

News from the Executive Director

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

June 2009

Dear Donors and Friends,

For endowment-based organizations like the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, the past year has not been fun as we have witnessed the decline in the value of many funds that have allowed us to support important services and programs in the community. However, our Trustees have just completed a long range planning process with the expectation of a strong future ahead for our endowment funds and for the impact that we can have in moving the community forward. The programs and activities that come from that planning process over the next few months will focus on the future. We plan to be ready for all of the opportunities ahead.

New Trustees and Officers

At the May 21 quarterly meeting of the Trustees, Steve Mason was elected as President succeeding Kirk Hall, who has served since 2006. Steve is the President of Cardinal Engineering, the current president of the Last Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America and a member of our board since 2003. Bond Payne, chairman of Heritage Trust, was elected as a Trustee, replacing Bill Shdeed who as of June 30 will have completed nine years of service as a Trustee and will be retiring. Bill was especially helpful to the board in securing the location for the new building and in planning the facility. We are very appreciative of all of his contributions.

Long Range Planning Process

Twelve current Trustees, two past Trustees and nine other officers and staff participated in a long range planning retreat on May 21 held at our offices. Most of the goals of the 2004 long range plan had been addressed and a number of Trustees have joined the board since that time. The group re-affirmed our mission statement and its commitment to helping donors and meeting the needs of the Oklahoma City area. While the challenges of the current economy were recognized, the Trustees concurred that maintaining the current positive direction for growth and leadership was the top priority for the coming years. A full report and action plan will be prepared for adoption in September.

Get Reading Oklahoma is Launched

For about four years we have worked to develop programs that address issues of literacy – helping individuals learn to read and speak English thus allowing them to be self-sufficient. I'm pleased to inform you of a collaboration between us, OETA and Cox Communications that has resulted in the broadcast of two Emmy Award-winning television programs, TV411 and GED Connection, during June and July on OETA. This is the first time in 10 years that adult literacy and GED preparation programs have been made available on local television. The programs air Monday through Friday beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding at 12 noon. The programs will also be available to Cox digital cable customers via the On Demand FreeZone channel. The programs will continue in the fall on a modified schedule. In addition to the television broadcast, supporting materials and DVDs of the programs are being given to literacy service providers and libraries throughout Oklahoma. We are also offering streaming video of the programs through the Web site www.GetReadingOklahoma.org. The site is a great source of information about the programs, as well as literacy services throughout Oklahoma. Cox Communications has provided a toll-free telephone number, 1-888-OK2READ, which will refer learners and others to the appropriate services in their geographic area. Get Reading Oklahoma has generated a number of partnerships in the effort to address literacy issues and we are very enthusiastic about the prospects of helping people improve their reading skills. For more information about the program or other literacy services, please contact Mary Surbeck at 606-2917 or m.surbeck@occf.org.

**Get Reading
Oklahoma**
GED | Adult Learning

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American Banjo Museum Endowment

Oklahoma City will soon be home to the American Banjo Museum, which boasts one of the largest collections of banjos in the world. Opening in Bricktown in September, the museum will document the history of this uniquely American instrument and provide an opportunity for visitors to enjoy live banjo music as well as learn to play. All of this has been made possible by the gifts of the museum's founder, Jack Canine of Crawfordsville, Indiana. Mr. Canine is a retired industrial engineer who learned to play the banjo and began collecting the instruments. In addition to the renovation of the museum structure, Mr. Canine has established a very generous endowment fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to help support the museum's operations. The endowment is one of the largest for a non-profit organization at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and will provide a generous annual income. We welcome the American Banjo Museum to Oklahoma City.

New Gift Planning Features on Web site

Our Web site www.occf.org now features several unique new services and resources for legacy gift planning. Affiliated with the Crescendo planned giving solutions, the site links to GiftLegacy tools and Crescendo planned giving software. All of the services are provided to visitors at no cost. Also included are the stories of a number of our donors who have made planned gifts to support their charitable goals. Additionally, financial planners and donors can register to receive the weekly update from GiftLaw which includes the latest information on tax and gift planning issues. We have included professional tax and charitable planning information through our Web site for a number of years and the upgrade to Legacy Giving is an important improvement to this service. You can access Legacy Giving through www.occf.org by choosing planned giving services or you can go directly to the site by using www.occflegacy.org. For more information about we can help you with your charitable gift planning, please contact Joe Carter at 606-2914 or j.carter@occf.org.

Margaret Annis Boys Anniversary

Miss Boys would have turned 100 years old in June, 2009. We have been privileged to administer her trust since 1991, completing more than 200 landscaping projects throughout Oklahoma City. We have several important activities to mark her 100th birthday. You will be hearing more about them and seeing the results during the summer and fall.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful spring and summer.

Sincerely,



Nancy B. Anthony
Executive Director