

November 2015
Annual Edition

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Wallace County Foundation

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Wallace County Foundation

A Word from the Board...

Welcome to WCF! As a community foundation, we work with you to serve Wallace County through programs for youth, scholarships, local facilities, preservation of history, enhancement of rural life, and other charitable purposes.

Please help us continue to invest in Wallace County. Partner with us! Your unrestricted gifts help us provide services to volunteer groups through grant writing, project planning, processing hundreds of project donations, and sending receipts. We also respond to needs and requests as they arise. We are able to serve as the community nonprofit because YOU make **unrestricted gifts** to WCF. We'll work with you to build an endowment large enough to yield a stable annual income available for investment in Wallace County youth and programs.

Our fall fundraising goals are three-fold: First, to raise \$30,000 in unrestricted gifts for 2016 operations and programs. Second, to help North Park Volunteers meet their goal of raising another \$50,000 through donations and grants to complete the new playground. Third, to begin building an endowment for the future.

Your gifts make a difference. For example, our thanks go to SKM Land, LLC, and Mark and Cindy Smith for a handicapped-accessible van for Wallace County Community Care Center; to an anonymous donor for the Strand Theatre roof; to Marietta and Don Zimmerman for a continuing nursing scholarship; to Floyd Larson for the Helen Larson 4-H Scholarship; and to many more donors.

Create a fund now and help our community. We'll work with you to create the kind of community that you envision, and to help you establish your legacy or memorials in this beautiful and unique part of the world. We are committed to honoring donor intent with each gift.

Give the way you want to give. Establish a named fund similar to a private foundation, without the limitations on asset ownership and operations that restrict private foundations. Create a fund or make an unrestricted donation with a gift of land, money, grain, stock, or other present or future assets. Advise distributions from your fund, or create specific advance directives, such as providing financial support to your choice of existing programs or entities, such as churches, 4-H, healthcare, public facilities, public radio, or funding a charitable purpose new to our community.

We're qualified and affiliated. WCF is a qualified 501(c)(3) community foundation and your donations are tax deductible as permitted by law. WCF is affiliated with the Scott Community Foundation (SCF), also a qualified 501(c)(3), which generously provides office support, investment management, and endowment building expertise. Together, we can provide for the people and institutions of Wallace County. **Call us today for more information.**

NORTH PARK NEARS GOAL: SETS BUILD DATE FOR MAY 2016



Sierra Collins and "Pocahontas" a.k.a Kashlyn enjoyed Trunk or Treat held this Halloween at North Park.

The North Park Makeover Project continues to move closer to its goal of funding new playground equipment at the County-owned park in Sharon Springs. Construction is planned for May, 2016, as volunteers make a final push to raise the funds needed. Grants from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and generous donations from lifelong Wallace County supporters Art Mai and Floyd Larson, and many others have helped to build the fund. Wallace County Commissioners also voted to commit \$30,000 to the project.

A free-will donation "Picnic in the Park" was hosted by the volunteers following the 2015

Wallace County Fair parade. The event was a good old fashioned community picnic. The volunteers and Foundation board members served hotdogs, chips and cookies, and many people enjoyed the afternoon getting reacquainted with old friends.

The Foundation hosted free hot dogs during the Halloween Trunk or Treat at the park, too.

Another \$50,000 would make it possible to complete the train-themed park design in full. Unrestricted donations are needed. Several equipment pieces are still available for donor-naming. In addition, 4"x8" bricks and 8"x8" bricks personalized with names and or clipart may be purchased and installed in the park.

If you are interested in helping to complete the project, by donating and/or helping with park construction in May, please contact WCF.



WCF Special Funds

Ruth Jackson Scholarship
Paul Kirkham Scholarship
Harold & Eileen Frasier
Memorial Fund
Mac & Bill Jones Scholarship
Helen Larson Scholarship
Kids First Fund
Weskan Veterans Memorial and
Chesley Park Fund
North Park Fund
Wallace County Amusement
Association Fund
Boy Scouts Fund

2015 WCF Grants and Projects

Boy Scout Troop 145
Trailer Project Facilitation
Kids First Funding for Kids in Need
Mt. Sunflower Wellness Center
Fundraising/Grant Applications/
Grant Agreement with USD241
North Park Makeover Project
Fundraising & Coordination
Strand Theatre - Roof Replacement
USD #241 - 3D Printer
USD #242 - Lyceum
Wallace Co. Amusement Association
New Ride & Air Conditioning
Wallace Co. Community Care Ctr.
Van for Handicapped
Water Workshop - Education
Way Out West Livestock Judging
Funding Facilitation
Weskan Chesley Park Improvements

2015 Dane G. Hansen Grants

Way Out West

Livestock Judging Camp

Boy Scouts

Enclosed Travel Trailer

USD #241

Cat Packs (Literacy Project)

Traveling Planetarium

USD #242

Santa Fe Art Trip

Gymnastics Equipment

John Paul the Great Catholic University

Anti-Bullying Video

Mt. Sunflower Wellness Ctr.

