

SOLOMON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GROWING FOR GREATNESS



Welcome!

I am honored to be serving the Solomon Valley Community Foundation in my new role as the Executive Director. Working with the foundation has allowed me to experience firsthand the generosity and passion of our donors. We are enjoying the fruit of the labor forged over time to provide our families with a great education, a thriving community, and a place to call home. My own 3 children inspire me daily to look ahead at the future and ensure they have even more opportunities to create the life they dream of and to help others along the way.

As an organization we have taken a strategic look at how we want to position ourselves in Mitchell County. We envision a community that is thriving, collaborative and generous. Setting the standard for rural living. We believe we can be a catalyst for continued positive change, engaging partners, inspiring local philanthropy, and leveraging resources to overcome obstacles, create lasting legacies, and contribute to the strength of Mitchell County.

As we continue to grow as a Community Foundation in our facilitation, fund development, and non-profit partnership we see the opportunities for vibrant, progressive projects and sustainable programs that will serve the entire community, leaving a legacy for future generations.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the philanthropic heartbeat of Mitchell County in this, our first edition of the "Growing for Greatness" newsletter.

Julia Rabe
Executive Director



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Welcome to July, halfway through 2023, and Solomon Valley Community Foundation's 10-year anniversary. Leading up to, and throughout this year, our board has taken the opportunity to not only reflect on the accomplishments of the past but also cast a vision for the future. 10 years ago, with a shared vision and belief in Mitchell County, our Founding Donors, early fundholders, and original board members paved the way for where we are today.



Over the last ten years, we have undoubtedly grown as an organization. Both in terms of monetary impact and grants given, but also in knowledge, experience, leadership, and relationships. We have forged partnerships with local businesses, philanthropists, organizations, and passionate individuals who share a common desire to enhance and promote the quality of life within our communities. The exciting part is, we're just getting started.

As an organization we are looking forward to taking what we have learned and continuing to grow, adding layers of impact, outreach, and donor support so that Mitchell County can continue to thrive for years to come.

In April we were able to host a donor appreciation dinner where we unveiled our new branding and aspirations for the future. The new logo, which features a large stoic tree, represents not only vibrancy and growth but tradition, legacy, and stability as well. All of these are attributes SVCF represents in the partnerships and work we do with and for our donors, non-profits, and community partners. We are planting seeds today, for the generations of tomorrow, and are looking forward to watching the fruits of that labor pay off as the communities of Mitchell County continue to grow and thrive.

Our Vision

We envision a Mitchell County that is thriving, collaborative, and generous. Setting the standard for rural living.

Board Blurbs

OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS OUR BOARD HAS LEARNED A LOT! CHECK OUT THEIR TOP TAKEAWAYS FROM THE TIME THEY'VE SPENT WITH SVCF



The impact extends far beyond philanthropy

JEFF ZIMMER, FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER

The impact of SVCF extends far beyond philanthropy, encouraging collaboration and inspiration for progressive ideas and community dreams for Mitchell County. The biggest benefit of SVCF is more than the immediate results of individual grants. By leveraging generous gifts and other resources, SVCF serves as a catalyst for collaboration and transformation. While grant awards ripple through our communities, creating a multiplier effect that amplifies positive change, the continued building of our endowed community impact fund will provide never-ending financial resources for our community.

Community relationships are key to success

BARB WISE, FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER, VICE CHAIR

We have found that developing relationships has been an important part of our growth. By collaborating with other entities, we were able to brainstorm, pool finances and accomplish exciting projects for our community. The foundation has become an integral part of our community and is always looking for ways to continue to be a valuable resource.



Planning for our community is fun, fun, fun

CURT FRASIER, FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER, BOARD CHAIR

By thinking ahead of what our communities can be, we are stimulated to go the extra mile to enhance the opportunities that are offered to us. It is so much fun to share stories and successes with others that allows them to become a part of the team and to allow them to tell their own stories and aspirations. Aspirations lead to accomplishments.

You never know

DEBRA HOUGHTON, FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER

You just never know who might decide that something means so very much to them, that they move outside their comfort zone to make things happen! They fund a project, start encouraging others, finding others who share their concern or passion to make a difference. I've always thought that when I leave this sweet earth, Lord let me know I've made a difference, left something, someone, some place, better!



Lets Make A Match

PATTERSON FAMILY FOUNDATION UPS THE ANTE

Everyone loves a good match opportunity and SVCF is no stranger to the idea of match campaigns. In fact, as a result of The Dane G Hansen Foundation, we've been holding month-long matching initiatives since 2016. To date, these Match Month campaigns, which are held annually in November, have generated over \$385,000 in local donations and over \$861,000 total when factoring in the match from the Hansen Foundation.

Given SVCF's past success with Match Month, you can only imagine how excited we were to hear that the Patterson Family Foundation wanted in on the fun. In March, they announced an exciting new match opportunity that will significantly impact rural community foundations all across Kansas and Western Missouri. The initiative includes a \$1 to \$1 match, up to \$70,000, and will dramatically increase not only SVCF's match opportunity come November but will also allow for even more granting capacity in the future. Stay tuned, SVCF's 2023 Match Month will be one to remember!

The Patterson Family Foundation is a family-led organization that aims to inspire and support rural philanthropy. By working with rural-serving community foundations, they seek to encourage local donors to actively participate in philanthropy, leading to increased support for local nonprofits and fostering vibrant rural communities.

Dream Big

AN INITIATIVE THAT CONTINUES TO SUCCEED

In October of 2021, Solomon Valley Community Foundation launched a brand new initiative called Dream Big. Setting aside money from their own Community Impact Fund, and partnering with Solomon Valley Economic Development, SVCF was able to come up with \$50,000 to award to a project that created significant economic and community impact.

