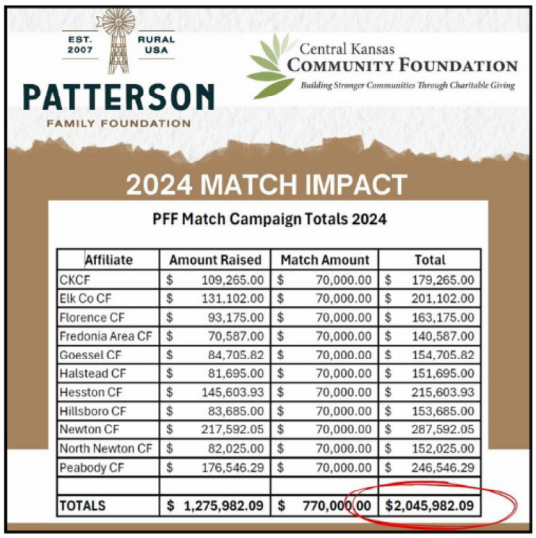
Peabody Community Foundation
An Affiliate of Central Kansas Community Foundation

Foundation Focus

Volume 1, Issue 2 March 2025

A COMMUNITY UNITED IN GENEROSITY

TOGETHER WE THRIVE



Affiliate	Amount Raised	Match Amount	Total
CKCF	$ 109,265.00	$ 70,000.00	$ 179,265.00
Elk Co CF	$ 131,102.00	$ 70,000.00	$ 201,102.00
Florence CF	$ 93,175.00	$ 70,000.00	$ 163,175.00
Fredonia Area CF	$ 70,587.00	$ 70,000.00	$ 140,587.00
Goessel CF	$ 84,705.82	$ 70,000.00	$ 154,705.82
Halstead CF	$ 81,695.00	$ 70,000.00	$ 151,695.00
Hesston CF	$ 145,603.93	$ 70,000.00	$ 215,603.93
Hillsboro CF	$ 83,685.00	$ 70,000.00	$ 153,685.00
Newton CF	$ 217,592.05	$ 70,000.00	$ 287,592.05
North Newton CF	$ 82,025.00	$ 70,000.00	$ 152,025.00
Peabody CF	$ 176,546.29	$ 70,000.00	$ 246,546.29
TOTALS	$ 1,275,982.09	$ 770,000.00	$2,045,982.09

We Did it!

The Peabody Community Foundation (PCF) is thrilled to announce that during our match window from November 26 through December 26, our community exceeded the match goal for the 2024 Patterson Family Foundation (PFF) Match Campaign, raising an incredible $176,546.29! With a generous $70,000 match from PFF, Peabody's total contributions reached a remarkable $246,546.29–an inspiring achievement for our small but mighty community.

A Vision Made Possible by Many

This success is a testament to the kindness, generosity, and commitment of Peabody's residents, near and far.

People from all walks of life–families, businesses, retirees, and individuals–

*(SEE **Match** PAGE 2)*

(**Above**) Alaya Chase, Hannah Winter, and Brook Gfeller proudly pose with their Pancake Race medals.

Medals and Mouthfuls

The Peabody Community Foundation (PCF) hosted its highly anticipated annual Pancake Day event on Saturday, February 1, at the Peabody-Burns High School Brown Building. With around 75 community members attending the delicious pancake and sausage breakfast, the morning was filled with fellowship, fun, and community spirit. The meal was served by at-will donation, with all proceeds benefiting PCF's efforts to enhance the Peabody community.

One of the day's highlight's was the beloved Flippin' Pancake Race, held at 10 AM on the practice football field across from the Brown Building. Approximately 15 enthusiastic participants, all aged 13 and under, competed with skillets in hand, flipping pancakes as they raced to the finish line. The event's spirit of fun and friendly competition was on full display.

Following the race, PCF announced its 2025 Grant Awards at 10:30 AM.

