

Highlights of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation: 1969-2011

1969

Oilman and philanthropist John E. Kirkpatrick and eight fellow business leaders founded the Oklahoma City Community Foundation in 1969. Donors who wanted to provide charitable funds needed an easy and efficient way to do it and the community needed an organization that would help them.

The group was spurred into action by the passage of the National Tax Reform Act of 1969 that imposed new restrictions on private foundations. As a result, the considerable tax advantages of contributing to a public community foundation made sense. Endowment funds created by donors could now provide long-term support for charities, scholarships and a variety of community needs as well as meet the charitable goals of the donors.

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation ended its first fiscal year with assets of \$45,000.

1970

With one gift made 34 years ago, Jaspar D. Ackerman launched a program that today is the largest of its type in the country. With a bequest of \$200,000 to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Mr. Ackerman's gift created the first permanent endowment fund for a nonprofit organization. By 1974, 18 agency endowment funds had been established. Today, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation manages the United State's largest agency endowment fund program, administering 252 funds for area nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Ackerman started his banking career as an elevator operator at Exchange Bank in 1916 and retired as its majority owner and chief executive officer. He was highly regarded as a banker, rancher and philanthropist.

1970

When E.K. Gaylord, longtime president of the Oklahoma Publishing Company, started a permanent scholarship fund in 1970 it was the first of its type at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Following his death in 1974, his estate made a substantial gift to the fund, further sustaining Mr. Gaylord's goal of helping deserving students. Earnings from the fund support the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's annual scholarship programs that provide awards to a variety of students.

In 1903, Mr. Gaylord and two business partners bought 45 percent of Daily Oklahoman stock. In 1916, he bought the Oklahoma City Times and merged the two to create the Oklahoma Publishing Company. Mr. Gaylord was a supporter of many civic causes including the drive for Oklahoma statehood and locating the state capitol to Oklahoma City.

1971

A member of the distinguished Harn family, Florence Ogden Wilson learned early the importance of helping her community. A committed philanthropist throughout her lifetime, Miss Wilson created several funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation using a variety of giving vehicles. In 1971, with the proceeds from the sale of property, she established permanent agency endowment funds for five nonprofit organizations that continue to provide a stream of income to the agencies. And, through a charitable remainder trust, Miss Wilson provided for family members while also ensuring a planned gift to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

The good work Miss Wilson supported during her lifetime continues thanks to her charitable gifts to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

1972

During the first few years, John E. Kirkpatrick and fellow Trustees such as Dean McGee, Sylvan Goldman and J.B. Saunders worked to convince friends and fellow business leaders that the Oklahoma City Community Foundation would be a sound investment in the community and that it would stand the test of time. Their hard work began to pay off when the organization began to build a broad base of donor support. By the end of 1972, just three years after the establishment of the organization, assets had reached \$1 million. At end of fiscal year 2004, assets were \$438 million.

1974

During the early 1970s, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation awarded grants to a variety of health, educational, arts and social service organizations. In 1971 these grants totaled \$35,000 but by 1974, the amount distributed to local nonprofit organizations had doubled to \$70,000. In 2004, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation distributed \$15.1 million to nonprofit organizations in the community.

1975

By 1975, it became apparent that the concept of a community foundation had taken hold. By year's end, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation now administered more than 100 permanent endowment funds with assets totaling more than \$5 million. Today, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is comprised of more than 900 funds with assets of \$438 million.

1976

While plans were underway for the Kirkpatrick Center, John E. Kirkpatrick placed funds in an escrow fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation until construction began. This fund option allowed Mr. Kirkpatrick to set aside funds for a charitable project and receive the tax benefits without spending the money until necessary.

Throughout our history donors have utilized escrow funds for a wide variety of purposes but with one goal: to improve the quality of life in our community.

1978

The first grants from the Florida Knight Trust were awarded in 1978. Mrs. Knight, an Oklahoma City business owner during the 1920s, had a special interest in needy children and supported organizations that addressed the needs of these children during her lifetime. In her will, she left a building she owned in trust with the provisions that income from the property be used to benefit disabled children. In 1975, her family transferred the trust to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

1979

Understanding the importance of a permanent endowment fund to a nonprofit organization, an anonymous donor offered what was the first of many “match challenge” opportunities to nonprofit organizations in Oklahoma City. This donor offered to match any funds raised during a certain time period by nonprofits for their endowment funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

This first match offer raised \$740,000 that was then matched by the anonymous donor, unveiled later to be John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick.

