

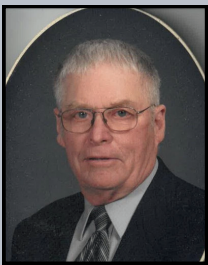
25TH PEABODY GIVES BACK 25TH ANNIVERSARY ANNIVERSARY

25 years of Giving- Help Us Match the Moment

The Peabody Community Foundation (PCF) is thrilled to launch our 2025 Patterson Family Foundation Match Campaign (PFF), running November 25 through December 25. This year's campaign carries special meaning as we celebrate 25 years of Peabody giving, honoring the generosity and partnerships that make our community strong.

Thanks to the continued support of the PFF, PCF is eligible for up to \$100,000 in matching funds—a significant increase from last year's \$70,000 match.

(SEE Match PAGE 3)



**James "Jim"
Preheim**

Jim Preheim

PCF joins the Preheim family and our wider community in celebrating the life of James "Jim" Adolph Preheim, who passed away on October 29, 2025, at the age of 90.

(SEE Preheim PAGE 2)



(Left) Norma Patton, PCF board member, concentrates as she cuts cake during the foundation's 25th Anniversary Ice Cream Social on Sept. 15. Representatives from several organizations, including the Peabody Historical Society and Peabody Association of Churches joined in the celebration. The event also highlighted the installation of PCF's new office sign, crafted by Goodwin Enterprises of Burns (right).



Honoring a Heart For Peabody

When you meet Heidi Hittle, her warmth and sincerity are the first things you notice. She speaks about her community with the kind of affection reserved for family, and for Heidi, Peabody is family.

"It's always been home," she said. "Even when I wasn't living here, I'd come back for the Fourth of July or Christmas. No matter where I was, Peabody has always been home."

This spring, Heidi was recognized as Peabody's Volunteer of the Year nominee, honored at the Central Kansas Community Foundation's Spring Soirée alongside PCF board member Mark Levering



(Above) Heidi Hittle accepts her Volunteer of the Year nomination.

who was named Philanthropist of the Year nominee for Peabody.

For Heidi, the experience was both humbling and inspiring. "It was exciting and indescribable," she said.

(SEE Hittle PAGE 3)

Preheim...

Jim was a man whose quiet strength, deep faith, and steadfast dedication to family and community were woven into everything he did. Born in 1935, his early life was shaped by resilience and grace, a foundation that would guide him through nine decades of purposeful living. He carried with him the values of hard work, integrity, and service, living each of them fully through his commitment to both people and place.

A lifelong Kansan, Jim poured his time and talents into multiple callings: farming, teaching, coaching, and serving others. Whether in the classroom, on the basketball court, or in the field, he encouraged those around him to strive for excellence while maintaining humility. His influence was felt most deeply not just in what he achieved, but in how he encouraged others to grow, lead, and give back.

Jim's service extended beyond his professional and family life to his faith and his community. He was an active member of Zion Mennonite Church in Elbing and gave countless hours to organizations that reflected his values. Among them, the Peabody Community Foundation, where he served on the board for six years, concluding his service in 2017. His insight, warmth, and steady guidance helped shape the Foundation's mission and impact, leaving an enduring mark on our work.

"I would walk into the room and he would have the biggest smile on his face. He will be greatly missed."

— KAITLYN PREHEIM, GRANDDAUGHTER

It feels especially meaningful that Jim's son, Randy Preheim, now serves on the PCF board, continuing a legacy of service that clearly runs deep in their family. Those who know Randy recognize many of the same qualities that defined his father: humility, kindness, a tireless work ethic, and a steady commitment to doing good quietly and well.

Jim was also a loyal supporter of Peabody's music and athletic programs, rarely missing an opportunity to cheer on local students. His life reminds us that leadership often looks like showing up, listening well, and doing what needs to be done, and doing it with heart.

PCF is grateful for his lasting impact and extends our deepest sympathy to Gladys and the entire Preheim family. Jim's life was a gift to his family, his church, his community, and to all of us who continue to be shaped by his example.

25 Years of Giving; A Future Built Together

This year, PCF celebrates a milestone that reflects both the heart and the hope of our town—25 years of giving, growth, and community spirit.

It all began in 2000 with one simple yet powerful idea: that lasting change starts locally. When Joan Berns planted the "mustard seed" that became PCF, she and a small group of visionary founders believed that if Peabody could pool its generosity and invest it wisely, we could create a permanent source of support for generations to come.

A quarter-century later, that seed has flourished. Today, PCF proudly stewards 34 component funds, each designed to strengthen the fabric of our community. Together, these funds have helped support local students, families, nonprofits, and projects that make Peabody the vibrant, caring place we all call home. From swimming lessons and the Angel Tree Project to museum improvements, scholarships, and housing initiatives, every dollar given through PCF tells a story of neighbors helping neighbors.

