2014 Grant Recipients

HEALTH & SAFETY

Labette Health Foundation................................................................. Expansion of Orthopedic Center and Cardiac Services
Labette Health Foundation........................................................................... Kid’s Public Safety Camp
Parsons Fire Department................................................................................ Smoke detector programs

ASSISTING THE VULNERABLE

Labette Health Foundation and Rector Diabetes Center.............................. Parsons Summer Food Program for youth
Labette County Red Cross................................................................................... Expenses related to disaster relief
Labette Assistance Center........................................................................... Operating expenses for shelter
Kansas Foodbank Warehouse............................................................................. Food for area student backpack program
Safe Haven Outreach Mission......................................................................... Food expenses for shelter
Hannah’s Promise Life Pregnancy Center............................................................. Parson
St. Vincent de Paul.......................................................................................... Assist with expenses for new roof
Proud Animal Lovers Shelter............................................................................. Spaying, neutering, and medical supplies

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Parsons Recreation Commission.......................................................... PRC Annual Day of Play
Lincoln Elementary........................................................................................ Initiate Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program
PHS Robotics and Humvee........................................................................ Kits and parts for Robotics and Humvee programs
Edna Elementary School................................................................................ iPads for science and language arts programs
Labette County High School........................................................................ 3-D printer and computer for science department
Neosho County 4-H........................................................................................ Scholarships to 4-H Camp and Discovery Days
Church Women United.................................................................................. Summer bookmobile program
St. Patrick’s Catholic School.......................................................................... Designated from Taylor Family Fund

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROJECTS

Katy Days........................................................................................................... Expenses for Kids Crossing
Parsons Community Garden........................................................................... Rain barrel conservation system
City of Parsons............................................................................................... Upgrade sound system
Operation Bright Touch and Arboretum.......................................................... Gifts from Bob Gard Memorial Funds
Oswego Public Library..................................................................................... New air conditioning system for library
Farm Heritage Center..................................................................................... Agricultural education
Labette County Fair........................................................................................ Concrete pads for bleachers and sound system
Parsons Historical Museum........................................................................... Structural renovations
Hamilton Chapel Leading Ladies...................................................................... Assist with expenses for Black Homecoming 2014
Westside Christian Church............................................................................... Parsons Paint Project 2014
Leadership Labette........................................................................................ Designated from KHF funds for operations and children’s projects
Parsons Senior Center.................................................................................... Gift from Stein Family Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Parsons Area Community Foundation History

In 1994 Pete Hughes, with the help of attorney Dick Dearth, filed Articles of Incorporation for a Parsons Community Foundation, and in January 1995 received 501c3 status from the IRS as a non-profit publicly supported organization. The purpose of the foundation was twofold: to fund projects and activities to benefit the people of Parsons, Kansas and the surrounding area, and to provide a charitable vehicle for people to give back to the community where they had lived, worked and raised their families.

Pete Hughes was the initial board president, and founding board members were selected by recommendations from the city commission, service organizations, the ministerial alliance, board of education, and chamber of commerce. Those original members were Dick Combs, Virginia Newland, Gary Wall, Earl Seifert, John Troy, and LaDonna Melton. Since that time Suzanne Wood, Sonny Zetmeir, John Latzer, and James McCarty have served as board members and are now retired.

The following are current board members, chosen by the PACF board:

- Pat LaForge, president
- Jim Smith, vice-president
- Grant Steinle, treasurer
- Jane Dick, secretary
- Gary Wall
- Don Alexander
- Sharon Brown
- Mike Keal
- Dan Manners
- Kirk Wyckoff
- Nancy Bolt
- Marcia Gard
- Cheryl Lewis
- Senta Meister

The Parsons Area Community Foundation first began giving grants for community benefit in 1998. To date nearly three million dollars has been distributed through community foundation funds for grants and special initiatives including playground equipment and construction of the amphitheater in Forest Park, the Parsons Senior Center, and moving and reassembling the historic stone building at Tolen Creek.

Today at this reception, a total of $201,265 in grants are being awarded. $148,265 of those are from unrestricted funds made at the board’s discretion through a competitive application process. The remaining $53,000 are being made per donor wishes. Grants may be made throughout the year from donor advised funds; grants today are being awarded from the following funds:

- Taylor Family Fund
- Bonnie Oden Fund
- Troy Family Fund
- Main Family Fund
- Memorial/Interim Fund
- Touch the Future Fund
- Hunter Family Fund
- Pearl Brennecke Fund
- Hughes Family Fund
- Combs Fund
- Memorial Fund for Native Sons and Daughters
- KS Health Foundation Leadership Fund
- KS Health Foundation Children’s Fund
- Hunter Family Fund

This past year PACF lost its board president, Sonny Zetmeir. He gave generously to the foundation and his presence is missed. Pat LaForge was elected as the new board president. Under his leadership, the board is working to promote broad community awareness of the community foundation and its mission, to launch a legacy society, continue building endowed funds to earn matching dollars from PACF’s Kansas Health Foundation GROW II grant, and to connect donors to the community needs important to them as PACF continues to grow assets for the area’s benefit.

We thank all who have given financial support as well as those who have given of their time and talents to make this area a better place to live. Our goal is to increase our impact in our local communities each year. We appreciate your attendance today.