



DERBY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Inspiring Vision and Generosity.

DCF Operational Endowment Fund Partners

In 2008, the Derby Community Foundation began a campaign to create a means to support the efforts of the Foundation for the long-term. The individuals and businesses listed below have pledged to assist with funding the continued work of the Foundation through generous gifts.

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Ray and Virginia Warren

Leading Partners

John and Linda Bode,
BRG Precision Products

Guiding Partners

Bill and Nancy Lusk

Building Partners

Bill and Reba Smith
Tomp and Vicki Decarsky

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Theresa A. Hearn, Executive Director

Keller honored as generous hero



Carol Keller exemplifies generosity with the time and talents that she commits as a volunteer with the Derby Free Spirits, a local recreational program for individuals with developmental and physical disabilities. Carol has been the driving force for the Derby Free Spirits since this group formed in 1983.

For these efforts, the Derby Community Foundation presented Keller with the first annual Generosity Award last February. The Generosity Award is given to a Derby resident who "commits" uncommon acts of generosity that reflect the mission of the DCF, which is "to inspire vision and generosity." Keller received a personalized gift package at Uncorked (the Foundation's annual event) and the opportunity to award a \$500 grant to the charity of her choice—she chose the Derby Free Spirits

To further honor Keller, the DCF nominated her for the Kansas Mid-Way Chapter-American Red Cross Heroes Awards program. Keller received the BKD Community Hero Award from the Red Cross on December 10. The Red Cross Heroes Awards recognize "ordinary people for performing extraordinary acts."

GIFT OF LAND ANNOUNCED FOR NEW BALLPARK

At a gathering sponsored by the Derby Community Foundation in October, it was announced that Vicki Decarsky has donated 63 acres of land on south Rock Road to the City of Derby for a new ballpark which will include a small dog park area. Vicki's late husband, Tomp, was a little league baseball coach and dog lover. Decarsky Park will honor the generosity of this Derby couple.

In 2010 they established the Decarsky Foundation Scholarship with the DCF, the largest local scholarship awarded to Derby High School students. This scholarship provides a graduating Derby senior with \$4,000 a year for up to 4 years at a Kansas college or university or \$2,500 a year to attend a community college. Last May, 4 graduating Derby seniors received Decarsky Scholarships along with 2 former DHS students who qualified for continued funding.

"We are so grateful for the many ways that Vicki and Tomp have shared their vision and generosity with our community," said Theresa Hearn, DCF executive director.

As a physical therapist, Keller is a perfect fit for the Free Spirits organization. She is Special Olympics volleyball and track coach, a role that sometimes involves over 50 hours of volunteer time per month. The Derby Free Spirits travel for field trips and recreational outings across the state and Carol is always there to organize and facilitate.

In addition to her work with the Free Spirits, each summer Keller also organizes a national qualifier for athletes with disabilities called the "Challenge Games." She discovered the event 26 years ago and has continued to coordinate the event in Derby every summer. Keller also serves as a volunteer board member for the CJ Memorial Foundation.



Keller is a true gem to the Derby community. Her commitment to a full and enjoyable life for all persons with disabilities is commendable and admirable.

The Derby Recreation Commission also honored Keller with the 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Tribute to Medal of Honor recipient dedicated

A permanent tribute to Derby's only known Medal of Honor recipient, Col. Merlyn Hans Dethlefsen, was dedicated on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2014.

The tribute is part of a new entryway at the Derby Area Veterans Memorial-Walk of Freedom at Garrett Park.

Col. Dethlefsen lived in Derby while he was stationed at McConnell Air Force Base. He was a former Iowa farm boy. According to his colleagues, he did not fit the stereotype of the flamboyant F-105 or "weasel" (as the aircraft was nicknamed) fighter pilot.

Dethlefsen's job on that day in March 1967 when he flew his 78th combat mission over North Vietnam was to protect a strike team from surface-to-air-missiles and anti-aircraft guns. He would stay in the target area for 10 minutes, which must have seemed like an eternity. His aircraft had taken several hits but he continued his mission.

The weasels could've left the area when the strike force did, but that wasn't the way Captain Dethlefsen interpreted his duty: "With the weather the way it was that day, I knew we would never have a better chance—so I made up my mind to stay until I got that SAM site or they got me," he said.

When he finally departed the target area, he was low on fuel and unable to reach his assigned base, so he made an emergency landing at a forward operating base in his battle-damaged aircraft.



Dethlefsen finished his combat tour, 100 missions over North Vietnam, in May 1967. President Lyndon B. Johnson presented him with the Medal of Honor at the White House on February 1, 1968. President Johnson noted that Dethlefsen's actions had not been a momentary impulse. "He had plenty of time to think about the danger to himself, to figure the odds, event to turn away," said the President. "But his courage was calculated. It came not from desperation, but dedication. He answered a call far beyond duty."

