



Winter 2021

*"I Believe"*

# FORT SCOTT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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## **I Believe...**

Throughout the process of beginning the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation, to growing to the level it is today, philanthropist Dean Mann has repeatedly emphasized that "It was really a team effort, and, once the groundwork was laid, the good people who were involved then got down to the business of talking to people about helping Fort Scott, both in the present and into the future. I continue to believe in the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation." More to come from Dean on the following page...

## **Message from the Chairman - I Believe...**

Last month, I had the pleasure of driving through the Boston Mountains in Arkansas. If you have not had this experience, I highly recommend it. It is a drive better planned when you have no deadlines as the winding roads will slow you down forcing you to enjoy nature. This is a good thing!

I marveled at the beautiful pine trees stretching over miles of mountains and valleys. Every now and then a logging truck would appear on the road, loaded with the cut trees that would eventually make their way into our economy and our lives. While I do not pretend to understand forestry, clearly a plan was put in place years ago for repopulating the forests so that future generations could enjoy the natural beauty of the pine trees.

It struck me that this is similar to the mission to the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation. While the Foundation is dedicated to meeting the more immediate needs of area not-for-profits, it has a long-range vision of planning and providing for our community and our quality of life for decades to come. As an example, the interest from the unrestricted endowment is used annually for grants, while the principal is never touched, allowing these funds to grow over time and be a perpetual source of income for our community.

Additionally, the Foundation Board is beginning to discuss how the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation can play a role in addressing the larger needs in our community whether it be our parks, the downtown, or some other growing need. We believe that through partnerships with other organizations and individuals the Foundation can be a catalyst for revitalization and growth.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you will find inspiration to support this vision. For more information, call, 620-224-6500.

I believe in the Foundation!

Carla Farmer, Chairman



**Carla Farmer,**  
**Chairman of the Board**

## Profile in Philanthropy



### Story from Dean Mann, CPA, Banker, Foresighted Community Member

While people often become proud supporters of the communities where they grow up, Dean Mann and his wife Becky brought their energy, enthusiasm and experience to Fort Scott from St. Louis, Missouri. Dean, a Certified Public Accountant, had left behind his career as a partner in a national accounting firm to form a holding company to purchase Citizens National Bank (now Landmark).

When Dean arrived, he also brought with him his knowledge and experience from working with the St. Louis area's community foundation in its early development and was aware of the opportunities such a foundation could mean for Fort Scott and Bourbon County. He said he continued to explore those possibilities for a couple of years. Setting up and servicing such a 501c3 is a complicated, on-going process.

Consequently, it wasn't until the opportunity was presented for the yet to be born Fort Scott Area Community Foundation to fall under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas, headquartered in Pittsburg, that it truly became feasible. Now, as Dean said, this made it "a go".

Early in the process, he and Janet Braun sat down to brainstorm and form a list of potential members to serve as the first board of directors for what was to become the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation. They contacted these community concerned citizens and invited them to lead this new venture. Dean repeatedly emphasized that "It was really a team effort and, once the groundwork was laid, the good people who were involved then got down to the business of talking to people about helping Fort Scott, both in the present and into the future." As the years have passed and the foundation has grown and been able to assist people in this area in so many ways, board members have served faithfully and then stepped aside, at least for a while, and new board members have stepped in to provide the important, committed leadership that makes the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation such a valuable asset to this community. Dean speaks for all of them in these few words: "I continue to believe in the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation."



***Diana Endicott,  
New Board Member***

### 2021 – 2022 Board of Directors

Carla Farmer (Chairperson)  
Craig Campbell (Vice Chairperson)  
Lindsay Madison (Secretary/Marketing)  
Rhonda Dunn (Treasurer)  
Gregg Motley (Granting)  
Charles Gentry (Asset Dev./Bylaws)  
David Shepherd (Asset Dev.)  
Travis Shelton (Nominating)  
Connie Banwart  
Sheryl Bloomfield  
Janet Braun  
Michelle Bruner  
Steve Buerge  
Diana Endicott  
Bailey Lyons  
Gary Palmer  
Kirk Sharp

Diana Endicott retired from USD 234 after a 39-year teaching career. She began her career in elementary education and later moved to middle school English and then high school English. Diana received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Pittsburg State University. She later obtained K-12 licensure in gifted education and taught high school gifted/talented for the final portion of her teaching career. Diana served the school system in various extracurricular activities and professional organizations, local, state, and national levels.

Diana is married to JW Endicott and they are parents to five adult children and grandparents to eight grandchildren. Although retired, they have remained active community members while finding time to travel and be involved grandparents.

Diana is a member of Rotary and PEO. She served as chairman of the Fort Scott City Planning Commission, president of Next Steps in addition to other church and civic commitments. She currently works as finance manager at H&H Agency.

