

Building our Community *One Dream at a Time...*

At first it was a single dream — a belief that a community can strengthen itself through the combined efforts of committed citizens. This year marks the 30th Anniversary for the dream that came true — the **Oklahoma City Community Foundation**.

Its history is a mosaic of thousands of individual stories and people of all walks of life who are convinced they can make a difference. The milestones are too numerous to chronicle, the faces too many to show. But here we have attempted to capture the spirit of the Community Foundation's ability to address the evolving needs of the community.

The Community Foundation has grown through vision, leadership and financial performance during three decades of changing needs. From its very beginning, the Community Foundation has embodied the principle of endowment: *a simple, perpetual, flexible and effective way for the community to join together for the common good.*

At first it was a single dream...



"Announcing a better way for a better community."



1969

In 1969, there were 228 community foundations with combined assets of \$70 million.

The Tax Reform Act of 1969 imposed new restrictions on private foundations and created favorable tax advantages for donors to community foundations.

Local oil man and philanthropist John Kirkpatrick founded the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, with help from eight other community leaders, and legal expertise from attorney Don Ellison.

The Community Foundation ended its first year with assets of \$45,000.



Today

Today, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has grown into one of the largest public foundations in the nation, with over \$300 million in assets.

More than 6,000 donors have helped build more than 800 funds, including endowment support for more than 200 non-profit organizations.

During fiscal year 1998, the Community Foundation distributed a record \$7.3 million toward the charitable work of the Oklahoma City area and several other communities — a tribute to the generosity of so many donors and a testament to the power of endowments.



For thirty years, we have helped build our community, one dream at a time.

Bring us your dream.



Two of the first endowments were started to benefit the Cowboy Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma City Zoo.



Florida Knight



Bill Payne

1970-73 1974 1975-77 1978 1979-80 1981-85

In those first few years, Kirkpatrick worked to convince his friends and business associates that the Community Foundation would be a sound investment in the community, and that it would stand the test of time.

Slowly at first, the Community Foundation began to build a broad base of donor support.

In the early 1970s, influential board members like Dean McGee, Sylvan Goldman and J. B. Saunders helped Kirkpatrick lead others in the community to begin building the assets of the Community Foundation – to \$557,000 at the end of the second fiscal year, and finally to the one million dollar mark by 1972.



Sylvan Goldman, John Kirkpatrick, Nancy Berry, Dean McGee.

During the early 70s, the Community Foundation awarded grants to a variety of health, educational, arts and social service organizations.

In 1971, grants totaled \$35,000, but by 1974, the amount distributed to local non-profit organizations had doubled, to nearly \$70,000.

An endowment for the National Cowboy Hall of Fame was the first agency fund established, with endowments for the Oklahoma City Opera Association, the Oklahoma Zoological Society and several others following suit.

By 1974, 18 agency endowment funds, or "Designated Funds," had been established.

By 1975, there were over 100 permanent endowment funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, with assets totaling over \$5 million that year.

"The Community Foundation represents the private free-enterprise system at its best," wrote John Kirkpatrick. *"Local citizens are keeping their tax dollars in their own city to meet local needs as determined by their fellow citizens."*

Education took center stage as a concern within the community. A bequest from E.K. Gaylord established the first scholarship fund. His gift, along with a bequest from Willie Elizabeth Shipley, were instrumental in establishing the Scholarship Endowment.



E.K. Gaylord W.E. Shipley

The first grants from the Florida Knight Trust were awarded in 1978.

Mrs. Knight established the trust to perpetuate her dream of helping children "find happiness in life in spite of their handicaps."

An escrow fund for the construction and maintenance of the Oklahoma Center for Science and Arts (later renamed Kirkpatrick Center) was utilized to make a lasting impact on the quality of life in Oklahoma City.

The Center opened its doors to the public, with several non-profit entities housed inside, on February 13, 1978 – John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick's dream for the community had been realized.



John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick outside Kirkpatrick Center.

In 1978, the price of oil hit \$40 a barrel, and in 1979 it was still going strong. In Oklahoma City it didn't seem like a time to think about tomorrow. But thinking about tomorrow is what an endowment fund is all about.

With this kind of foresight, John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick offered to match any funds raised by non-profits for their endowment funds. This offer ultimately raised \$740,000, which was then matched by the Kirkpatricks.

By the end of the decade, contributions had been received by more than 1,000 individuals, families, organizations and businesses – giving the concept of endowment development broad-based community support.