When asked about the mission, Dethlefsen was quick to deflect praise. He noted that the mission was not extraordinary. That all he did was the job he was sent to do.

Merlyn Hans Dethlefsen retired from the United States Air Force as a Colonel in 1977; he died in 1987, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

His wife, Jorja, who lives in Texas now, wrote the following footnote: "Merle was a devoted Christian and was protected, as he was only the second man to ever finish a weasel tour of duty."

Col. Dethlefsen's bravery, as well as the courage of nearly 400 Derby area veterans, are honored at the Walk of Freedom.



2014 Grants & Scholarships

A variety of grants and scholarships were awarded through the Derby Community Foundation in 2014.

Community Enrichment Grants:

Derby Sixth Grade Center	\$1,000
Band Composer Commission	
Cooper Elementary School	\$1,000
Books for Library	
Derby Sixth Grade Center	\$200
Community Problems Answered by Community Students	
Derby High School	\$500
Choices 2014 Event	
Communities in Schools	\$700
Community Service Day	
Derby Senior Services	\$600
Derby Dash Scholarship Fund	
Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas	\$1,000
Boys 2 Men Empowerment Program	
Derby Fire and Rescue	\$1,500
Smoke Detector and CO Sensor Program	
Kansas Aviation Museum	\$1,000
Derby Aviation Science Night	
Derby Police Department	\$2,500
Community Policing Bicycle Unit	
Kansas Health Foundation Fund Grants	
GraceMed Clinic/Oaklawn	\$5,000
Derby Senior Celebration 2014	\$500
Derby Recreation Commission/Oaklawn Community Garden	\$500
Derby Community Coalition Promoting Healthy Choices/After Prom	\$500
Derby Community Coalition Promoting Healthy Choices/SummerFest	\$500
Arlo and Charlotte Lindsey Kidneys for Life Memorial Fund	
Derby Renal Treatment Center-	\$351.00
Patty Anthony Memorial Fund	
Special Olympics-Kansas (Derby Free Spirits)	\$250.00
Ada Thoma Memorial Scholarship	
Chris Hearn, Sam Pinkerton	\$500 (each)
Mike Burr Memorial Scholarship	
Alex Meek	\$274
Bill Shaw Honorary Panther Baseball Scholarship	
Christian Cathey, Travis Young	\$250 (each)
Decarsky Foundation Scholarship	
Louisa Lopez, Shane Swank, Addison Linn, Chandler Benway, Kaitlin Angsten, Luke Palmer	\$4,000 (each)
Rotary Club of Derby Scholarship	
Jacob Archer, Alex Meek, Amy Prieb	\$1,000 (each)
Braxton Kooser Memorial Scholarship	
Makenzie Holcomb	\$250

New fund assists DHS students with CTE supplies

Through the generosity of several local donors, Derby Community Foundation has created a Career Technical Education Assistance Fund which will provide grants to Derby High School to assist students who are pursuing technical certifications. The fund is being established in response to the growing number of students who are enrolling in technical courses as a result of Senate Bill 155.

Senate Bill 155 provides state dollars to pay tuition for high school students (juniors/seniors) earning credits in technical courses at public community and technical colleges. The bill also provides reimbursement to school districts for providing transportation to these students. Some students are in need of assistance with purchasing the supplies (i.e., tools, safety equipment, clothing, etc.) required for the technical courses. This is the purpose of the CTE Assistance Fund.

Technical careers offer students many benefits:

Swift—ready to work in a chosen career field in two years or less; Diverse—a variety of technical careers are available; Rewarding—starting salaries for career technical education graduates offer a living wage; Focused—technical education programs study only what is relevant and pertinent to the career; Hands-on—learn by doing using real tools and technology in real-life applications; Accommodating—students completing technical programs may be ready for work or transfer the credits toward a bachelor's degree.

More than 64% of future Kansas jobs will require some level of college education. Career Technical Education programs prepare a qualified and talented workforce for our state.

Thanks to the interest of donors Judy Greteman, Vicki Decarsky and Derby Rotary Club, the CTE Assistance Fund will begin awarding grants to DHS next semester.

The goal is to establish a permanent (endowed) fund. For more information about how to make contributions to this fund, contact the Community Foundation.

Grant equips exam room at GraceMed clinic

The Derby Community Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to GraceMed Health Clinic to help underwrite the cost of medical equipment for GraceMed's new school-based health center located adjacent to Oaklawn Elementary School in the Derby (USD 260) school district.

The Oaklawn Clinic is part of Project Oasis, a program focused on bringing quality health care services to residents of south Wichita and Sedgwick County, an area labeled a health care 'desert'. This new school-based clinic serves children, students, adults and seniors living in the greater Oaklawn area. Primary medical

services are provided including pediatric, adult and geriatric care and the clinic offers preventive oral health care services (e.g. cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants). Restorative dental care is referred to local private dentists or the main GraceMed clinic at 1122 N. Topeka.