1981

Since the inception of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, W.T. “Bill” Payne had provided his support both monetarily and as one of the original nine Trustees. Mr. Payne illustrated his belief in the mission of the organization through a bequest of one of his oil companies to be used to continue support for his charitable interests. The bequest more than doubled the assets of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

1981

Considering that Willie Elizabeth Shipley had earned her own education thanks to a scholarship, it is not surprising that she would establish a scholarship fund through a bequest to assist Oklahoma students who want to pursue education after high school. After she graduated from college, Miss Shipley worked for nearly 50 years as a clerk of the Oklahoma Senate.

Known for her competence and good counsel, Miss Shipley was witness to some of the state’s most colorful history. Today, her fund supports scholarships for “needy children in western Oklahoma” (will language) through a variety of scholarships.

1984

Within a four-year fiscal period, 1980-84, the assets of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation increased from \$7 million to nearly \$20 million. This was during Oklahoma City’s modern oil boom, a period with incredible economic activity based on high oil and gas prices and tremendous increase in drilling activity throughout the state.

1985

Nancy B. Anthony became the Oklahoma City Community Foundation’s fourth executive director in 1985. When she joined the organization, she was the only full-time employee. Today, she leads a staff of 19 and oversees nearly \$440 million in assets.

1986

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 passed by Congress raised many questions about the tax advantages of charitable contributions and made community foundations an attractive alternative to private foundations. Within a year, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation experienced its largest increase in fund balance.

1986

For more than 25 years, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation was housed within the Kirkpatrick Oil Company building at 1300 N. Broadway Drive. In 1986, the organization acquired its own facility thanks to the gift of a building from the Kerr Foundation. The 115 Park Avenue building would remain the home to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation for eight years.

1987

The Tax Reform Act of 1987 encouraged many gifts of stock to take advantage of changes in capital gains tax rates. For large transactions and individuals interested in charitable giving, the benefits of a charitable gift could be great. Attorney Bill Cheek came to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation with a client that was selling his business and wanted to set up a charitable fund. That client was the William E. Davis family who established the first Affiliated Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

1988

The desire to help foster care youth pursue higher education was the impetus behind Oklahoma Kids With Promise Scholarship established by a group of business owners. In 1996, the fund’s assets and administrative duties were transferred to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and, combined with additional scholarship funds, the Oklahoma Youth With Promise Scholarship Program was born. To date, more than 170 former foster care youth have received assistance through this program.

1989

To help the state celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Land Run of 1889, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation provided grants totaling more than \$175,000 to support seven major projects for the Centennial celebration. Projects included a city-wide cleanup campaign, production of a historical map outlining the history of the Land Run and support for a traveling troop of artists who performed entertaining stories from the Land Run era. Following this involvement, the focus on developing new programs and helping the community meet emerging needs continued.

1990

The Trustees adopted a new allocations policy that would allow all funds to benefit from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's investment earnings and capital gains. Accountability for administrative costs was introduced through a small fee charged on each fund to cover these expenses.

1991

A \$1.3 million bequest from Margaret Annis Boys launched a new focus area for the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. A person who had deep abiding appreciation for Oklahoma's native flowers and trees, the bequest from the longtime Oklahoma City schoolteacher and principal had specified that the money be used to beautify public parks and lands in Oklahoma City. Since 1991, the Margaret Annis Boys Trust has funded more than \$1.2 million in beautification projects. And, thanks to strong investment stewardship, the fund value has increased to more than \$3 million.

1992

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation Trustees held its first ever long-range planning process to discuss the organization's past as well as set forth goals for the future. From this meeting the mission statement was developed to provide direction for the staff and Trustees.

1992

Fourteen years after his first challenge match to nonprofit organizations, John E. Kirkpatrick issued another challenge. Of the 74 nonprofit organizations eligible, 65 participated and raised a total of \$341,380 that was matched, dollar for dollar, by Mr. Kirkpatrick. Each time Mr. Kirkpatrick issued a challenge over the years, nonprofits made an effort they might not have otherwise made and new donors emerged. These "Kirkpatrick Challenges" offered a unique and unheard opportunity for nonprofit organizations and helped to launch the largest agency endowment fund program in the country.

