



Oklahoma City

Community
Foundation

Helping Donors
Help the Community

community catalyst

June 1997

Oklahoma City mourns loss of friend and patron

❖ *Eleanor Kirkpatrick will long be remembered for her significant influence on the arts in OKC.*



Eleanor Kirkpatrick

With the passing of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick on May 21, a void was created in this city's arts community that will likely remain unfilled.

John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick have played a major role in building Oklahoma

City's non-profit community. They have helped numerous local non-profit organizations get started, in addition to establishing the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick also were the founding donors of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, and Mr. Kirkpatrick was its president for the first 10 years. Their annual contributions to the Community Foundation encouraged and promoted the development of more than 200 agency endowment funds. The size of their contributions is exceeded only by their breadth of interest in the community.

"Together they developed civic projects by challenging organizations or the community to match

their giving. They believed strongly in fostering selfreliance and in helping people to help themselves," Max Nichols wrote in the 1993 book *John and Eleanor: A Sense of Community*.

Friends and colleagues have always spoken of the couple's complementary partnership over the years.

Marilyn Myers, a longtime associate and director of the family fund, explained the nature of their relationship this way: "His thrust is the development of things, and the attention to the financial end of the non-profits he's both developed and worked with...but she undoubtedly influenced him in the arts-related and culturally related aspects of what they did together."

Mrs. Kirkpatrick was not only a patron, but was an eager participant in the arts. She established the Beaux Arts Ball in 1946 to raise funds for the Oklahoma Arts Center (now the Oklahoma City Art Museum), and also led the fund-raising effort for a new museum building in the late 1950s by urging her husband to make a gift of \$270,000.

"A newspaper reporter asked Eleanor how it felt to give away more than a quarter of a million dollars. She replied, 'It's nice that it was available to be used like this'," according to Nichols. "We've needed this building for so long. Oklahoma City has never been eligible to receive any of the great art treasures when collections were broken up, because we didn't have a place to permanently display them."

This quote is telling of both Kirkpatricks' philosophy on giving: They saw a need and felt it was their duty to respond.

This philosophy was carried through in the development of the Kirkpatrick Center, as well. When the new art museum was built, portions were unused by the art collection for several years. Mr. Kirkpatrick brought in science activities, including a museum, workshops and a planetarium. Eventually, it became apparent that a larger facility for the science museum and planetarium was needed. The Kirkpatricks built the Kirkpatrick Center to accommodate these activities and to attract more to the area.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick's influence on that project is evident today in the art galleries also housed in the Kirkpatrick Center.

"The development of Kirkpatrick Center, not just as a science museum, but as a multiple-discipline museum, including the arts, was to a great extent her

...continued on back page

Inside this issue:

- Former Oklahoma first lady establishes Designated Fund
- New grants approved this quarter
- New endowment funds established during fiscal 1997

Preparation is key to responding effectively to change

It is easier to plan for the future if you know what is going to happen than if you don't. If you do not know what to expect, there really are only two basic approaches:

1. Wait and see what happens; or
2. Be prepared.

The Trustees and staff of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation are currently trying to determine the strategic directions for the Community Foundation for the next five to 10 years. Since 1985, the Community Foundation has grown in assets from \$20 million to more than \$200 million of permanent endowment. Because of the great interest of our community in creating permanent endowment, we expect that growth to continue. We will

provide fund administration and investment management services to non-profits and donors to accommodate that growth. That part is easy.

What will happen in Oklahoma City in the next 10 years and what will affect the donors and non-profit groups with which we work is much less predictable. We can wait and react or we can try to be prepared. Being prepared means having the capacity to respond to unknown challenges and opportunities. Building the capacity of the community means developing resources for support, strengthening organizations which can respond, and having strong relationships and networks which facilitate coordination and collaboration.

Fifteen years ago, AIDS, the

Internet and the Oklahoma City Bombing were all somewhat unimaginable. Fifteen years from now there will be other

events, technology, and human development which impact our

lives in the same way and to which the community must respond and to which our citizens must adjust. The Trustees and staff of the Community Foundation are committed to building the capacity of the community so that Oklahoma City will be able to accommodate these changes. The Long Range Plan will help us be prepared.



