

Central Kansas Community Foundation

“Good Stories”

The following are items that I have picked up as I travel to affiliate meetings. Sharing them in case others might find a pearl or two.

Bill Hake

Good Stories to Share

- Hillsboro uses income from the Marga Ebel fund to provide dental exams for every child entering the school system.
- Hillsboro used funds from the KHF fund to buy a computer timer for their swim team. They now host meets from several towns, because they have the best timing equipment.
- Peabody helped to pay for EMT training when no one else would or could.
- In Hesston, high school alumni are invited back on Homecoming weekend where they speak to high school students about what has made them successful and how their education in Hesston was a part of that.
- In Whitewater, James Regier, Superintendent of Schools let folks know that the high school baseball team was in sad shape for equipment. Someone had a passion for this cause heard about it. \$25,000 is now flowing through the foundation for that cause.
- In Halstead, a bequest of approx. \$75k begun 50 years ago is providing loans for college students from the area. To show the power of compounding, that fund now totals over \$3.5 million.
- Goessel does a golf tournament at a course owned by one of the board members. The prizes are baked goods home baked by board members.
- North Newton mayor Ron Braun auctioned off his necktie at the city Christmas party to benefit the Impact Fund, raised \$400 with matching funds from the city. Update, this has become an annual event. This year \$1700 was raised including matching funds from the city of N Newton.
- I have been giving for over 20 years to Fort Hays State University Foundation, not a lot, \$75 per year. Last year I got a call from one of their folks, wanting to take Rosie and I to lunch. We had a very nice visit, they learned about me and my plans. She never asked for money! Last week, we met again and she helped me to find a cause that I am interested in.
- El Dorado is sponsoring a meet and greet for non-profits, school counselors and others who might benefit from knowing about the foundation. Board members and invited guests will have a time to get to know each other over light refreshments.
- Hesston puts aside \$2500 from their grant funds for \$250 grants to teachers who apply for special projects.
- Hillsboro annually presents the award checks from their impact fund at half time of a high school basketball game.
- In Goessel, they plant a school garden. Kids help with the work and the produce goes to the school to help feed the kids.

- Hillsboro, upon hearing about the t shirt programs in Fredonia and Douglass, remembering that a dedication ceremony is being planned for new playgrounds that the foundation gave funds for, decided to get shirts for kids attending the dedication. The idea is that a picture of the event would show a large group of kids wearing bright colored shirts with a slogan and the foundation logo. They spread to shirts for the board for wearing at events.
- Giving Tuesday is a national event on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving where people are encouraged to give to their favorite charity. Patterned after Black Friday, and Cyber Monday, this event was held in Hesston for the last two years and last year in Newton. While it was hard to define success, Hesston more than doubled their donations the second year. More information about Giving Tuesday at CKCF.
- Douglass Community foundation is now in the early stages of convening their community to do a needs assessment for the town. They envision a process where anyone who wants to can express their wishes for Douglass. The hoped for next step is for the community to gather around goals set and work for change. Foundations are not always about asking for and raising money. Sometimes other work can benefit the community also.
- After the recent unfortunate events in Hesston, a fund was established at Hesston Community Foundation to address needs of the folks wounded and killed in the event. Nearly \$30,000 has been contributed so far and will be used for counseling, food, utilities, and any other need that comes up for Excel employees. Update, as of 6/13/16, the donations to the fund total over \$100,000
- Goessel celebrated their 5th anniversary this spring with a free dinner. Thanks to hard work on the part of their board, they had about 100 people in attendance. They presented checks for their grants and talked about how this local foundation fosters the sense of family and community.
- Florence discussed the possibility of building a Habitat For Humanity House. While this may be a very ambitious goal, they have hit on a key need for small communities- housing. What better way to demonstrate their commitment than to build a new home!
- The folks of Elk County Community Foundation recently reached their goal to raise funds to repair the local swimming pool in Howard, good stuff in a small community. They also reached out to Elk Valley Schools. After a discussion of needs there, they were able to send a \$500 check to help Elk Valley provide desperately needed resources for kids.
- Whitewater/Remington is working with the local school district to improve their baseball and softball fields.
- A donor from Halstead wanted to make sure that his church continues to get a donation after he leaves this world. Today, a \$50,000 fund exists to make sure that will happen.
- Giving Tuesday in Elk County was observed by a soup supper at the school on the same evening of a basketball scrimmage. Funds were raised to help update playground equipment. They raised \$2300, pretty good for a community of less than 700.