



Russell  
County Area  
Community  
Foundation

An affiliate of the  
Greater Salina Community Foundation

leave your mark

ISSUE 2, 2012



Our 10th Anniversary Gala Concert featured Edrie Means, an internationally acclaimed soprano from Washington DC, and Russell natives Michael Davidson (left) and Calder Craig (right).

## Foundation celebrates 10 years of community service

The Russell County Area Community Foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary in April with a series of free events for donors and the public.

On Saturday, April 21, the public enjoyed a gala concert featuring internationally acclaimed soprano Edrie Means and two emerging professional talents from Russell, Michael Davidson and Calder Craig.

The concert featured a variety of musical styles, including opera, Broadway and religious music, ending

with a rousing rendition of How Great Thou Art.

A free will donation benefited the foundation's Administrative Fund, which supports daily operations and public outreach.

On Friday, April 20, the foundation sponsored a service project to benefit local vocal students. Ms. Means led a master class to help area high school students develop their vocal skills prior the State vocal competition.

On Thursday, April 19, about 100 people attended a public reception at the Deines Cultural Center where

Philanthropist of the Decade was announced. Guests enjoyed anniversary cake and a special children's photography exhibit made possible by a foundation grant.

"The Foundation is delighted to host these special events to commemorate 10 years of charitable service," said Angela Muller, executive director. "We greatly appreciate all our generous donors who make us the area's largest provider of grants and scholarships."

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## about us

We connect people who care with causes that matter.

The Russell County Area Community Foundation was established by civic leaders to encourage permanent philanthropy and address our community's needs through grant making and partnerships. Today we have assets totaling nearly \$4 million and nearly 50 charitable funds created by generous people like you.

No gift is too small. No dream is too big. We are your community foundation that connects you with causes that matter. Join us as we work to address meaningful issues in the Russell County area - from the arts and childhood education to historic preservation and hunger. Together, we make a difference.

## Thank you



Russell Community Theater volunteers from left, Sheryl Krug, Crystal Craig and Debbie Dumler

A hearty thank you to our sponsors and volunteers for supporting the 10th anniversary events:

Edrie Means

Michael Davidson

Calder Craig

Dixie Thompson

White Energy

Edward Jones - Kai Muller

St. John Lutheran Church

Encore Antiques and Collectables

Myers Furniture

Russell Co. Economic Development & CVB

United National Bank

Woelks House of Diamonds

Russell Community Theater

Russell Sunrise Kiwanis

USD 407 students & Tranda Ihrig

Our media partners, KRSL, Russell

County News, Hometown Edge



Pohlman Family accepts Philanthropist of the Decade award on behalf of Henry Pohlman.

## Pohlman and Weber honored for lifetime achievements

The late Henry "Hank" Pohlman and Dr. Wallace Weber were recently recognized as the Russell Area's Philanthropists of the Decade. The award was sponsored by the Community Foundation and presented at a reception on April 19, at the Deines Cultural Center.

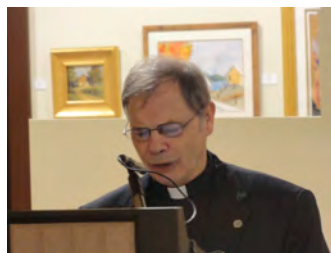
Other nominees for the award were Dean and Aldean Banker, George and Pat Holland, Nancy Holland, and Steve Wells.

"The award honors a person whose generosity has inspired others toward a greater philanthropic role," said Angela Muller, foundation executive director.

At the event, Rev. Roger Dennis, foundation chairman, spoke in tribute to Pohlman and Weber. "Many community members can recall a time when Henry touched his or her life personally, with help refurbishing a home after a fire; emergency family loans; donating school desks to Greensburg after the tornado; as well as untold generous acts. We may never know the number of lives he affected, because his humble demeanor concealed a life of selfless support to others." Pohlman was a founding donor for the Community Foundation and served on the board of directors.

Among the many philanthropic activities that Dr. Weber has led, is the donation of a large area of Russell County land to Pheasants Forever. The gift of 1,783 acres has had, and will continue to have, a very direct and positive economic effect on Russell County, including job creation for youth and attraction of hunters, tours and wildlife enthusiasts to our area. In addition, the gift brings an appreciation for the bounty that nature has to offer in Russell County. Dr. Weber supports numerous organizations, including 4-H Shooting Sports, Junior Olympics, and the Boy Scouts. He is a founding donor to the Russell County Area Community Foundation.