1993

Since 1960, the Everett Foundation was a source of support for the arts in Oklahoma through scholarships and awards of excellence and sponsorship of performances. The founder, Dr. Mark Allen Everett, transferred the assets of the foundation to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation in 1993. Dr. Everett, a past chairman of the Dermatology Department at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, has utilized the family fund to continue support for the arts and education.

1994

As the Oklahoma City Community Foundation grew, so did the oversight duties of the Board of Trustees. As a result, the bylaws were changed to increase the number of Trustees from the original nine to 12.

1994

When the assets of the Deer Creek Community Enrichment Foundation Designated Fund were converted into an Affiliated Fund, a move that required a minimum of \$500,000 at that time, it initiated the first Affiliated Fund to benefit a public school foundation. The fund had grown thanks to the support of patrons, fundraising efforts by the school and challenge matches from Mr. Kirkpatrick.

1994

The After School Options (ASO) Program was the first major focus program area initiated by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Trustees in response to a community-wide need for positive activities for youth during non-school hours. Throughout its nine-year existence, ASO served as a catalyst in bringing together civic, religious and government entities to address this need and create programs that exist today. The Trustees committed nearly \$1 million in grant funding and staff support toward the success of ASO.

1995

John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick provided the Oklahoma City Community Foundation with the gift of a building for its headquarters, the former Kirkpatrick Oil Company location at 1300 N. Broadway Drive. The move not only symbolized a return to the original home for the Oklahoma City Community Foundation but also the important leadership role the organization had within the community. The new space provided an increase in meeting space, accessible parking and the ability to expand services to donors and nonprofits.

1995

April 19, 1995 is a date of significant impact on our community. Not only were 168 lives lost that day, but the Murrah Federal Building bombing would leave behind nearly 3,000 survivors. Our community's tragedy became the nation's tragedy and contributions of support immediately poured in. Because of an existing relationship with 200 area nonprofit organizations, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation was able to take a lead role in the community's response. Nearly 10 years later, we continue to administer the Oklahoma City Disaster Relief Fund that provides ongoing assistance to a number of the survivors.

1997

The Trustees began a long-range planning process at the end of fiscal year 1997 to look at how to better respond to change within the community. Among the results of the planning process included added staff, further development of existing programs and a complete restructuring of the governance and investment function and the adoption of new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

1997

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation entered the Internet world with the launching of its web site www.occf.org. This initial site provided key contact information as well as details about our programs and fund options. The site was upgraded significantly in 1999 and again in 2004. Today the web site serves as a major source of information for donors, nonprofit organizations and professional advisors.

1998

The Trustees launched a new initiative in 1998 that continues today. New Opportunities: A Scholarship and Guidance Network brings together high school guidance counselors to enhance their knowledge of opportunities for graduating seniors. Today, the program operates the Guidance Counselor Network and is responsible for more than \$353,000 awarded each year through four scholarship areas.

1998

The most recent Kirkpatrick Challenge resulted in 1,700 new donors and the addition of \$1.6 million to participating nonprofit organizations, the largest response in the history of the challenges.

1999

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary with a series of receptions throughout the community. A new video and traveling photo exhibit highlighting the organization's history was developed and utilized throughout the year.

2000

Jeanette L. Gamba was elected the first female president of the Board of Trustees. She would serve three consecutive years in that leadership role. During this time, the role of community committees was expanded. Today, more than 50 citizens serve as volunteers for various activities of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

2001

Central Oklahoma Charities, the region's most comprehensive online directory of nonprofits in central Oklahoma, was added to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's web site.

2001

Following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., the Oklahoma City Community Foundation staff was called upon to provide assistance in the establishment and management of disaster relief assistance. Based upon the lessons learned from the Murrah Federal Building bombing, the staff was able to play a key role for the charitable organizations in both communities.

2002

To further assist professional advisors and donors with their charitable gift planning, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation added a new feature to its web site. The Planned Giving Design Center is a comprehensive resource and information center that offers the latest regulatory and judicial rulings, case studies, articles and an online calculator that determines the tax implications of certain charitable gifts.

