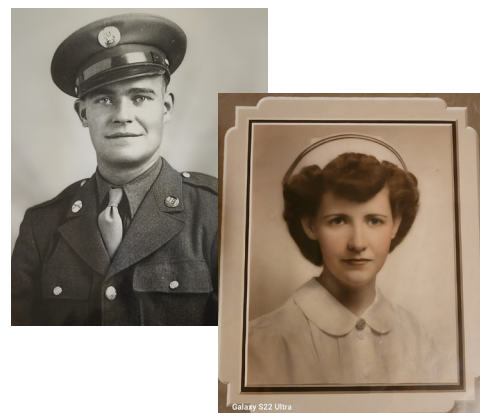


Discover Your Family's Military Story

The Eisenhower Foundation accepts the histories of all servicemen and women who served in WWII, as well as those who served on the home front during the war (e.g. Rosie the Riveter).

Search the collection to explore your own family history and learn more about the service of Doyle and Maureen's parents.

eisenhowerfoundation.net/page/ikes-soldiers



Maureen's parents:
Clemens J. Hoffmann and Mary J. O'Connell

Investing More in Our Nonprofit Partners

The Foundation is proud to announce that administrative fees for all GSCF Organization Endowed and Organization Restricted Funds have been eliminated. This allows nonprofit organizations to keep more charitable dollars at work advancing their missions and strengthening the communities they serve.

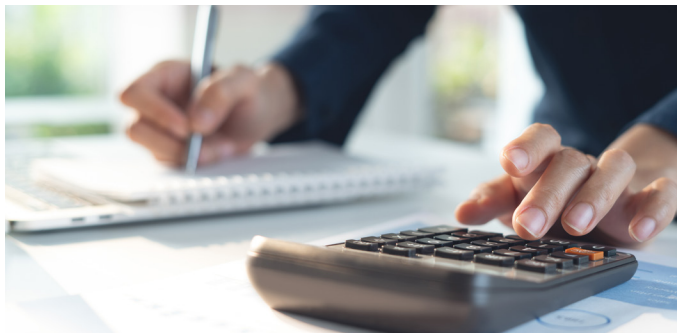
This milestone was made possible by the foresight and generosity of the founding and sustaining donors who helped build GSCF's Administrative Endowment Fund. Their investment created a permanent source of support for the Foundation and now allows us to invest even more in the long-term success of our nonprofit partners—an approach we believe may be unique among community foundations nationwide.

THANK YOU to everyone whose generosity helped make this possible!



Turn Your Gift Into Greater Impact with Kansas Tax Credits

Donors already planning to support local causes may have an opportunity to make their gifts go even further through the **Kansas Community Service Program Tax Credits**. These credits allow eligible donors to support approved projects while receiving a direct reduction in their **Kansas state income tax**.



Tax Credit vs. Tax Deduction: What's the Difference?

- A **tax deduction** reduces the income on which you're taxed. The benefit depends on your tax bracket.
- A **tax credit** reduces your actual tax bill — dollar for dollar.

Here's a simple example: If you make a \$1,000 gift to a qualifying project with a 50% credit, you receive a **\$500 reduction directly off your Kansas tax bill**. You may also be eligible for a federal charitable deduction on the portion of your gift not offset by the state tax credit.

Two Salina Projects Receive Tax Credits

Two Salina nonprofits are among just 24 organizations statewide awarded Community Service Program Tax Credits this year, helping donors make their local gifts go further.

Smoky Hill Museum Friends, Inc. received \$182,000 in tax credits and can offer a 50% credit for gifts to its **"Where Space Meets Story: Design"** campaign. The campaign will fund architectural drawings and a construction bid packet for a planned building expansion designed to accommodate growing attendance and collections while preserving and sharing our community's history.

Saint Francis Ministries received \$118,300 in tax credits and can offer a 50% credit for qualifying gifts to its **Outdoor Playscape Project** at the Salina West residential campus. The therapeutic playscape will create a safe, sensory-rich outdoor environment designed to support healing, emotional regulation, therapy goals and social development for youth with complex mental and behavioral health needs.

Helping Donors Give with Purpose

"One of our roles at the Community Foundation is helping donors understand where their generosity can make a meaningful difference," said Michael Chambers, VP of Community Impact. "Tax credit projects are another opportunity to connect people with important work happening right here in our communities."