...from the
**Executive
Director**

Community Foundation Highlights

❖ Fiscal Highlights

As of March 31, 1997, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has received \$16,574,454.00 in new contributions for fiscal 1997. The net assets of the Community Foundation reached \$174,729,249.00 at the end of the third quarter, and the total investment return for the nine month period was 7.26 percent. The Community Foundation's fiscal year ends June 30, 1997. After the annual audit in late summer, the audited financial statements for fiscal 1997 will be published in the Annual Report in early November.

❖ Community Gardening Update

The Capitol View Neighborhood community garden (N.E. 29th and Laird) was dedicated on May 21. The neighborhood



A student helps plant a seedling.

group was among the first recipients of a grant from the Community Foundation's new community gardening program, initiated in April. Children from nearby Dewey Elementary helped neighborhood residents

plant flowers in the garden, which includes several flower beds, benches and a small pond.

❖ MedTransit Program to Serve City's Medicaid Clients

The Community Foundation is facilitating a collaborative project with the Executive Service Corps of Central Oklahoma, MetroTransit and four local Health Maintenance Organizations to

create a coordinated transportation service for the city's HMO-covered Medicaid clients.

Last summer, the state Legislature mandated HMOs include transportation to and from medical appointments as part of their services to Medicaid patients.

The groups are working toward a centralized system, called MedTransit, in order to more efficiently utilize resources and to better serve these clients. One HMO has signed a contract with MetroTransit and three more are in negotiations.

"Because we are a neutral third party, they agreed to come together to look at a coordinated effort," said Dale Levy, the Community Foundation's director of community programs.

Under the cooperative agreement, Levy hopes clients of all four HMOs will be able to call one central number, and a service representative will assess their transportation needs. The system will use buses, vans and taxis. ❖

Trustees approve quarterly grants in five program areas



Children at Britton Elementary enjoy an interactive lesson in rhythm.

ASO enhances 'Play in the Park'

This summer, local children are learning about the arts from the experts, thanks to a \$20,000 grant from After School Options, a community program of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The grant was for program enhancement of "Play in the Park," a summer program of the Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation Department, through the addition of visiting artists from the Arts Council of Oklahoma City. Each week, one of the artists supervises creative sessions at each of the participating school sites.

ASO's most recent contribution has given students the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics: music, storytelling, theater and even aikido, a Japanese art of self-defense.

Play in the Park was established four years ago by the city Parks and Recreation Department to provide a supervised environment for children when schools aren't in session.

One of ASO's goals in working with the parks department has been to develop partnerships between the 24 original parks and school locations. Now, 13 of the 24 sites have teamed up with nearby schools across four school districts: Crooked Oak, Moore, Oklahoma City and Putnam City. These locations have the added benefit of providing children with indoor facilities and a place to escape the weather. In addition, at the Oklahoma City School District sites, free breakfast and lunch is offered through the federal school lunch program.

More than 14,000 students participated in Play in the Park last year. This year's program will continue through Aug. 8. ♦

The Trustees of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation recently approved the following grants through its five community programs. These grants represent \$89,519 invested in 19 local agencies for the quarter.

Grants are approved by the Trustees four times a year based on recommendations of advisory committees comprised of community volunteers.

Non-profit organizations and agencies of government providing services in the Oklahoma City area may participate in the programs. Interested groups are encouraged to speak with Community Foundation staff before sending a proposal to ensure the request meets program guidelines.

The Agency Capacity Building program is the only grant program limited in eligibility — only agencies with Designated Endowment Funds managed by the Community Foundation are eligible.

For more information about these community programs, contact the following Community Foundation staff members at 405/235-5603: Dale Levy to discuss proposals, or Susan Elkins for guidelines.

FUND FOR OKLAHOMA CITY

Neighborhood Alliance, \$22,788 for a Computer Resource Center available for neighborhood associations to improve communications within and between neighborhoods.

Greater Oklahoma City Tree Bank, \$2,100 to partially fund the salary of the "Leaf it to Me" coordinator.

AGENCY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Allied Arts Foundation, \$1,000 for assistance with marketing research.

Infant Crisis Services, \$2,500 for computer system upgrades.

Junior Achievement, \$2,500 for computer equipment upgrades.