To read more about the recipients and their lifetime philanthropic achievements, please visit our website at [www.rcacf.net](http://www.rcacf.net).



Left to right, Mollie Haberer, Foundation Board Member; Rev. Roger Dennis, outgoing Foundation Board Chairman; reception attendees; Vance Ruggels, incoming Foundation Board Chairman, and Edrie Means

## Mark your calendar

Ready to partner with the Foundation? Make a note of these key deadlines and dates.

Sep

6

Regular meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors, 5:00 pm

20

Free endowment building workshop, 3:00 pm at St. John Lutheran

Oct

4

Regular meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors, 5:00 pm

15

Applications for fall grants due, visit [www.rcacf.net](http://www.rcacf.net) for applications

Nov

1

Regular meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors, 5:00 pm

Dec

6

Regular meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors, 5:00 pm

## Foundation Funds Children's Photography Exhibit

A children's photography exhibit featuring Russell County scenes was recently held at the Deines Cultural Center. The exhibit was made possible by a grant from the foundation, made possible by the generosity of the Myers Family Memorial Fund and the Kansas Health Foundation Children's Fund. Monies were used to purchase digital cameras so children could learn photography fundamentals. The program featured USD 407 elementary students under the direction of Tranda Ihrig, art instructor (pictured below).



# Announcements

Dolores and Robert Earnest  
Catherine Holland  
Max Horn  
Leo and Alma Michaelis  
Marty Myers  
Starr F. Schlobohm  
Fred and Joan Weigel, Jr.  
Patrick and Elaine Hilger

Michael and Nancy Holland  
Leon and Christine Huxman  
Michael and Tonya Murphy  
Henry and Marjorie Pohlman  
Dr. Wallace Weber  
United National Bank



## Thank you founding donors

New plaque commemorating founding donors unveiled at the community foundation's 10th anniversary celebration.

## Fall grant applications due October 15

The Russell County Area Community Foundation is accepting grant applications until October 15, 2012 for our fall grant program.

The Fund for a Better Russell County Area is an unrestricted grant that can support a variety of charitable causes in the county, including health, education, historic preservation, animal welfare, local government or any other charitable cause.

Teachers and school administrators are also invited to apply for the Appleseed Fund and Helen Hampl Student Aid Fund, which supports education initiatives.

Past grants have supported literacy programs, Safe Night After Prom, and community park development.

The grants will be awarded in early November.

Grant applications are available at [www.rcacf.net](http://www.rcacf.net) or stop by our office for information.

## On Board

Welcome Radonna Brandenburg to the board of directors.... thank you Marty Myers for your many years of service.

Welcome Vance Ruggels as incoming board chairman.... thank you Rev. Roger Dennis for your leadership as past board chair.

## Free Endowment Building Workshop, September 20

You are cordially invited to a free endowment building workshop, September 20, at 3:00 pm at St. John Lutheran, Russell.

The workshop features Betty Johnson, a seasoned development professional with over 30 years experience. Born and raised in Kansas, she has worked in nonprofits throughout the state and across the country as a development professional, raising funds to serve the missions of mostly Kansas organizations. The workshop is ideal for nonprofits, local government, hospital, business leaders and others who are interested in starting or building a charitable endowment. You'll receive practical advice on the ins and outs of endowments and how to partner with donors to carry out your charitable mission. For more information or to RSVP, contact Angela Muller, foundation executive director, at 785-445-3611 or email [rcacf@eaglecom.net](mailto:rcacf@eaglecom.net).

## 5 Reasons why we might be the best choice for your charitable giving...

1. You want to leave a lasting legacy  
We manage and publicize nearly 50 named funds. The names and goals of these funds live forever.

2. You want to help future generations  
We will always be here making the area a better place for your children and grandchildren. We won't ever leave, go out of business, or retire.

3. You want ongoing advice about community needs  
We are the largest grant maker and scholarship provider in Russell County. We know our area and its issues and can help you be a part of solving community challenges.

4. You want to give to a cause, not a specific charity  
Sometimes you know the issue you care about - the arts, animal welfare, children, the hungry - but you don't want to give to a specific organization. We can find initiatives and organizations in your chosen discipline and support them in your name.

