



Douglas  
County  
Community  
Foundation

# Newsletter

Fall 2016

## Environmental fund marks 10 years of impact

**10** years in, thousands of Douglas County residents have a better understanding of nature and resource conservation because of the Elizabeth Schultz Environmental Fund.

Animal and plant populations have benefited, too.

In 2005, retired KU English professor Elizabeth Schultz established the fund with the hope that it would spur projects that address the environment in creative, scientific, cultural, educational, aesthetic and economic ways.

“The wonderful success of this fund, given the number and diversity of projects it has engendered, not only suggests the need for environmental awareness in our community but also the amazing commitment of Douglas County residents to that need,” Schultz said.

The fund has awarded 55 grants totaling nearly \$221,000 to area schools, nonprofits and local governments for widely diverse environmental projects.



Schultz

lands and rivers, create artistic and literary works, establish school and community gardens, support animal and plant populations, promote renewable energy, and educate people of all ages about the significance of the environment and the need to protect it for the future.

**“Children living today will need sound environmental models for future environmental challenges.”**

—Elizabeth Schultz



The Elizabeth Schultz Environmental Fund has awarded nearly \$221,000 for widely diverse environmental projects in the area.

A recently funded project transformed an old Free State High School football field into a prairie restoration, research and demonstration site. Free State biology teacher Julie Schwarting and KU professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Helen Alexander teamed with high school and university biology students to create an outdoor classroom and lab that give them and the community opportunities to explore our prairie heritage.

City of Lawrence sustainability coordinator Eileen Horn says the fund has helped local food growers turn vacant lots into community gardens. “The Elizabeth

—continued inside



# Grants invest in health, youth transportation, digital inclusion and more

Twenty local organizations recently received Community Grants totaling \$96,000 to serve area residents.

**Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center**, the **Health Care Access Clinic** and the **Sexual Trauma and Abuse Care Center** received funds for facility updates that will help maintain welcoming environments for those they serve.

**Visiting Nurses Association** will use funds for medical records technology.

**Community Village Lawrence** will launch a service that provides health support volunteers to accompany older adults to medical appointments to take notes, ask questions, and provide support.

**O'Connell Youth Ranch** and **The Villages**, which provide residential care for youth, will use grants to purchase vans to transport kids to appointments and afterschool and weekend activities.

A grant to the **Lawrence Schools Foundation** will provide mobile hotspots that give students safe access to online education content for off campus assignments.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** will recruit and train law enforcement officers to serve as mentors.

Other grants will support access to fruits and vegetables for food pantry clients, early childhood learning and mental health, blood pressure screening for dental patients and a variety of other community needs.

In addition to Community Grants awarded twice a year, local residents make grants year-round from many donor-advised, organization, field of interest and scholarship funds. This includes separate grant programs that support environmental and community wellness projects.



So far in 2016, we have made 320 grants totaling \$1.3 million. Visit [www.dccfoundation.org](http://www.dccfoundation.org) for a complete list of recent Community Grants.

## Upcoming events

- November 18 LiveWell Lawrence Celebration Breakfast, Lied Center
- January 10 Community Grants Information Session, Baldwin Academy of Dance and Voice
- January 11 Community Grants Information Session, Lawrence Public Library, Room A
- January 12 Community Grants Information Session, Lawrence Public Library, Room A

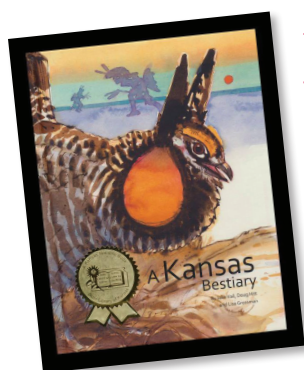


# You can use IRA required distributions to do charitable good

If you are 70 or older and your IRA required minimum distributions provide more income than you need, you can use the extra dollars to help your community tax free. Simply ask your IRA administrator to send an amount of your choosing directly to the community foundation or other qualified nonprofit organization. Contact your financial advisor or us to learn more.



Call us or visit  
[dccfoundation.org](http://dccfoundation.org)  
to find out more.



## Environmental fund —continued

Schultz Environmental Fund has been a fantastic partner with the City of Lawrence's Common Ground program," said Horn. "It has provided funding to several of our community gardens to buy sheds, tools, and equipment needed to transform these vacant lots into vibrant spaces for growing food and community connections."

Once a year, local organizations have an opportunity to apply for a fund grant. Schultz invites four area residents with environmental interests to work with her to make award decisions. Sharon Ashworth, Sarah Hill-Nelson, Nancy Jackson and Dan Nagengast currently serve on the selection committee.

The fund is endowed, meaning that the donated principal stays in the fund, and the income it earns will be used annually to make grants for generations to come.

Schultz believes that "Although the impact of the ESEF grants on the environment and people of Douglas County is stunning, the environment of our community will continue to be challenged in the future. Children living today will need sound environmental models for future environmental challenges, and my hope is very much that the ESEF projects will be able to anticipate some of these needs and continue to try to address them."



Hammann

## CPA urges boards to practice sound financial oversight

Michele Hammann, CPA of Summers, Spencer & Company, P.A. urged local nonprofit board members to learn enough about their organization's finances to ask good questions. "Nobody has to be an expert. You just have to be an inquisitor," she said. Hammann presented a free seminar on understanding nonprofit financials on October 4 at the Lawrence Public Library. Eighty people attended.



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*Connecting the diverse  
citizens and communities  
of Douglas County through  
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