Fitness Equipment

North Park Project

Playground Equipment

Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center

Medical Services Van

Water Workshop

School and Public Programs

City of Sharon Springs

Main Street Banners Match

Wallace County

Flag Pole Contribution

Wallace County 4-H

Sewing Machines

Strand Theatre

Repairs & Upgrades

Dane Hansen Announces Grant Program Will Continue in 2016

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation has designated \$50,000 in 2015 and 2016 for each the counties in its 26 county service area. The WCF Board serves as the grant review committee for Wallace County. Grants are available in the categories of: Health & Human Service Needs, Community Beautification, Social Services, Inter-Generational Programs, and any other activity designed to improve the quality of life in our county. Grants are not generally to be used to reduce the burden on tax supported programs or to be awarded for endowment or operational expenses. The Hansen Foundation recently announced that it will continue the program in 2016. Thanks to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation for its gifts. Contact WCF or go to www.gnwkcfc.org for details..



COMMUNITY-OWNED STRAND THEATER WILL UNDERGO REPAIRS

Every weekend you will find many familiar faces at the Strand Theater in Sharon Springs. It usually doesn't matter what the movie is; many locals, young and old, attend the movie at the theater each Saturday and Sunday evening. The theater is an important presence enhancing the community, and with that comes responsibility to maintain this treasured landmark.

Thanks to an anonymous **grain** donation worth close to \$10,000 in 2014 from a local farmer, added to other donations, the Strand Theater was able to replace its old leaky roof in the spring of 2015. The leaks also caused damage inside.

WCF was able to obtain another \$5000.00 from the Dane G. Hansen Grant Program for the Strand to fix ceiling tiles and rafters, clean the acoustic walls, refinish the flooring, install gutters, a new window in the projection booth and repair the floor in women's bathroom. The repairing project is scheduled to start early in 2016.



Pictured are many of the Dane Hansen recipients and Wallace County Foundation Board Members. L to R Bruce Bolen, Etta Walker, Christy Hammer, Katrina Miller, Connie Bergquist, Julie Hale, Maggie Figurilli, Errin Bollig, Dave Hale, Lynn Kasten, Rita Williams, John Foster, and Brian McVav.

SCRAMBLER MAKES DEBUT AT 2015 WALLACE COUNTY FAIR

Thanks to your donations, the Wallace County Amusement Association along with the Wallace County Foundation reached its goal for a new ride, raising over \$40,000 in two years. These generous donations allowed Amusement Association President Darius Bussen and board members Blaine Rohn, Rob Loftin, Mark Aldridge, Kevin Van Allen, and Tucker Sexson to purchase the Scrambler. It was delivered in the late spring of 2015 and was put to the test at the Wallace County Fair in July. The Scrambler replaced the swings that have been a presence at the carnival for many years.



Each weekend the theater is run by Jimmy Pletcher and community volunteers. Above, Missy Pletcher is served popcorn by weekend volunteers Emily Bolen and Jana Gfeller. Jimmy Pletcher, the heart and soul of the theater looks on.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 23, 2015:

Nominations due for
Light Up Wallace County
Volunteer Awards

December 19th, 2015:

LIGHT UP

WALLACE COUNTY

Community Christmas
Party @ 4:00 p.m. with
Volunteer Recognition @
6:00pm - Events Center

January 2016:

Singer-Songwriter Monte
Selby returns to Wallace
County

May 2016:

North Park Build

Looking for a way to help
complete North Park?

Purchase a brick and
place your name in the
park permanently.

Text only Bricks
3 lines/brick
20 characters/line
(includes spaces & punctuation)
4x8" Brick: \$50
8X8" Brick: \$100

Tex & Clipart Bricks
4x8" \$75
8X8" \$125

Custom Logos:
8x8" Brick: \$500

Multi Brick Array:
8x8" Brick: \$1000

Contact Lindsey Larson
at 785-821-5061 for more
information!

2016 Scholarship Awards Given to Local Students

The Foundation through its independent scholarship committee awarded the Ruth Jackson Memorial Scholarship and the Service to Others Award to two local high school students.

The *Ruth Jackson Scholarship* was awarded in the amount of \$250 to Dylan Nicholson, a 2015 Wallace County High School graduate. Dylan is attending North Central Kansas Technical College and majoring in Culinary

Arts. Dylan is the son of Kevin and Angie Van Allen and Brian Nicholson. Ruth Jackson was a long-time WCHS teacher and volunteer.

The *Service to Others Scholarship* from WCF unrestricted funds was awarded to Sarah Dinkel in the amount of \$500. Sarah is attending the Hays Academy of Hair Design in Hays, Kansas. Sarah, a 2015 WCHS Graduate, is the daughter of Dean and Vicki Dinkel.

ZIMMERMANS CREATE SCHOLARSHIP HONORING MAC & BILL JONES



Kelsey Hale gains valuable hands-on experience in her nursing courses at Fort Hays State University.

