20 years of inspiring vision and generosity

For 20 years the Derby Community Foundation has been inspiring vision and generosity. During 2013 this anniversary has been celebrated in a number of ways, including banners displayed throughout Derby on light-poles and the “20 Acts of Generosity” campaign.

The significant impact that the DCF has had on the Derby community over the past 20 years is a testament to the vision and generosity of our donors. From the first initiative of the DCF, raising matching funds for a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation to construct the first phase of Derby’s now 25 mile hike/bike path, generous donors have been the key to success.

Kermit Daum, retired Science Department Chair/Teacher at Derby High School, was the first donor to realize the opportunity to award scholarships through the DCF. The Kermit Daum Scholarship Fund awards $500 each year to a Derby High School senior who plans to major in a science-related field.

Today, the DCF administers 6 scholarship funds which award $22,000 in scholarships to local students. Over the past 20 years, generous donors have been inspired to work with the DCF to purchase 14 bronze sculptures which can be viewed throughout the community. Donors have also opted to establish memorial funds with the DCF which have funded a variety of enhancement projects, including holiday light displays. Some donors have chosen to establish permanent memorial funds (endowed) to honor loved ones with annual grants to designated organizations like Kansas Special Olympics and Via Christi Endowment.

By participating in an annual fund-raising event since 1997, donors have contributed to the awarding of over $55,000 in grants to local non-profits through the DCF’s Community Enrichment Grant Program. Some efforts funded by this program include American Sign Language Class at Derby Middle School, Victory in the Valley Derby Cancer Support Group, Good Neighbor Nutrition Program and Children’s Theater for USD 260 students. In order to sustain the work of the DCF for generations to come, area donors generously made gifts and pledges to establish the Operational Endowment Fund. The efforts of these donors were rewarded by the Kansas Health Foundation in 2010 with the awarding of a matching grant to increase the size of the Operational Endowment Fund and to establish a Kansas Health Foundation Fund for the community. The DCF, with community input, will begin awarding grants from this fund in the near future to support public health initiatives.

As we move forward from this anniversary year, we will be seeking input and assistance from local donors. We believe that in order to better our lives we must better where we spend our lives. For us, that’s Derby, Kansas. We will strive in the years to come to work with donors to raise a shared standard of excellence in all we do.
Grants make a difference

What happens when you combine Valentine’s Day with an imaginative teacher, energetic 1st graders, a few parent volunteers, residents of Westview Manor, and a Community Enrichment Grant from the Derby Community Foundation? The correct answer would be a wonderful experience that taught students the joy of giving to others and huge smiles!

Wineteer Elementary teacher Liz Fowler received a grant from the DCF last fall. The grant provided supplies for her students to make “no sew” pillows for residents. With help from parent volunteers, the students cut and tied fabric, then stuffed the pillows before traveling to Westview on Valentine’s Day to hand deliver the pillows. The students also performed a few songs while at Westview and gave out more than a few hugs which brought smiles to the faces of the residents.

Walk of Freedom Veterans Memorial

The courage and devotion of nearly 400 Derby area veterans have been memorialized at the Walk of Freedom-Derby Area Veterans Memorial in Garrett Park. This cooperative project of the Derby Community Foundation and City of Derby is a beautiful tribute to the brave men and women who have served or continue to serve in a branch of the United States military.

A celebration is held each year at the memorial on Veteran’s Day, November 11, at 2 PM (if weather is inclement, event to be at Woodlawn United Methodist Church). The theme for this year’s celebration is “Telling Their Stories,” and will feature a presentation by Tammy Zimmerman, author of “Blinded by His Shadow.” Zimmerman’s book chronicles the military service of her grandfather.

Orders for bricks will be taken each year with the annual deadline of August 1 for installation by Veteran’s Day. Order forms may be found on the DCF website, www.derbycf.org, under the “Forms” menu, or at the Derby Welcome Center.

2013 Grants & Scholarships

A variety of grants and scholarships were awarded through the Derby Community Foundation in 2013.

Community Enrichment Grants:

- Operational Holiday-Derby - $1,000.00
- Good Neighbor Nutrition Program - $1,000.00
- Wichita Children’s Theater - $1,000.00
- Relay for Life-Derby - $500.00
- Derby Middle School - $500.00

Arlo and Charlotte Lindsey Kidneys for Life Memorial Fund

- Leukemia/Lymphoma Society - $319.00

Patty Anthony Memorial Fund

- Special Olympics-Kansas (Derby Free Spirits) - $273.00

Ada Thoma Memorial Scholarship

- Ashley Keller - $750
- Mike Burr Memorial Scholarship
- Claire Branstetter - $255

Bill Shaw Honarary Panther Baseball Scholarship

- Zach Ashford - $250
- Roland Segovia - $250

Decarsky Foundation Scholarship

- Blythe Grommett - $4,000
- Louisa Lopez - $4,000
- Shane Swank - $4,000

Rotary Club of Derby Scholarship

- Shane Swank - $1,000
- Melynda Bussman - $1,000
- Hannah Howard - $1,000
Keep 5 in Kansas

How can you ensure that the things that make Derby unique continue, long after you're gone? That's the question being posed and answered through a statewide effort, “Keep 5 in Kansas.”

