



PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CommUNITY Betterment

Ten years ago, a group of forward thinking individuals in our community accepted a challenge to start an organization that would be a central meeting place for those wishing to give, and those in need of monetary help. A vision of a local organization, ran by our own neighbors and friends, that has our community's best interest at heart...and thus, the Thomas County Community Foundation (TCCF) was born.

Probably one of the best descriptions that can be used to describe a community foundation is a "donation facilitator". A community foundation is not a place to give, but a way to give. We are not here to "take away" from your favorite local charities, but rather to enhance and make the most of donations that go to your favorite causes, schools, charities and projects. Community foundations specialize in endowments, which mean that the donated dollars are not spent, but invested. The earnings off of these funds are granted out according the donors wishes.

For example, let's say "Bob" and his family have been avid participants in 4-H their entire life. Now that his kids are grown, Bob feels like 4-H camp was a wonderful benefit in his children's lives and would like to have a way to support future 4-Hers going to camp that may not financially have the means to go on their own. Bob made a tax-deductible donation of \$20,000 in endowment, stating that he wants it to be used for this specific purpose and he named the fund "Bob's Family Fund for 4-H". Not only has Bob now preserved a way to have around \$1,000 per year "forever" (assuming an average payout of 5%) to assist with county 4-Hers camp fees, but he now also has left a legacy for his children that they can add to at anytime to increase the impact in the area they care about most. Because of his decision to support the 4-H program in this way, in 100 years his family will have been responsible for grants totaling around \$100,000 helping children experience 4-H camp. This is just a hypothetical situation, but it shows you what the power of endowment can do for your cause over time.

We have only just begun our legacy in Thomas County, ten years is not very long. But in the last ten years, through the caring individuals of our community, we have been able to grant out \$300,000 to Thomas County schools, nonprofits and government agencies. We hope your life, or the life of someone you care about, has been touched by the efforts of TCCF, but if not, just wait...we've only just begun!

"Melinda Olson is Executive Director of the Thomas County Community Foundation. Her office phone is (785) 460-9152. The office is located at 350 S. Range Suite 14 in the Thomas County Office Complex in Colby, Kansas. For more information on the Thomas County Community Foundation visit www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com"

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