

News Release

Western Kansas Community Foundation Receives Surprise Legacy Gift

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Garden City, Kan. – The Western Kansas Community Foundation (WKCF) received a \$1.8M legacy gift, the largest in its 22-year history. A portion of the gift is allocated to provide permanent support for high school students in Grant County, KS. The Anna and May Rosel Scholarship Fund, now established within the WKCF, will help educate young people for generations to come.

Who were the donors who left this generous gift? Anna and her daughter May Rosel lived in Ulysses, KS most of their lives where they owned a family clothing store. The store opened in Ulysses in 1928 in a brick building owned by C.D. Hickock, one of the early settlers of the town. The store was simply known as “Gray & Rosel,” a reference to Anna Rosel and her husband, Ted Gray. Ted died in 1941, the year the store was moved to a new building on Main Street. Anna continued to operate the store for nearly 40 years before turning the management over to her daughter, May. At age 95, she continued to keep tabs on the store’s inventory, making sure every penny was accounted for.

“The legacy gift came as a complete surprise to the WKCF,” says Conny Bogaard, Executive Director of the WKCF. “There was no communication with the donors at the time when the trust was created.” Yet, Anna and her daughter May clearly wanted to keep their money local and knew the WKCF could do that for them. The desire to give back to their community inspired them to set up a trust that included a stipulation for a scholarship fund. By setting up the Anna and May Rosel Trust and Scholarship Fund the donors made a commitment at the end of their lives, ensuring their community will continue to thrive long after they’re gone.

Staff of WKCF always welcomes visiting with donors or those interested in leaving a legacy or memorial gift. Call 620-271-9484 or stop by the WKCF office at 402 N. Main Street in downtown Garden City.

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