The Wallace County Foundation presented the newly established Mac & Bill Jones Family Scholarship in 2015. The scholarship's purpose is to provide financial assistance for an upper level student from Wallace County, properly enrolled in an accredited Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in an accredited college or university. The scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$1000.00 for the academic year 2015-2016, to Kelsey Hale a 2014 Weskan Graduate. Marietta Jones Zimmerman and Don Zimmerman

established the fund in honor of Marietta's parents, Mac & Bill Jones. Mac Jones was a teacher, 4-H leader, and involved community member in Sharon Springs. Bill Jones was a rancher-farmer in Wallace County. They had four children: Andy, David, Roxie, and Marietta. Marietta graduated from Wallace County High School in 1965, completed a B.S. in nursing at the University of Kansas in 1969 and a B.S. in Home Economics from Kansas State University--Manhattan in 1969. She worked as a nurse in Kansas, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Colorado before retiring in 2007. Marietta and Don now live in Fort Collins, Colorado. Marietta's purpose for the scholarship is to encourage nurses to further their education and receive a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. Marietta is passionate about seeing that nurses get a quality and extensive education. If you or someone you know is interested in applying for this scholarship, please contact Brynne Wright at the Foundation, or our scholarship chair, Christy Hammer. The scholarship will be awarded again in the Spring of 2016.



2014 Light Up Wallace County Volunteer Awardees, from L to R: Norma Siebert, Elaine Welsh, Shirley Blaes, Marsha Johnson, Ellen Pancake, Hao Fry. Middle: Errin Bollig, Rita Kirkham, John Welsh, Angie Van Allen, Peggy Hennick, Nancy Schmidt, Pat Neff. Back: Lynn Kirkham, Kevin Van Allen, Mike Hennick, Joe Van Laeys, and Kirk Rice. Not pictured are Mike and Stacey Cox.



Dr. Nick Parker collects water samples from the Sharon Springs water treatment lagoon as the WCHS students look on.



Master Gardeners Dixie Schemm, Jackie Cox, and Virgie Popp meet with Jason Hodges at South Park.



Ms. Gfeller, Stephanie Brock, and Sharon Springs Elementary students observe the micro-organism in the water they collected.



Weskan High School students Edgar Valenzuela, Austin McQuillen, Ashley Clynke, Hannah Cress, and Dallas Seader discuss their water filtration system made during Water Workshop.

Water Workshop Provides Water Resource Education

This year's Wallace County Water Workshop was a huge success for local schools, community groups and civic clubs. The three-day event was held October 6th-8th and marked the third year the Wallace County Foundation and other local organizations have sponsored the workshop. Presenters Jason Hodges and Nick Parker traveled from Lubbock, Texas to share their expertise.

Over the course of three days, more than 225 Wallace County students were involved in classroom water cycle projects, presentations about water chemistry, field trips to significant local water resource sites and science demonstrations on cleaning up and recycling water. In Sharon Springs, the entire High School made the 3-mile round trip to the municipal wastewater lagoon and learned first-hand how their wastewater is processed. A second field trip to the Sharon Springs sewage lagoon was also made by a small group of adult citizens, located near Eagle Tail Creek and east of town. Tours were guided by city employee, David Daily.

During the week, discussions were held with

Master Gardeners at South Park in Sharon Springs and Chesley Park in Weskan. There was also an on-site meeting and discussion of the proposed playground at North Park in Sharon Springs. The Sharon Springs Rotary Club hosted a lunch presentation and the Master Gardeners hosted a delicious dinner presentation in Weskan. On Thursday afternoon participants discussed site planning and landscape enhancements at the Fort Wallace Museum and Railroad House in the Wallace community.

For each of the past three years, a playa lake owned by Mark Smith has been used as an outdoor classroom. This year's spring rains filled the shallow clay-bottomed basin, bringing about the growth of native grass and wildflowers. Upon re-visitation this fall participants witnessed a good pool of surface water remaining, illustrating the great ability of playa lakes to maintain an abundance of water and food plants for wildlife even after months of drought.

MT. SUNFLOWER WELLNESS CENTER MOVES FORWARD

Big changes are happening for the Mt Sunflower Wellness Center Project! After three years of fundraising, grant-writing and collecting donations, led by volunteers Rebecca Rains, Cassie Carman, Amber Fischer, and others, MSWC will finally have a place to call home. In 2015 MSWC project volunteers and USD 241 came to an agreement to expand the school's current weight room and move forward with opening the facility to the public, and the Wallace County Foundation entered into a grant agreement with USD 241.

Since the fund to create a community fitness center was started in early 2013, MSWC volunteers have raised over \$20,000, from countless donors, the Dane G. Hansen Grant program, and the Mt. Sunflower 5K fundraiser. With those funds, USD 241 has purchased 2 Precor commercial treadmills, an elliptical trainer, and a stationary bike. Those machines, along with a donated bike and elliptical, will be housed in the facility. The fitness center is located within the white building on the west side of the school. A keyless card entry system is in the process of being installed. Membership will be free; however, each person will be required to sign a release form and use agreement and pay a small fee to cover the cost of the key card. USD 241 hopes to open the doors by the end of the year. Be on the lookout for more information!



Participants were invited to walk, run, and ride their bikes in the 2015 Mt. Sunflower Wellness Center 1 mile and 5k race. Winners of the 5k men's division was Josh Reed. Megan Cox (L) won the women's division.