A total of nine grants amounting to $7,000 were sourced from two of PCF's endowed funds: the Peabody Community Endowment and the Kansas Health Foundation Fund.

*(SEE **Pancake** PAGE 3)*

Match...

came together to contribute what they could, demonstrating the power of unity in making Peabody a better place to live.

During our match window, PCF received 154 donations. Every gift, no matter the size, helped us surpass our goal and move closer to our vision for Peabody's future. The foundation will again have this opportunity during the Fall of 2025. Keep a look out for more information to come about specific dates, exciting announcements, and fundraising events.

With PFF's generous $70,000 match, Peabody's fundraising impact was magnified, allowing us to continue critical projects that benefit the entire community. 2024 was the second year that the foundation had this opportunity, raising $135,697 in 2023.

Surpassing this match is not just about the numbers. Each contribution represents a shared dream of creating a vibrant, thriving Peabody. Whether it was a modest donation from a young family or a larger gift from a local business, each act of kindness wove another thread into the tapestry of our community. Our collective generosity is proof that even in small towns, big dreams can become reality.

To everyone who contributed to this campaign–thank you for your generosity, your trust in the Peabody Community Foundation, and your belief in our community's potential. Together, we have shown that Peabody is more than just a town–it's a family.

Legacy of Leadership: Honoring the Lasting Impact of Becky Nickel, Ron Traxson, and Shawn Entz

Celebrating the Service and Legacy of Becky Nickel, Ron Traxson, and Shawn Entz

As the Peabody Community Foundation (PCF) bids farewell to three dedicated leaders–Becky Nickel, Director, and Ron Traxson and Shawn Entz, board members–we reflect on their incredible contributions to our community and the lasting legacy they leave behind. Their commitment to service and passion for strengthening Peabody have paved the way for continued progress and growth in the years to come.

Becky Nickel: A Vision for Enduring Impact

Becky Nickel's leadership was marked by her ability to bring big ideas to life. One of the most memorable moments during her time with PCF was when the board prioritized housing and received a donated home to relocate to Peabody.

"When the PCF board determined that housing would be a focus of our work and then we were donated a home to move to town … it was truly a special moment," she shared.

For Nickel, philanthropy is the lifeblood of small rural communities.

"Small rural communities will never have the tax base to support charitable institutions. The Foundation provides a trustworthy vehicle for people with a heart for Peabody to contribute toward sustaining and improving the institutions they love," she explained.

Her vision for the future is rooted in partnership and growth.

"We are very fortunate to have Paige Barnes as our full-time employee with her deep love for Peabody and her vision for making Peabody the best small community in Kansas–ad astra per aspera!"

While Nickel is leaving behind her official role with the foundation, she plans to continue to support Barnes and the foundation in the future and will continue to serve in her role with Central Kansas Community Foundation as Affiliate Coordinator.

Ron Traxson: Community Development Advocate

Ron Traxson, who joined PCF shortly before retiring as USD #398 superintendent in 2021, found deep fulfillment in fostering community development. His proudest accomplishment was PCF's focus on housing.

"Our development and focus on housing has been the most gratifying thing with the Foundation," he said.

Traxon's experience has shaped his hope for PCF's future:

"I really hope the Foundation continues its efforts with housing and development involvement. It's a slow process, and we're still at the beginning of it, but it needs to continue to be fruitful."

Reflecting on his time with the board, Traxson credited the team's collaborative spirit.

"So many individuals made things happen," he shared, giving special recognition to Becki Yoder and Gene Schmill. His message to future board members? "Be attentive and ask questions to learn."

*(SEE **Legacy** PAGE 3)*

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Pancake...

The following were grant recipients:

· The Peabody City Pool for swimming lessons for local children ages 5-10.

· CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), supporting advocacy for children in the foster care system.

· Kansas Learning Center for Health, aiding educational programs for the community.

