



Central Kansas  
Community Foundation

*Strengthening Central Kansas Communities*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Foundation awards record-high \$747,000 in grants and scholarships in 2010**

*Central Kansas Community Foundation experiences phenomenal growth,  
increases impact in 2010.*

**Newton, Kan. (Mar 23, 2011)** – Central Kansas Community Foundation closed the year in 2010 by awarding an all time record high of \$747,701 in grants and scholarships. Total assets under management topped the \$11,000,000 mark.

Grants in 2010 ranged in size from \$250 to \$25,000 and supported a variety of community projects across Central Kansas, including child care and other children’s initiatives, health care and access, student scholarships, senior centers, libraries, fine arts, and a variety of civic projects. Grants are supported through more than 197 endowed funds, donor advised funds and scholarship funds. Competitive grants were awarded through the KidsFUNd initiative, which is funded by the proceeds from the Sand Creek Station Pro-Am, and the Women’s Community Fund.

In terms of assets under management, the foundation has nearly doubled in size since the 2009 merger that combined the Central Kansas Community Foundation and the Greater Newton Community Foundation.

“We anticipated that the merger would reinvigorate the foundation and lead to greater growth, however, I think we have even been surprised at the pace of the growth and expansion,” noted Board of Director Chairman Bill Hake.

Part of the growth can be attributed to the Foundation’s support of regional affiliate foundations.

“CKCF has embraced the concept of nurturing new affiliate foundations. We teach rural central Kansas communities to identify, cultivate and ultimately to preserve their existing community wealth; to put it to work for them to ensure the future of their community. And they can do all of that by creating their own affiliate community foundation,” according to Sandi Fruit, executive director.

As a result Central Kansas now works with nine affiliate foundations including: Peabody Community Foundation; Hillsboro Community Foundation; Hesston Community Foundation; the Community Foundation of Greater Butler County; Park City Community Foundation, Halstead Community Foundation; Florence Community Foundation and the Trinity Heights United Methodists Church Foundation; and the Goessel Community Foundation. CKCF serves as the “host” foundation, providing back office support, accounting and investment management.

The Foundation has seen the slow but steady growth of these affiliate foundations over time.

“I enjoy working with new community foundations. Often the advisory boards of directors have to see by example that these funds will, indeed, grow and generate grant awards for their community. Once they

embrace the possibilities, typically three to five years down the road, you begin to see the creation of named endowments, bequest gifts and donor advised funds.”

Donor advised funds are an increasingly popular tool for family philanthropy, not only in Kansas but across the country as well.

Donor advised funds allow families to create named endowments, then stay actively involved in suggesting charitable uses for the grants generated from the fund. The Foundation handles all the administrative details and issues grant awards to charities in the name of the family’s fund.

For more information about community foundations and Central Kansas Community Foundation, contact CKCF at 316-283-5474 or email Sandra Fruit at [sandi@ckcf.net](mailto:sandi@ckcf.net).

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### **About the Central Kansas Community Foundation**

The Foundation considers its mission to encourage philanthropy, strengthen communities, and improve quality of life for residents in Harvey, Marion, McPherson, Sedgwick and Butler Counties. We envision being the leader in philanthropy in the communities we serve, connecting donors with meaningful programs and causes, strengthening charitable organizations, providing leadership on local and regional issues and building permanent community resources.

*Together We Can Accomplish Great Things!*