The initiative launched at a county-wide forum where over 60 residents from all over Mitchell County came together to offer their ideas, hopes, and dreams for Mitchell County. From that

process two amazing projects formed.

WILLOW SPRINGS COURTYARD

The Main Street Plaza project, later named Willow Springs Courtyard, was the initial recipient of SVCF's \$50,000 Dream Big grant. In their grant proposal the committee, comprised of ad hoc community members, proposed taking a void in downtown Beloit left by building removal and transforming it into a space that would enhance entertainment value, and downtown allure, as

well as provide a vibrant setting for culture. The space will allow for outdoor luncheons, a place for children to play, and a location for music and art. As stated in the group's application, "Pocket parks such as this add value to any community space for all ages to enjoy. This particular park will do just that. It will be accessible to those of all abilities while adding features such as water, play, relaxation, arts, and beauty."



The Willow Springs Courtyard will feature a splash pad, amphitheater, shaded outdoor seating and more. For more information or to get involved with the Willow Springs Courtyard project visit them on Facebook or email them at willowspringscourtyard@gmail.com

SOLOMON RIVER TRAIL

After receiving two inspiring and well-qualified Dream Big applications SVCF committed to finding a way to award both project proposals, bringing the total initiative from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

As a result of a generous grant from the Dane G Hansen Foundation, SVCF informed NCK Outdoors in July 2022 that they too would be receiving \$50,000 to move forward with their plans of developing a multi-use trail, in and around Chautauqua Park.

At completion, the Solomon River Trail will introduce trailheads at each of the critical entry points including; the Chautauqua Park proper, The River Trails area, and the Mill Street entrance. It will also dramatically improve the downtown commercial connection with the park. In its final stages, the trail system will provide 6 miles of new trails.

For more information or to get involved with NCK Outdoors and its many trail projects visit them on Facebook or online at www.nckoutdoors.com



All in all, SVCF considers the first-ever Dream Big initiative to be a huge success! What started as a \$50,000 grant initiative quickly grew to \$100,000 and has sparked the potential for over \$1,000,000 dollars of improvements within Mitchell County.

A Gift That Keeps on Giving

THE POWER OF ESTATE GIFTS

When it comes to planning for the future, many individuals contemplate how they can leave a lasting impact on their community. While the scope of opportunities may seem vast and overwhelming, one option that stands out is leaving an estate gift to the community foundation. Community Foundations can serve as a powerful and effective vehicle, offering individuals the opportunity to make a significant and enduring impact on their community, long after they are gone.

Estate gifts in particular have a unique ability to transform the lives of countless individuals, support vital community initiatives, and cultivate a legacy that reflects one's values and passions. By leaving a portion of your estate to the community foundation, you can ensure that your hard-earned assets are utilized to support critical programs and organizations that address the ever-evolving needs of your community.

Whether you are considering your own estate planning or honoring the charitable wishes of a loved one, understanding the transformative power of estate gifts is important.

BUDDY LEAVES A LEGACY

In 2016, the communities of Simpson and Glasco received word that lifetime resident, neighbor, and friend, James "Buddy" Louthan, made a generous decision that would forever impact their communities.

It was Buddy's desire, that upon his passing, the farm in which he had inherited, would benefit the communities he loved. Today, two funds, one for each community are named in memory of Buddy and his parents.



Because Buddy's funds are permanently endowed, his gift will not only continue to grow but will provide funding each and every year. The legacy of Buddy and his family will live on forever, and the generosity of his gift will be felt throughout both communities for years to come.



Your gift has the power to do good works forever

Since 2016 Buddy's gift has allowed for nearly **\$366,665** in grants to the communities of Simpson & Glasco.

In the next 25 years, it is projected to make cumulative grants of more than **\$1.8 million.**

In the next 50 years, the fund is projected to make cumulative grants of more than **\$4.6 million.**

KEEP 5 IN MITCHELL COUNTY

Recently a Wichita State University study estimated that between 2021-2070 more than \$2.2 billion in wealth will be passed from one generation to the next in Mitchell County alone. With a large portion of the younger generations often choosing to live in locations other than Mitchell County, much of this transfer of wealth will be leaving our community as it passes down.

Keep 5 In Mitchell County is an idea based on a larger statewide effort to capture just 5% of the estimated transfer of wealth. By setting up endowments through local vehicles, such as Solomon Valley Community Foundation, we can provide our communities with a permanent source of funding for organizations and causes that will greatly impact the lives of those who call Mitchell County home.

Just imagine the possibilities for our communities if we could capture even just a portion of that 5% transfer!


At a recent donor event in April, Betsy Wearing with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, made that point loud and clear by asking those in attendance, "What could happen in Mitchell County with \$5.7 million in ANNUAL grant funds?" What would our schools, our health systems, and our infrastructure look like if we had a permanent source of funding that provided over \$5 million each and every year? If 95% of Baby Boomer estates in Mitchell County went to children or family, and the remaining 5% went to our local communities the future of Mitchell County would be forever changed.





Solomon Valley Community Foundation partners with John Griffin, an expert in philanthropy-based estate planning, to provide services free of charge. The draft plan can be given to your attorney to formalize and will provide you with a comprehensive guide in designing an outline that minimizes income, gift, estate, and inheritance taxes ensuring a smooth business, farm, and asset transition. For more information contact SVCF Executive Director, Julia Rabe at 785-833-6153 or by email at julia@solmonvalleycf.org



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