Our impact over time speaks volumes, more than \$590,000 in grants and scholarships have been awarded over the past decade alone. And behind each number are countless stories of encouragement, opportunity, and hope. As we look to the future, our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan builds upon that strong foundation. Expanding community engagement and storytelling, ensuring every resident sees themselves reflected in the good work being done.

Our anniversary theme, "Peabody Gives Back," captures what makes Peabody special. Our shared belief that together, we can accomplish more than any one of us could alone.

Throughout the year, we've celebrated with events, stories, and reflections on the many hands and hearts that have built PCF into what it is today. To the next generation of givers, doers, and dreamers who will carry this work onward. To everyone who has given or simply believed in the vision; thank you. The story of PCF is, at its heart, the story of Peabody itself: a community that shows up, cares deeply, and invests in a brighter tomorrow.

Hittle...

"To be surrounded by all those other volunteers; it makes you realize how many people are doing amazing things in their own communities."

Heidi's path to community service began early. A 1992 Peabody High School graduate, she earned degrees from Cloud County, Fort Hays State, and Pittsburg State, ultimately finding her calling in education. She currently teaches art for grades K-12 at USD 398 and has a passion for creativity and connection. "Teaching art lets me reach so many more kids than I could in a smaller group—it's my way of helping them find their own voice," she said.

Her heart for helping extends well beyond the classroom. Over the years, Heidi has served on the HUB board, the Sunflower Theatre board, and has led water aerobics for several summers. She's organized Red Cross blood drives for three years, assisted with Safe Haven dinners through her church, and continues to support the local food bank.

"If everyone gave just two or three hours a month," she said, "no one would feel overloaded—and our town would be stronger for it."

One story she recalls with emotion involves a simple community service project.

"We cleaned out a woman's flower beds, and she was almost crying. To us it was something small, but to her, it meant everything. You don't

always realize how much those small acts matter."

For Heidi, the connection between school and community is vital.

"Without the school, there's no community and without the community, there's no school," she said. "They have to flow together." That belief continues to guide her current efforts as she helps PCF prepare for a reimagined Giving Tuesday, ensuring collaboration remains strong even as traditions evolve.

Through all of it: teaching, volunteering, mentoring, and giving, Heidi continues to set an example of what it means to give back. "It makes you feel really good," she said, eyes welling. "If you don't have people willing to give their time and their hearts, our town won't be successful."

Heidi welcomed her fourth grandchild, Azalea, in April and still finds time to serve as yearbook advisor, church volunteer, and creative spark behind countless community projects. She laughs easily, works tirelessly, and quietly reminds us all that meaningful change begins right at home.

As Peabody celebrates its volunteers and philanthropists this Giving Season, it's easy to see why the community takes pride in Heidi's recognition because, as she proves daily, the best way to honor where you come from is to keep showing up for it.

Match...

That means together, we have the potential to bring \$200,000 in total impact home to Peabody!

The month-long campaign will include two community events:

- PCF' Gala – an evening of celebration, dinner, silent auction, and a dessert auction, just in time for Thanksgiving on November 25.

- Giving Tuesday at the High School – on December 2, with a soup dinner, student art show, and halftime check presentation at the basketball game.

Your donation will be amplified and up to 50% added to your chosen fund, and up to 50% invested in PCF's operating endowment funds.

Whether you give \$5 or \$500, every gift counts—and every dollar moves us closer to a stronger future.

As we reflect on a quarter century of community philanthropy, let's keep the momentum going and "match the moment" together. Donations can be made online or by mailing your gift between November 25 and December 25.



Foundation Happenings



Top: PCF board members Randy Preheim and Gene Schmill, along with a representative from Scouting America, listen as Marcia Seabee speaks during PCF's 25th Anniversary Ice Cream Social. Bottom left: PBHS student Tavin Tindall pauses in costume with PCF Associate Director, Paige Barnes, during Trunk or Treat on Halloween. Bottom right: Adriana and Symba Newman install the vinyl logo in PCF's new office.



25TH

ANNIVERSARY

PEABODY GIVES BACK

NEIGHBORS HELPING
NEIGHBORS SINCE 2000

Peabody
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
An Affiliate of Central Kansas Community Foundation

PATERSON
PERKINS FOUNDATION

**MATCH
MONTH**
**11.25.25
TO
12.25.25**

Amplify Your Gift

Your donation will be matched — up to 50% added to your chosen fund, and up to 50% invested in PCF's operating endowment funds.

The Patterson Family Foundation will match up to \$100,000 in community giving to qualifying PCF funds.
(Scholarship and Donor Advised Funds not eligible.)

Match Month Community Events @ PBHS:

- November 25th - PCF Gala @ 6PM
- December 2nd - Giving Tuesday @ 5PM

PBHS students—help stock our local food bank and earn a chance to win!

From now until Giving Tues., bring canned goods or nonperishable food items to school.

For every item donated, you'll receive one raffle ticket toward winning \$10 Peabody Bucks!

Winners will be drawn and announced at halftime of the boys' game on GT at PBHS.



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 34 funds
bit.ly/donate-peabodycf