At capacity, this new clinic will be able to serve 3,100 unduplicated patients through 9,400 patient visits per year. The grant was awarded from the DCF's Kansas Health Foundation Fund which is designated for efforts that address health needs within the Derby area.



Music alumni honor Hearn with scholarship

"Oh, Balderdash!" "I'm from Missouri, SHOW me!" If these terms are familiar to you, than you can count yourself lucky to have spent time in the vocal music classroom of Ross Hearn.

During Hearn's 38-year teaching career, he had a positive impact on thousands of students. Now, some of those students, spearheaded by Mike Alumbaugh-Class of 1986, have set out to honor him with an endowed scholarship through the Derby Community Foundation.

The Ross Hearn Vocal Music Excellence Scholarship will support Derby High School graduates who wish to continue studying vocal music after graduation from DHS. Hearn taught more than vocal music through his passion for music and his high expectations—he taught life lessons.



Contributions to this scholarship fund may be made online at www.derycf.org "Donate" button, or by sending a check/money order/cash to the Derby Community Foundation, PO Box 327, Derby, KS 67037.

Uncorked 2015 goes Mardi Gras

You'll find Mardi Gras masks, beads, King's Cake Cupcakes, jazz music and more at Uncorked 2015, the annual gala to benefit the Derby Community Foundation.

"The members of the Uncorked Committee decided to enhance the event this year with a Mardi Gras theme," said Theresa Hearn, DCF executive director. "We've embraced the theme, so attendees will find bits and pieces of Mardi Gras in every aspect of the event."



The highlight of the live auction will be a 7-night stay in a 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom, upper floor luxurious Victorian property in St. Andrews, Scotland. The property has sea views with the 18th hole of the famed St. Andrews Old Course less than a nine iron from its front door. The package includes pre-trip planning with a contact in St. Andrews, as well as a meet/greet at the airport (airfare and meals not included).

The package also includes complimentary daily entry to OLD COURSE Ballot and access to St. Andrews on-line tee time booking computer (green fees at client cost).

New this year to the auction is 4 gift certificates for lodging at one of the all-inclusive Caribbean Elite Island Resorts (Antigua, St. Vincent, the Grenadines, Saint Lucia or Panama). Gift certificates (valued at \$900 to \$2,700 each) provide accommodations for up to 2 rooms and are subject to required supplement fee of \$110 to \$140 per person, per night, based on double occupancy, depending on the resort, which provides all dining, beverages (including alcohol), resort activities and service charges. The required supplement fee and taxes are collected at the time of booking.

Other auction items sure to please are a gift certificate for one-year of free general alterations and tailoring from Vanya Design (for the successful bidder and his/her immediate family); a round of golf at Prairie Dunes Golf Course (Hutchinson); a wine-tasting for 2 at Luciano's (Mulvane); dinner for up to 6 prepared in your home by Artisan Catering; "stadium bundles" (lap afghan, beanie and scarf) for KU, KSU, and WSU, designed and made by Barbara Bulger; necklace from Derby Jewelers; Chocolate Making Class for 2 at Cocoa Dolce; \$50 gift certificate from Sig's Gourmet Meats; and more!

Back by popular demand are the Cork Pull and Beer Tap. In keeping with the Mardi Gras theme, there will be King's Cake Cupcakes for sale; the lucky purchasers of several of the cupcakes will find a plastic baby inside which may be exchanged for a prize. Wine and beer tasting, along with hors d'oeuvres provided by area restaurants and caterers, Cocoa Dolce truffles and chocolate covered strawberries from La Galette will also be featured.



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Uncorked is Saturday, February 28, 2015, from 7-10 PM, at the Derby Public Library. Tickets are on sale now at the Derby Welcome Center, from any DCF board member, or online with a credit card at www.derbycf.org.

A festive poster for the 2015 Uncorked: Mardi Gras event. It features a decorative border of colorful beads and a central illustration of a Mardi Gras mask and a stack of King's Cake Cupcakes. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout, providing details about the event's location, date, and activities.

The Derby Community Foundation invites you to attend
2015 Uncorked: Mardi Gras

Guests will enjoy wine and beer tasting, fine foods prepared by area caterers and restaurants, as well as fine chocolates. Our live auction will include a variety of items – something for everyone. Back by popular demand are the Cork Pull, Beer Tap and Photo Booth. New this year: King's Cake Cupcakes and prizes!

Attire: Cocktail Dress

**Saturday
February 28, 2015
7-10 p.m.**

Derby Public Library

Event proceeds benefit the Derby Community Foundation