# Announcing the 2021 Grant Recipients

The Foundation Board is excited to announce that 15 grants were awarded totaling \$40,345. Those recipients included the following:

1. Beacon, Inc.	\$3,000	Upgrade & Expansion of Nutritional Food Items
2. Special Olympics Kansas	\$500	Unified Sports
3. Uniontown Saddle Club	\$4,000	Trailer Plug-ins - Youth Rodeo
4. Gordon Parks Museum	\$3,000	KC Friends of Alvin Ailey Dance Group & MLK Celebration
5. Kansas Food Bank Warehouse, Inc.	\$3,000	Food 4 Kids
6. First Presbyterian Church	\$2,500	Wheelchair Ramp Ministry
7. Kiwanis Club of Fort Scott	\$1,000	Tree Project
8. Bourbon County CASA	\$4,500	Service Capacity
9. City of Fort Scott	\$4,000	Christmas in the Park
10. Pioneer Harvest Fiesta, Inc.	\$2,500	Cloverleaf Event Center Enhancements
11. Fort Scott Compassionate Ministries	\$2,000	Client Life Sustainability
12. Care to Share Cancer Support Group	\$3,000	The Sharing Bucket
13. USD-234	\$2,500	Feed the Children
14. City of Fort Scott	\$4,000	Downtown Christmas Decorations & Lights
15. USD-234	\$3,845	High School Choir Concert & Attire

## 2020 Grant Recipient Story

### City of Fort Scott Fire Department Education Trailer Rehab.

Submitted by FSPD Deputy Chief Mike Miles



The first picture was the demo day showing the replica 2-story house trailer. The structure was remodeled down to one level and created a more modern trailer for the kids.

This grant helped us cover over half the cost to renovate and furnish this trailer with its training materials. This trailer is used every October for fire prevention month. We take this trailer to the grade schools, private schools to perform fire education training for this kids. We have also loaned this trailer out to surrounding communities. Girard, Uniontown. This trailer serves over 500 kids throughout the month of October and they all love to go through it every year.

We at the Fort Scott Fire Department appreciate being awarded the grant to assist us in the remodel. Your generosity and assistance made a great impact on what we wanted to accomplish with the upgrades to this trailer. We simply cant thank you enough for your support!

# Profile in Philanthropy

## Story from Janet Braun, Teacher, Past School Board Member, Community Volunteer

Janet Braun happened to be standing beside Dean Mann one morning at a Chamber coffee and discussion between them settled solidly on discussion of the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas and grants that foundation was awarding. She commented to him that several people, including her good friend, Anne Emerson asked, "Why can't we do this here?"

Dean shared with her his interest in establishing such a foundation and suggested they meet after the coffee in his office to brainstorm and develop a list of potential board members. From that impromptu meeting came the names of community leaders who would become the first board of directors for the Fort Scott Area Community Foundation, and she presently continues to serve on the Board.

This was not Janet's first venture in community service. She had graduated with the Class of '59, FSHS, and received a degree in Elementary Education at Baker University in 1963. After teaching first grade for five years in Overland Park, she took "a sabbatical" as she put it, while her children were small, earned an advanced degree in Special Education and returned to teaching for another 25 years. After retirement, she served on the U234 School Board for 16 years. She also provided leadership for Good Ol' Days from its earliest years and continues to work with that team.



*Dr. Pratt Irby, Father of Janet Braun*

One of her memories from the early days of the Foundation was that the Board wanted to be able to make some grants the first year. Since there were no funds available, Janet said they "had to pass the hat among the board members" to provide for those first grants.

An important part of Janet's continuing involvement is the Dr. Pratt and Pauline Irby Fund, established at Dr. Pratt's death in 2010 as a memorial to the Irbys. It is a donor-advised fund, one of the several ways the FSACF receives and disperses monies. Janet, her brother Robert Irby, and sister Mary Rio look for opportunities to use the earnings of the Fund to provide grants. Janet said it has always been the siblings' intention to select grant options that "are the kinds of things our parents supported for their entire lives, and, as a family, we continue to believe in the Fort Scott Community Area Community Foundation." Mrs. Irby passed away in 2000, but Dr. Pratt, a much-beloved physician in the community, continued to enjoy his music and his friends. As he became less active, his good friend Howard Kivett began picking him up a couple of times a week to walk in Downtown Fort Scott. They would walk a bit and stop to rest on one of the benches along the sidewalk. They enjoyed spending the time together and visiting with whoever might pass by. Dr. Pratt called Howard his "walking partner". When the need arose for benches to be purchased for the new garden walk that is part of the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes, Janet, Robert and Mary knew this was a perfect project to honor their parents and their lives of generosity and compassion.

### **Fund Balances as of 10/31/21**

FSACF Controlled Funds

**\$1,228,395.63**

Donor-Advised Funds **\$1,712,412.85**

FSACF Other Funds **\$7,081,206.57**

**Total \$10,022,015.05**

(FSACF stands for Fort Scott Area Community Foundation)

### **Snippet from Asset Development Co-Chair, Charles Gentry**

The Community Foundation funds annual grants to local charities with income earned on its permanent endowment. The more the endowment grows, the more philanthropic fire-power is generated. This also means that your financial support will pay dividends for the long haul and keep us ready to meet future community needs, even those we cannot now imagine.