Interested in supporting a project? Contact GSCF to get connected.

Tax Credit Opportunities in our Region

Project	Credit Rate	Tax Credits Awarded
Kingdom Kids Childcare Center, Beloit, KS (Discover Mitchell County)	70%	\$182,000
Kelly Plaza Project, WaKeeney, KS (Heartland Community Foundation, WaKeeney)	70%	\$182,000
Saint Francis Ministries, Salina West Therapeutic Playscape, Salina, KS	50%	\$118,300
Smoky Hill Museum Friends Museum Expansion, Salina, KS	50%	\$182,000

State tax credit programs have specific eligibility, timing, and tax rules, and their effect on your overall tax situation depends on your individual circumstances. Allocations are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Please consult your own tax advisor before making a gift. This article is for informational purposes and is not tax or legal advice.

NEWS & Impact

2026 Scholarship Banquet

Celebrating Students, Donors, and Lasting Connections

The Scholarship Banquet on May 11 at the Salina Country Club brought together 175 students, donors, and guests for an inspiring evening of celebration. This year's program highlighted the stories and legacies behind each scholarship, helping students gain a deeper appreciation for the generosity that makes their educational goals possible.

A special highlight of the evening was the opportunity for donors and recipients to connect personally, share conversations, and capture photos together. These meaningful interactions created lasting memories and strengthened the relationships at the heart of our scholarship program.

Max Holthaus, a member of the Wally Beets-John Marino Scholarship Committee, spoke about honoring the legacies of John Marino and Wally Beets through scholarships awarded to deserving Salina Country Club employees.



Number of scholarships administered by GSCF



Total # of scholarships awarded since inception



Total scholarship \$ awarded since inception



Wally Beets-John Marino Scholarship
Recipients: Tate Buettgenbach, Adin Bruna



GSCF Scholarship Donors



GSCF Scholarship Recipients



Helen Wikoff-Graves Scholarship
Recipients: Reese Krone & Delaney Fouard



"The Scholarship Banquet reminded us that scholarships are about more than financial support. They reflect community, generosity, and belief in the potential of our students. As a new school year begins, we wish each student success, growth, and confidence as they pursue their goals."

~Jessica Fuller, Director of Grants & Scholarships

A Family Legacy of Faith, Care and Generosity



For Don and Jean Loader, family always came first. Their lives were rooted in love for their sons, Jim and Jon, and their grandson, Stephen. Their loving spirits shaped the way they gave, served and built a permanent legacy through the Loader Family Fund at Greater Salina Community Foundation.

Jean's life of service began long

before the family fund was created. Raised in Grinnell, Kansas, she came to Salina after being recruited by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia to attend Marymount College. While completing her studies she became a teacher in Salina, later teaching with her sister in Kingston, Jamaica.

Back in Salina, Jean met Don, a Salina native who had graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute and built a successful career as an interior decorator. Together, they opened Don Loader Interiors and grew the business into a trusted destination for design throughout north central Kansas.

Both were active in their church and served many years on the Building and Grounds Committee. After a long retirement, Don and Jean

moved to Salina Presbyterian Manor where they received excellent care across the various levels of support. After Don's death, Jean, Jim and Jon established the Loader Family Fund at GSCF to carry forward the generosity Don and Jean practiced throughout their lives.

"Mom and Dad were generous in a very personal way," said Jim. "They gave to the places that helped shape their lives and made a difference for others. Creating the fund was our way of making sure that generosity continues forever to support the organizations that meant so much to them."

The permanently endowed fund recently made its first distributions to three organizations: Salina Presbyterian Manor, St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church, and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

For Presbyterian Manor, the fund's support will enhance the experiences that help residents stay connected and engaged. Jenni Jones, Director of Giving at SPM, said, "We are deeply grateful to the Loader family for choosing Salina Presbyterian Manor as a recipient of their designated fund. Their generosity helps create meaningful experiences that bring joy, connection, and purpose to our residents."



Jim, Jean, Jon & Don Loader

New GSCF Funds (established 04/01/26-06/30/26)

- Geist Family Legacy Fund in Honor of Sharon Geist & Shirley Geist Stover
- Gypsum Valley Community Foundation Legacy Fund
- Love Projects, Inc. Fund
- Salina Chorale Fund
- Trooper Ben #HelpMore Foundation Fund

Funds for the Future

- David & Vickie Tangeman Fund

Connecting with YOU!



