

# News from the Executive Director

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

March 2009

Dear Donors and Friends,

## **Kirkpatrick Centennial Endowment Challenge**

The John Kirkpatrick Centennial Endowment Challenge for endowments and scholarship funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation ended its first phase on December 31, 2008 with quite a flurry of contributions. More than \$1.1 million was raised by 255 different funds in response to the dollar-for-dollar matching offer announced in February, 2008 as part of the celebration of John E. Kirkpatrick's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary. There were 1,700 donors who contributed to the challenge with more than 1,100 being new donors. The total additions to the funds were almost \$2 million. There are 23 additional organizations that will complete their challenge efforts in June, 2009. When completed, the matching effort should add \$5 million to these endowment funds. Mr. Kirkpatrick would be pleased to have so many new donors.

## **Margaret Annis Boys Centennial**

June, 2009 will be the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Margaret Annis Boys, the donor of one of our most unique and widely known funds. Miss Boys left the bulk of her estate in 1990 to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to create a fund that would "take care of parks, medians and public lands in Oklahoma City." Over the past 18 years, more than 200 landscaping and beautification projects have been funded in parks, schools, medians, and other public lands throughout Oklahoma County. The Margaret Annis Boys Trust has given us the opportunity to work with large numbers of grassroots organizations on projects that have leveraged Miss Boys' gift and added greatly to the interest of local citizens in the appearance of their communities. We will be celebrating Miss Boys 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in several ways and will look forward to inviting everyone to participate in the activities.

Brian Dougherty, our resident landscape architect and the director of the Boys Trust/Parks & Public Spaces Initiative, was recently elected as vice president of membership for the American Society of Landscape Architects. Brian, who was inducted into the ASLA Council of Fellows in 2007, has served as Oklahoma's trustee on the national board since 2003. His involvement at the national level has generated much attention to the role of foundations and non-profit organizations in the beautification and maintenance of public lands. Brian is also featured each Saturday as the host of KTOK radio's 12 noon gardening show.

## **Central Oklahoma Guidance Counselor Network**

Since 1998, we have sponsored a continuing education program for high school guidance counselors as part of our Trustee Scholarship Initiative. The group has grown to include counselors from 50 public and independent high schools in Oklahoma, Canadian and Cleveland counties. Each year two or three continuing education opportunities are provided to update the counselors on college admissions, scholarships and financial aid, advanced placement courses, specialized programs, and other topics which will be helpful in encouraging more high school students to attend college or other training. Each school that participates in the guidance network also is eligible for the Community Foundation Scholars and Foundation of Promise Scholarship Award programs.

Over the past six months, three unique programs have been made available for the counselors. In October, a group of 48 counselors visited college campuses in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Our staff arranged the two-day trip and four Texas colleges hosted the group and provided tours of each of their campuses. In January, the College Board Regional Counselor Meeting was held in Oklahoma City. We paid the registration fees for all of the network counselors to attend at least one day of this conference which brings speakers and panel participants from

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across the country. In June, we will host our own two-day counselor institute which will provide more intense training for these counselors on topics that will help their students better prepare for college and seek financial aid opportunities.

This spring, high schools that participate in the Central Oklahoma Guidance Counselor Network will award almost \$250,000 in scholarships to students through the Community Foundation Scholar and Foundation of Promise Scholar award programs. The counselor training we provide ensures that all students in these high schools receive benefit from our scholarship programs.

## **Great Grants**

Since the downturn in the national economy, we have focused particular attention on supporting programs that provide essential services to those in need. We have been able to leverage the efforts of community groups with some grant dollars that have very productive for our neediest citizens. A grant of \$15,000 to the Alliance for the Uninsured will allow this coalition of free medical clinics to begin providing free radiological services for patients at the clinics. A grant of \$50,000 to Mary Mahoney Medical Center that helped to divert patients from emergency rooms to more appropriate primary care has generated a \$1 million federal grant for the clinic which we helped start. In December, checks totaling more than \$22,000 were sent to the 70 churches in Oklahoma County that deliver mobile meals to home-bound elderly each week. Many of these churches are small congregations and all depend on both volunteers and contributions from their membership to provide this much needed service. Our small grants were both helpful and an encouragement for this important community activity.

## **Economic Downturn Impacts Endowments**

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation's endowments have not been immune from the decline in the stock market although the investment performance has been much better than many other foundations in our area. For the calendar year 2008, the value of our general investment pool declined by 22.4 percent which compared to declines of 28-30 percent for other foundations. For the six-month period ending December 31, 2008, the investment performance was -17.8 compared to a -28.5 for the S&P 500 equity index. Our diversification into very high quality fixed-income assets had a very positive impact on this investment performance. The Investment Committee has closely monitored all of these developments and has maintained a disciplined long-term investment strategy.

While we project that income available for distribution will be down for 2009, our Trustees are very positive about the long-term prospects for endowment development and the opportunity to work with donors to meet their charitable goals. They have initiated a long-range planning effort that will review the issues and opportunities for the next five to seven years and will develop a strategy to ensure the Oklahoma City Community Foundation will remain as a productive and successful institution for many years into the future. We continue to work with donors who are interested in charitable giving and establishing endowment funds, and we continue to promote the best stewardship practices to provide the greatest long-term benefit of these gifts.

If we can help you in any way, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Nancy B. Anthony  
Executive Director