In 1981, the Community Foundation received its first major bequest from the estate of W.T. "Bill" Payne. Payne, a longtime foundation supporter, left the assets of one of his oil companies to the Community Foundation to perpetuate his charitable interests.

Grants in the early 1980s helped several non-profit agencies get started, such as the Canterbury Choral Society, COAD-HI and Rainbow Fleet.

Assets grew from \$7 million in 1980 to nearly \$20 million in 1984.



**Foundation Starting 10th Year
With Nearly \$5 Million Assets**

Despite the state's troubled economy during the second half of the 80s, the Community Foundation

experienced remarkable growth and record distributions during that period—illustrating the security that endowments provide the community.



The Boys Trust has distributed more than half a million dollars since 1991.



An After School Options program

New Opportunities



1986 1989 1991-92 1993-94 1995 1997-99

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 raised questions about the tax advantages of charitable contributions – especially gifts to private foundations.

The Community Foundation—a public charity—responded with services to help donors maximize the tax benefits of their gifts as well as support for their favorite charities.

The Affiliated Fund concept was born. The W.E. Davis family established the first such fund, which are large endowments that are separately incorporated with trustees who oversee both investment and distribution policies—allowing donors to be more involved in the fund's activities.

Through the Fund for Oklahoma City, the Community Foundation supported seven major projects associated with the Centennial of the Land Run celebrated in 1989.

These grants ranged from cleanup campaigns to dance programs, the recreation of a territorial-period farm and a commissioned choral piece by an Oklahoma composer. The Community Foundation also helped to produce a Centennial Map, titled "The Greatest Horse Race Ever," which it distributed to schools and libraries around the state.

For Oklahoma, the 90s ushered in an era of new opportunities and showed the world how Oklahomans respond to the needs of the community.

In 1991, Margaret Annis Boys left her estate to the Community Foundation with instructions that it be used to beautify public lands in Oklahoma County.

The first Affiliated Fund benefiting a community outside of Oklahoma County was established by Edwin and Mary Malzahn, to fund charitable activities in their hometown of Perry.

Grant support sometimes helps start a new program, but sometimes it helps rescue a part of history, as a grant in the early 90s did for the Round Barn along Route 66 in Arcadia.

Dr. Mark Allen Everett transferred the assets of his family's private foundation, the Everett Foundation, to the Community Foundation in 1993.

In 1994, After School Options was established to provide activities for children during non-school hours. The need for such a program was identified during a communitywide planning process called Central Oklahoma 2020.

The Deer Creek Affiliated Fund was established—the first to benefit a public school foundation. Three other school foundations and several private schools also benefit from Designated Funds.

In 1994, the Community Foundation's 20th anniversary, grants and distributions exceeded \$3 million.

The horror of the Murrah Building bombing hit home shortly after 9:00 a.m. April 19, 1995.

In the weeks that followed, Americans responded, giving millions for the relief efforts. The Community Foundation was selected as a source for administering these funds through the Oklahoma City Disaster Relief Affiliated Fund.

The Community Foundation's experience with scholarship funds dating back to the 1970s enhanced oversight of the Survivors' Education Fund, which provides scholarships to children whose parents were killed or permanently disabled in the bombing.

John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick resumed their Challenge grant program in 1992, and four more Challenges helped boost endowments through 1998.

ASO continues to coordinate enhancements for important programs for local children, such as Play in the Park.

In 1997, the Community Gardening and Agency Capacity Building programs were established.

The number of Affiliated Funds totaled 18 by 1998; Designated Funds benefit more than 200 non-profits.

In 1998-99, three important initiatives were launched: New Opportunities, which encourages more students to attend college; the Parks & Public Spaces Initiative, which will enhance beautification and programming at city parks; and the Non-profit Technology and Management program, which will aid non-profits in pursuing their missions.

The Centennial Players



The Round Barn

The Murrah Building



Oklahoma City Community Foundation

Mission Statement

The mission of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, a non-profit public charity, is to serve the charitable needs of the Oklahoma City area through the development and administration of endowment funds with the goal of preserving capital and enhancing its value for the benefit of the Oklahoma City area.

The mission will be accomplished through the following goals:

- Provide convenient, efficient and effective ways through which donors can contribute assets to charitable purposes.
- Encourage donors to create funds that will benefit the community both now and in the future.
- Advocate for the development of endowment funds and provide appropriate means by which permanent endowment funds can be built and wisely managed to provide long-term support.
- Develop the Funds for Oklahoma City, which can be used by the Trustees and the community to develop, coordinate and enhance services and programs that meet the changing needs of the community.

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Bring us your dream.

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