Throughout the year, GSCF brings donors, nonprofits and community members together to learn, connect and engage.

By opening the door to conversation, learning, and shared purpose, these events remind us that philanthropy is not only about giving, it is about belonging, participating, and investing in the future of our community together.

~ Michael Chambers, VP of Community Impact

Community Connect

GSCF's Community Connect events bring donors and nonprofit leaders together for meaningful conversation about the work, needs and opportunities shaping our community. Donors hear directly from organizations about their missions and priorities, with time to ask questions, make connections and explore where their generosity could make a difference.

On August 4, GSCF welcomed five arts and culture organizations to share the creative energy, public programs and future vision of Salina's cultural sector. Each organization holds a permanently endowed Organization Fund with GSCF, creating a lasting source of support for current and future needs.

Featured Organizations

- **Salina Arts & Humanities**, Brad Anderson
- **Smoky Hill Museum Friends**, Susan Hawksworth
- **Salina Symphony**, Adrienne Allen
- **Salina Art Center**, Misty Serene
- **Theatre Salina**, Michael Spicer



RSVP for our next Community Connect: Transfer of Wealth in Kansas + Happy Hour

Nov. 3, 4-5 pm | Barolo Grille

Featured Speaker: Betsy Wearing, Coordinator of Programs, Communications and New Initiatives at Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

RSVP to foundationservices@gscf.org

First Friday

GSCF also opens its doors for First Friday Artist Receptions, creating space for local artists to share their work and connect with the community. The August reception featured the Salina Photography Club, with 10 local photographers exhibiting their work, including our own Rita Northup's sister Rhonda Albrecht!

Coming Up: Jerry & Nancy Lonergan, Friday, September 4, 4-6 pm at our office.



In the Region



■ SOLOMON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Julia Rabe Honored with We Kan! Award

Julia Rabe, Executive Director of the Solomon Valley Community Foundation, received the Kansas Sampler Foundation's "Catalyst for Rural Investment" We Kan! Award recognizing her leadership and impact in rural Kansas. She was presented with a handmade plate created by artist Stacy Barnes of Greensburg.

Julia was selected for her passion for connecting people, sparking creativity and turning big ideas into action. She is admired for the leadership, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness she brings to her work in Beloit and Mitchell County, and the Community Foundation.

Julia Rabe is the first of ten Kansans who will receive the We Kan! award in 2026.



SVCF Board members and Staff: Kelly Reling, Darcel McPeak, Christie Fouts, Colleen Eberle, Julia Rabe, Annie Moritz-Nicholson, Clint Shoemaker, Gary Pingel

■ WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Washington County Hosts Thank You & Legacy Giving Event

Community members and WCCF Board Members came together at the KSDS Assistance Dogs facility to learn, connect and explore ways to leave a legacy that will benefit future generations. Special guest Reid Perry, District Director for U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, also attended.

Guests enjoyed fellowship, a catered meal by Gug's Bar and Grill and The Farmer's Daughter in Hanover, and a presentation on planned giving by Jessica Martin, President & Executive Director of GSCF. Martin shared stories and practical ways donors can turn their values into a lasting legacy, from cash and appreciated assets to grain, livestock and even farmland through the Foundation's new Giving Acres program.

WCCF Board Secretary Shellie Baxter also reflected on the Foundation's growth over the past 15 years and thanked the many donors, volunteers and community members who have helped make that progress possible.



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



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Director's Message

One of the greatest privileges of our work at the Community Foundation is hearing the stories behind people's generosity.

In this issue of Giving Matters, those stories remind us that legacy is about much more than the assets we leave behind. It is about preserving the people, experiences and values that shaped our lives—and finding meaningful ways to carry them forward.

For Doyle and Maureen Comfort, that means honoring generations of military service and inspiring future generations through their NROTC scholarship. For the Loader family, it means continuing Don and Jean's deeply personal generosity by permanently supporting the organizations that were important throughout their lives.

These gifts do more than provide scholarships or annual support. They preserve stories, values and memories for future generations. Whatever matters most to you, we're here to help you turn it into a legacy that lasts.

Impact Today. Transform Tomorrow!

Jessica L. Martin
President & Executive Director



Our mission is to improve lives and enrich communities.