5. You have a complicated financial transaction, e.g., the sale of a privately-owned business or an inheritance that could impact your tax status. As a public charity, we can receive your gifts now while allowing time to plan for your charitable distribution.

## Can I give a small amount?

Yes! While there are minimum contributions for starting a named fund, gifts of \$25, \$10 or even \$1 can be made to an existing fund or to our unrestricted grant fund as memorials or charitable contributions. That is what makes this truly a community foundation.



Leave Your Mark

## A little history

Ten years ago, local civic leaders saw the need to create a permanent source of philanthropy to address current and future community needs through grant making and partnerships. In response to this need, the Russell County Area Community Foundation was formed by affiliating with the already established Greater Salina Community Foundation. We are one of 11 rural affiliates.

Today, our foundation has assets totaling nearly \$4 million and nearly 50 charitable funds created by generous people like you.

Over the years our local board and our donors have directed more than \$900,000 to meaningful causes and issues - from the arts and early child education to historic preservation and hunger relief. Hundreds of students have attended college with help from our scholarships.

Our operations are fully transparent. The foundation is overseen by a distinguished board of community leaders from Russell County. You can find up-to-date information at [www.rcacf.net](http://www.rcacf.net) or contact us at directly at 785-445-3611.

## Why choose us?

Because we are a 501(c)3, contributions are eligible for the highest tax deductions. In most cases, these benefits outweigh using a donor's assets to establish a private foundation.

Establishing a fund can be done quickly with no hassles. We take care of all the administrative and grant making activities, eliminating the need for donors to set up separate institutions, formulate policies, file innumerable forms and monitor the status of grant recipients. We save donors precious time and money.

The foundation has the flexibility to respond to changing conditions in the community. If the original intended use of the gift is no longer in existence, or if the donor is no longer living, the foundation can direct to fund other uses closely related to the donor's interest through variance power.

The Russell County Area Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation (GSCF). The GSCF staff serve as an administrative arm to our Foundation and helps us assist donors in creating funds and making distributions in accordance with the donors' intent.

## Board of Directors

PO Box 172, 507 N. Main  
Russell, KS 67665  
785-445-3611  
www.rcacf.net  
[rcacf@eaglecom.net](mailto:rcacf@eaglecom.net)

Vance Ruggels, Chairman

Roger Dennis, Past Chairman

Katrina Woelk, Treasurer

Radonna Brandenburg

Kenneth Cole

John O. Farmer, IV

Mollie Haberer

Dave Harry

Michael Murphy

Frank Schulte

Curtis Sohm

Byrne Wood

## Staff

Angela Muller, Director

Jessica Martin, Affiliate  
Coordinator, Greater Salina  
Community Foundation



### What is the Foundation?

The Russell County Area Community Foundation is a collection of funds designed to link donors with charitable causes. We are a public charity serving Russell County and the surrounding areas.

### Who can give?

Anyone. Donors to the foundation are from a variety of backgrounds with a common commitment to the community's well-being. Gifts can be made to start a new fund or support an existing fund as a memorial or charitable contribution.

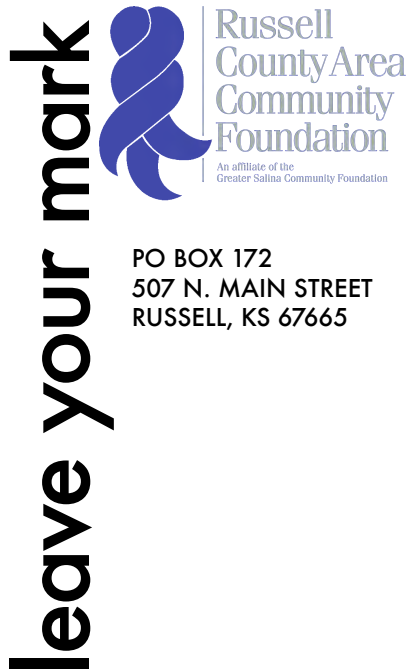
### What are the benefits?

The foundation simplifies charitable giving. One contribution may benefit multiple organizations in our community. The donor determines the method and time frame.

### Want to leave a lasting legacy?

Call us today to discuss your charitable dream for the Russell County Area. We manage, publicize and honor nearly 50 named funds. The names and goals of these funds live forever.

**Thank you to our fund holders and donors. You make a difference.**



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RUSSELL, KS 67665