2003

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation took the lead to address a community need in the healthcare industry. When area hospitals began facing a shortage of qualified nurses, we established the Nurse Education Program to fund scholarships for nurses employed at the facilities who are seeking certification as a Registered Nurse or a bachelor's degree in nursing science. The hospitals agreed to match the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's contributions to the program.

2003

Providing quality service to donors, nonprofit organizations and professional advisors is key to the success of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. In 2003, we added an online reporting system to the web site for donors with advised funds. Through DonorCentral, they can review their fund value and gifts made to the fund as well as electronically recommend grants from the fund. In 2004, we made this service available to nonprofit organizations with permanent endowment funds.

2004

As the Oklahoma City Community Foundation continues to grow both in assets and services provided, the Trustees conducted a long range planning session to address future needs and opportunities. Results from the session include a revision of the mission statement as well as a commitment to conduct an awareness campaign via television commercials, billboards and display advertising to familiarize residents with the impact of charitable giving on our community and to view us as a resource. Another top priority of the plan was a new facility that would allow the foundation to accommodate the growing staff and provide more services for donors.

2005

A Trustee task force began working toward finding a site that was visible and easily accessible. Eventually the property located at North Broadway Avenue between North 10th and 9th streets was purchased. Through a thorough competitive selection process, an architectural firm was hired.

2006

A groundbreaking ceremony held on June 23rd marked the beginning of a new phase for the foundation. Sadly, our founder, John E. Kirkpatrick would not live to see the completion of the new facility. He died on Oct. 3 at the age of 98. During his lifetime, he and his family contributed more than \$150 million to nonprofit organizations in central Oklahoma. He left behind a legacy of generosity and caring that will have an impact on the community for generations.

2007

The 271 nonprofit organizations who have endowment funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation received in excess of \$5 million in annual distributions. The staff relocates to the new 18,000-square-foot facility. The new facility has nearly 9,000 square feet of space available for use by nonprofit organizations and community groups to use for meetings and events. The public space features a catering kitchen and full audio/visual support.

2008

To honor the 100th anniversary of Mr. Kirkpatrick's birth, his grandson, Christian K. Keese, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation established the John Kirkpatrick Centennial Endowment Challenge. The challenge was a matching grant opportunity for charitable organizations with endowments and scholarship endowment funds. Participants received a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$5,000 for contributions made to their endowment funds in 2008. In addition, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund offered the 100th Birthday Celebration Challenge to 23 organizations with specific endowment building plans. In all, both matches offered a potential \$3 million.

2009

The year marked the 40th anniversary for the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. In lieu of celebrations, the Trustees provided support for several key projects that gave back to the community on several different levels. Included in the projects was Get Reading Oklahoma, an initiative designed to assist Oklahoma adults in improving their reading, writing and math skills. The initiative brought two innovative adult literacy television series that were broadcast on OETA as well available through online video streaming on CDs provided to literacy groups across the state.

During a day-long retreat, the Trustees and key staff updated the long-range plan and revised the mission statement of the organization.

2010

During the year our Charitable Organization Endowment Program welcomed six new endowment funds that brought the total number of organizations participating to 300.

Due to a long-time commitment to the beatification and maintenance of public parks and lands in Oklahoma County through the Margaret Annis Boys Trust, the foundation commissioned a study of the park system and resources in Oklahoma City.

Carla Pickrell retires as director of administration. Carla had joined the organization in 1986 as comptroller. Her responsibilities included oversight of the investment program and financial reporting to donors and charitable organizations. She played a pivotal role in the growth of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

2011

Our online giving service was upgraded to make giving to an endowment fund easier and more convenient. The secure service is now provided by PayPal.

The introduction of the iFund Grants Program provided an opportunity to help meet community needs in three areas: Access to Health Care, Opportunities for Children and Services for Elderly. In its inaugural year, the iFund program awarded \$470,000 to 25 nonprofit organizations.

In March, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation became the new home for the 21-foot-tall sculpture, "Four Orbits," by Charles O. Perry. The sculpture, which was installed on the lawn south of the building, is the first public art in Automobile Alley. The sculpture is on loan from the Kirkpatrick Oil Company.



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Helping you help the community