Through the Kansas Association of Community Foundations, the Derby community Foundation is a member, “Keep 5 in Kansas” is seeking to create a better future for all Kansas. By keeping just 5% of our wealth in our state through local community foundations, we can improve our quality of life, and strengthen the place we call home.

Our state is experiencing an unprecedented transfer of wealth, as estates change hands from one generation to the next. By 2020, the transfer of wealth in Kansas is estimated to be $79 billion, and will increase to $598 billion by 2026.

Many people allocate their entire estate to their children, but as more people leave the communities where they were raised, much of this inherited wealth will leave Kansas. It’s increasingly important for Kansans to reinvest resources back into the places where they earned their living and enjoyed a good life.

If we Keep 5 in Kansas by capturing just 5% of this wealth transfer, up to $4 billion could go back into our towns and cities by 2020—including Derby! Just imagine the possibilities for our community!

By establishing a fund through the Derby Community Foundation, you can provide permanent support to organizations and projects in our hometown. The DCF can pool and leverage resources, enabling your gift to make a greater impact than it could on its own, and help to ensure that your charitable dreams live on forever.

And it just takes a small percent—even as little as 5% of your estate—to make a big impact! If you Keep 5 in Kansas, you will create a legacy that will benefit generations to come.

Joining the Derby Community Foundation’s Legacy Society is one way to Keep 5 in Kansas. See the related article in this newsletter.

DCF establishes Legacy Society

When you plant a tree you provide shade and beauty now and in the future. In that same way, life takes on special meaning when you choose to leave a gift to benefit present and future generations.

This year, the Derby Community Foundation has established a Legacy Society; an opportunity for individuals who realize the importance of supporting our community now and in the future. Legacy Society members have made provisions for future gifts that will last for all time.

The simplest form of a legacy gift is a bequest to the Derby Community Foundation in an estate plan, such as cash, stock, IRA or retirement plan assets, Savings Bonds, or real or personal property.

Three Derby residents are the first members of the Legacy Society: Theresa A. Hearn, James Coffey, and Betty Wilken. Joining the Legacy Society is simple—just complete a Legacy Society Statement of Intent, available on DCF website (www.derbycf.org). There is even simple language available to assist with establishing a planned gift.

We would love to talk with other Derbyites who would like to leave a permanent gift to support area charitable purposes—feel free to contact the DCF for more information.

“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others remains and is immortal.”

Like Us on Facebook

www.derbycf.org updates

Recent updates to the Derby Community Foundation website include a “Donate” page which allows for online donations.

“Most people write few if any checks these days,” said Theresa Hearn, DCF executive director. “We hope that by providing an online option we are better serving our donors.”

Donations can be made to most DCF funds through the website with a credit card or PayPal account.

Other updates to the website include a listing of the 20 Acts of Generosity recipients and a photo gallery from Uncorked 2013. The DCF also has a Facebook page.
This year’s annual gala to benefit the Derby Community Foundation includes some exciting changes!

“We took some time to talk with past attendees to find out what they liked about the event and what could be changed,” said Theresa Hearn, DCF executive director. “We also invested some time and resources in training and consultation with experts in the field of benefit auctions.”

The highlight of the live auction will be a 7-night stay in a 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom, luxury penthouse overlooking the bay in Kinsale, Ireland (airfare not included). The package includes pre-trip planning with a contact in Kinsale, as well as a meet/greet at the airport. “This WOW! Factor auction package was offered to us through one of the consultants we worked with this past spring,” said Hearn. “We are thrilled to have such a unique item as part of our auction.”

The auction will be conducted by 2013 National Auctioneer of the Year Megan McCurdy. “We’re very excited about having Megan as part of our event this year,” added Hearn.

Other auction items sure to please are a 18 bottle wine cooler (refrigerator) filled with wines, a resin replica of Panther Rock by local artist John Parsons, lodging and a round of golf at Flint Hills National Golf Course, dining experiences at various area restaurants, a vintage dollhouse, and a wine-tasting for 4 at the Derby Wine Estates in Los Robles, California (airfare not included);

Back by popular demand is the Cork Pull. A beer-tasting station and Beer Tap (similar to the Cork Pull, but with six-packs of micro-brewed beer) have also been added to the event.

Uncorked is Saturday, February 22, 2014, from 7-10 PM, at the Derby Public Library. Tickets go on sale January 1 at the Derby Welcome Center, from any DCF board member, or online with a credit card at www.derbycf.org.