· Peabody Association of Churches' "Safe Haven Communities" program, which provides meals, child care, and training for those facing financial challenges.

· FACT, which offers holiday gifts and financial assistance to local families and children in need.

· Peabody Historical Society to restore and paint a significant historical structure.

·Peabody Senior Center for restroom renovations, enhancing the facility's accessibility and comfort.

·Peabody Township Library for window treatment.

·The Christmas Light Committee for Christmas lights downtown.

PCF Associate Director Paige Barnes expressed gratitude for the community's support and highlighted the significance of the event.

"The Pancake Race is a wonderful tradition that brings our community together, creating a space to enjoy one another's company while supporting the important work of the Foundation," Barnes said.

Legacy...

Shawn Entz: Building for the Future

For Shawn Entz, surpassing the $1 million mark in PCF's funds was a highlight of her time on the board.

"There are several moments I remember with fondness; however, hitting the million-dollar mark had a sense of accomplishment for the Foundation and those in the community who are so diligent in donating."

Entz also took pride in the many grants awarded under her tenure.

"I am excited about how the funds are growing and will continue to do great things in Peabody. The new pool fund, in particular, is something I would love to see come to life for our local citizens and neighboring towns."

Looking ahead, she's confident in the Foundation's future.

"I would love to see the bottom line hit the two-million-dollar mark," Shawn said. Her advice to others considering involvement is straightforward:

"Step up and contact a board member to let them know you want to join them! The time factor for involvement is minimal, and it's incredibly rewarding."

A Call to Action: Step Up and Serve

As Nickel, Traxson, and Entz move on from their roles, they leave behind an inspiring example of leadership, volunteerism and dedication.

They encourage anyone with a love for Peabody to get involved. Whether it's joining the board, contributing to a fund, or volunteering time, every effort makes a difference.

50/50...

Levering acknowledges that younger donors often face challenges in committing to philanthropy, particularly because they may not feel financially secure enough to donate. He sees the $50 Under 50 Fund as a way to break down those barriers by making giving feel more attainable.

"The challenge for them is not being secure in their game plan for life," Levering explained. "Most people don't set goals until they're older. I told my kids when they were young and would ask me about my success, my advice was to start now. Don't wait until you're 45 or 50. Find something that can make you a little money and see where that goes."

Levering's personal faith and values also play a significant role in his commitment to the community.

"I like this little town. I think the people in it mean well. My faith is to be good, be honest, and be giving," he shared.

Join us in supporting the $50 Under 50 Fund today and help shape the future of philanthropy in Peabody! If interested in learning more, reach out to Paige Barnes, PCF Associate Director, paige@centralkansascf.org.

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Introducing the $50 Under 50 Fund: A Vision for the Future of Giving Back

The Peabody Community Foundation is proud to introduce the $50 Under 50 Fund, an initiative designed to encourage younger generations to get involved in philanthropy by making smaller, more accessible donations. The idea for the fund comes from Mark Levering, PCF board member and a long-time advocate for community engagement. Levering shares a deeply personal connection to the notion of giving back.

A Personal Journey to Inspire Giving

Levering reflects on his younger years and the struggles that came with not having the financial means to donate to a cause.

"When I was younger, you just didn't think of donating to a cause because you didn't have the money to do it. You were just struggling to be successful in life," Levering shared. "You presumed if they're asking for a donation they wanted hundreds or thousands of dollars to have any effect. It was disappointing to me that no one said five or ten dollars helped too."

*SEE **50/50** PAGE 3*

PCF Board:
Rachel Winter- Chair
Gene Schmill-Co-Chair
Lindsay Hutchison-Secretary/Treasurer
Richard Baker
Mark Levering
Norma Patton
Randy Preheim
Tom Spencer
PCF Staff:
Paige Barnes - Associate Director

PCF Mission Statement: Improve the quality of life in Peabody for the present and future.

SCAN here for a list of all 33 funds bit.ly/donate-peabodycf