



Douglas
County
Community
Foundation

Newsletter

Fall 2018

Cottonwood Foundation: For life-changing work

The energy, excitement, friendliness, and joy you see as you walk through the spaces at Cottonwood are truly special, and they are a proud tribute to the powerful and life-changing work the organization has been doing in Douglas and Jefferson counties over the last 46 years. Cottonwood serves more than 600 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). The opportunities provided to live independently, work in a rewarding and supportive environment, travel, and engage in social activities are abundant and inspiring.

“We really have an amazing community, and we are so appreciative of the support we receive to enhance the quality of life for the people we serve,” said Sharon Spratt, CEO of Cottonwood, Inc. “From wonderful neighbors and local business partners to the Lawrence Transit system and Lawrence Parks and Rec, to name but a few — all provide invaluable contributions that help us meet our mission of helping people shape their own future.”



The Cottonwood Foundation Endowment Fund at DCCF is crucial to Cottonwood’s long-term success. “We have had some serious reductions in federal and state funding over the last 10 years, which directly impact our ability to provide wage increases for our staff. Our staff is truly the bricks and mortar of our ability to meet our mission, and we must be able to pay a competitive wage and provide the supports they need to ensure that the people we support continue to be served with the respect and dedication they deserve,” said Ettie Brightwell, Cottonwood’s Director of Community Relations and Development.



Cottonwood partners with some very familiar companies to provide employment opportunities for individuals and additional revenue for the organization. The United States Department of Defense, Hill’s Pet Nutrition and Hallmark Cards are a few of the companies that contract with Cottonwood for large-scale productions in the Cottonwood Work Center.

Cottonwood delivers quality products on time and with a lot of pride.

Cottonwood, Inc. creates possibilities for more than 600 individuals with disabilities. The Cottonwood Foundation Endowment Fund at DCCF is crucial to this important work.

For more about Cottonwood, visit its website at cwood.org.

Generosity in action: Donor-advised fund grants



“I donated to ‘Dave’s Dream’ to fund a full-time instructor for Mental Health First Aid at Bert Nash, because I wanted to honor David Johnson and all he did for Bert Nash and our community, and because I think the course is important for all of us. Most of us have been faced with helping someone through a mental health crisis, and this course gives critical understanding in discerning the seriousness of the situation and practical guidance in truly helping someone.”

—Cindy Maude, *C. L. Maude Charitable Fund*



“The Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence has served our community for nearly 50 years. For decades they’ve shaped countless young lives and thousands of our neighbors have been impacted by their amazing work! So when we learned about their ‘Great Futures’ undertaking, and understood how significant the improvements were going to be, it was clear we wanted to be involved. We saw a successful track record already established, glaring needs to serve hundreds of additional teens and youth daily, and a leadership team in place we could trust. Combining those elements, our family was (and still is) proud to walk alongside the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, supporting ‘Great Futures.’”

—Matthew and Alice Neuman, *Neuman Family Fund*



“Our mission is to carry on my daughter Claire’s legacy of love and service. She was a Navy dentist, and before she was murdered in January of 2018, she was ready to start a master’s degree program in public health at Johns Hopkins with the goal of increasing access to health care for all. For our first grant, we bought a new van for the Douglas County Dental Clinic so they can provide dental services to more school children. It was a perfect fit.”

—Shannon VanLandingham, *#BEMORELIKECLAIRE Fund*

You and your family can set up your own donor-advised fund — the process is simple, has many benefits, and can be done in less than a day. You can make an establishing gift of cash, stock or other assets. You will receive a tax deduction at the time you make the establishing gift and when you make additional contributions to the fund. Once your fund is established, you may direct grants from it to charities in the local area or throughout the United States. For more information, contact Chip Blaser at 785-843-8727 or chipblaser@dccfoundation.org.

News and notes

- DCCF welcomes the Baldwin Education Endowment Fund, the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library Endowment Fund, and 10 new family funds.
- Are you planning to donate to one of our organization funds before the end of 2018? We now have custom pages for each of our organization funds with details about what the fund supports, and options for one-time or recurring donations. Explore nonprofits in our community on our website at dccfoundation.org/donate/, or contact Heather Hoy. Thank you for your generosity!

Fall Community Grants awarded

These 19 organizations were awarded Fall 2018 Community Grants:

Baldwin Retirement Apartment Complex, Inc., d.b.a. Orchard Lane Leisure Living and Jersey Street Apartment Suites
Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County
Communities In Schools of Mid-America
Douglas County Historical Society
Douglas County Suicide Prevention Coalition
ERC Resource & Referral, Inc., d.b.a. Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas

Father and Daughter Alliance, d.b.a. Youth Trust Project
Harvesters – The Community Food Network
Heartland Community Health Center
Let's Talk, Inc.
Midland Care Connection, Inc.
O'Connell Youth Ranch, Inc.
Social Service League
The Arc of Douglas County
The Children's Shelter, Inc.
The Willow Domestic Violence Center
Trinity Lutheran Church
Visiting Nurses Association

Organizations may apply for Community Grant funding once per calendar year. Applications for 2019 Spring Community Grants are due on Monday, Feb. 4, 2019. See guidelines and application instructions at dccfoundation.org.



Housing heroes

Douglas County has a committed and highly collaborative network of organizations working together to manage the issues surrounding homelessness and affordable housing, and the many social service needs that come with these challenges. Over the next year, DCCF will be highlighting the efforts of these nonprofit partners.

"We have to start thinking outside of the box and innovating in how we deal with these issues. Whether it's discussions about donating houses or land, or creating a significant endowment for our community, these are the conversations we need to be having with the public," said Erika Zimmerman, director of Lawrence Habitat for Humanity. Other community partners include Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, Family Promise of Lawrence, the Lawrence Community Shelter, Tenants to Homeowners, and Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority. DCCF will provide opportunities for community conversations with donors, businesses and government partners on the issue of affordable housing and how we can innovate and improve the lives of Douglas County citizens through charitable action.



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Connecting the diverse citizens and communities of Douglas County through charitable action.

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