



Douglas
County
Community
Foundation

Newsletter

Spring 2017

Initiative targets childhood trauma



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A local group wants to improve preschool teachers' ability to recognize signs of trauma and teach children positive coping skills. Fundraising is underway to achieve these goals.

Trauma puts one in five Douglas County children at high risk for lifelong physical and mental health problems. It damages the developing brain in ways that impair learning.

Identifying and addressing trauma early in life is the most effective way to reduce its negative consequences.

Jo Bryant, one of the organizers, said the group plans to provide Trauma Smart training to 100 area teachers. Trauma Smart is a nationally recognized program that reduces the effects of toxic stress by helping children develop positive coping skills,

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build resilience, and increase their chance for success in school and in life. Teachers will also learn how to adapt the school environment to reduce the stress caused by trauma.

Preschool teachers from Kennedy Elementary, Head Start and Douglas County Child Development Association will be the first to receive training.

The initiative will also engage parents in learning the same strategies and establish a train-the-trainer program so future preschool teachers will have access to training.

Organizers have raised \$66,300 of the \$85,000 needed, and hope community members will pitch in to the effort. Contributions to date include grants from the community foundation and the United Methodist Ministries Health Fund, as well as private gifts and local organization commitments.



To make a tax-deductible donation, visit dccfoundation.org and direct your gift to the Childhood Trauma and Resilience Education Fund.



Humane Society campaign hits halfway mark

The Lawrence Humane Society is halfway to its goal of raising \$5M in private contributions for a new, state-of-the-art shelter facility.

The current shelter, which cares for more than 3,800 lost, abused, and homeless animals each year, no longer meets industry standards for proper animal care and disease management.

The new 20,000 square foot facility will feature better animal housing, a veterinary clinic, dedicated adoption spaces, a multipurpose room, centralized work spaces for staff and improved outdoor dog play areas.

Shelter director Kate Meghji says the new space will help the organization serve pets and people better.



Meghji

“With our community’s support, we can build a new facility that allows us to save more animals’ lives and improve the well-being of pets and people in our community,” she said. “We are so excited to build a new home that will meet the needs of both animals and the people who love them — now and in the future.”

The community foundation is assisting donors who want to make stock or mutual fund gifts to support the campaign. For transfer instructions, contact Chip Blaser at chipblaser@dccfoundation.org or call 785-843-8727.

Donors may give to the Lawrence Humane Society Capital Campaign Fund online at dccfoundation.org.

More information on the campaign and new facility is available at lawrencehumane.org/campaign or by calling the Lawrence Humane Society at 785-843-6835.

Boys & Girls Club capital campaign update

The Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence has raised \$2.5M of the \$4.25M needed to build the Don and Beverly Gardner Center for Great Futures. Donors may give stock or cash gifts to the **Boys & Girls Club Capital Campaign Fund** at DCCF.

News and notes

- Donors over age 70 ½ continue to utilize qualified charitable distributions from IRA accounts to do good while limiting income for personal tax purposes.
- DCCF now has accounts with Vanguard, Fidelity and T. Rowe Price to make contributions of mutual fund shares easier for donors.
- The **Baldwin City Recreation Commission** and **Eudora Township Library** are both utilizing DCCF to accept capital campaign contributions.
- We welcome the **Clinton Lake Historical Society Endowment Fund** and **10 new family funds**.



For more news and opportunities, visit dccfoundation.org or call us at 785-843-8727.

Spring Community Grants announced

These organizations received Community Grants in our 2017 Spring grant cycle:

Americana Music Academy
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence
Children's Learning Center
City of Baldwin City
Cottonwood, Inc.
Douglas County CASA
ECKAN
Family Promise of Lawrence
Kansas Head Start Association
KU Audio-Reader
Lawrence Arts Center

Lawrence Community Shelter
Lawrence Habitat for Humanity
Lecompton Historical Society
Operation Wildlife
Stormont Vail Foundation
The Salvation Army of Douglas County
The Shelter, Inc.
The Willow Domestic Violence Center
Trinity In-Home Care
USD 497 Parents as Teachers



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Chip Blaser
Executive Director
chipblaser@dccfoundation.org

Board updates



McGrew



Simons



Fairchild

Mike McGrew and Dolph Simons, Jr. have wrapped up nine years of board service. We are very grateful for their many contributions to the foundation's work. Bob Fairchild, Senior Judge and retired Douglas County District Court Chief Judge, has joined the foundation board.

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

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