Nature Conservancy, \$2,000 for new computer hardware and software, and for software training.

Oklahoma City Beautiful, \$689 for a modem and Internet software.

Planned Parenthood, \$1,125 for training of staff and board members at the organization's annual conference.

Rainbow Fleet, \$2,500 for assistance with consulting fees and expenses related to the development of a strategic plan.

THE MARGARET ANNIS BOYS TRUST

Indian Meridian Elementary School, \$3,200 for an outdoor classroom and butterfly garden.

Mesta Park Neighborhood Association, \$10,000 for the Shartel Boulevard Project, which will create a new median to reduce the volume of traffic and enhance the appearance of N.W. 18th Street from Classen to N. Shartel and on Shartel to 10th Street.

Putnam City High School, \$1,767 to purchase trees, shrubs, ground cover, perennials and mulch for landscaping around the school.

St. Mary's School, \$2,000 for the addition of an outdoor classroom science garden and for landscaping enhancement for the grounds of St. Mary's School and Church.

COMMUNITY GARDENING

Central Park Neighborhood Association, \$4,700 for a community garden at 31st Street and Shartel in the Central Park neighborhood.

Wildewood Hills/Heights Neighborhood Association, \$3,700 for a community garden at 601 N.E. 63rd Street, property owned by Eagle Ridge Institute.

AFTER SCHOOL OPTIONS

City Arts Center, \$2,000 for an after-school program at Cleveland Elementary School that provides extended arts and science education for students and hands-on training for area elementary teachers.

Rainbow Fleet, \$2,500 to assist in increasing its capacity to offer referrals to families seeking activities for school-aged children during the summer months.

Sequoyah Elementary School, \$450 for transportation costs for the Sequoyah Summer Day Camp.

Sugar Creek Camp, \$2,000 for assistance with the salary of a Literacy Coordinator at two summer camps.

Arts Council of Oklahoma City, \$20,000 to provide artists for program enhancement of "Play in the Park," the collaborative summer program of the Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation Department, After School Options and four local school districts. (See related feature this page.) ♦

New funds support range of community activities

❖ *These endowment funds were approved by the Trustees for the 1997 fiscal year.*

CASADY SCHOOL – PRIMARY DIVISION:

The fund was started in memory of Jane McMillin by her family to support teachers in the Primary Division of this independent Episcopal school.

FREDA POOLE GRAYSON SCHOLARSHIP:

This scholarship fund for graduates of Midwest City High School honors a longtime teacher at the school and is funded by her children and grandchildren.

POSITIVE TOMORROWS: Positive Tomorrows is an education program that provides schooling for children who currently live in homeless shelters or the YWCA Battered Women's Shelter.

LADIES MUSIC CLUB: This organization has existed in Oklahoma City since before statehood and was instrumental in starting the first symphony. The fund supports musical activities in the community.

LILLIAN FRANCES MEADOR FUND FOR HYACINTHS: This fund was established by William Meador of Cleveland, Ohio, in memory of his mother, who lived in Oklahoma City all of her life. The earnings will be used to plant hyacinth bulbs in parks around the city.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA NURSING SCHOLARSHIP: The fund will provide endowment support for the Nursing Program.

MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION: This organization funds research and education concerning the health and well-being of companion animals and wildlife.

OKLAHOMA YOUTH WITH PROMISE: This endowment fund provides scholarships for children in foster care. Initial funds are from the Plaza Scholarship Foundation.

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY KIRKPATRICK SCHOLARSHIP: This additional endowment fund for Langston University will support a scholarship program.

UNITED METHODIST BOYS RANCH: This organization is a residential facility for boys and is operated by the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Types of funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation

A Name Fund or Donor Fund can be named for the donor or in memory of a special person. All distributions are identified as coming from that fund.

- ❖ **NAME FUNDS** are established when the total contributions of a donor to the permanent endowment reach \$5,000.
- ❖ **DONOR FUNDS** are established when the total contributions of a donor to the permanent endowment reach \$1,000.

A donor can suggest how the earnings of the fund should be used:

- ❖ **DESIGNATED ENDOWMENT FUNDS:** The gift can be designated to a specific non-profit's endowment fund.
- ❖ **DONOR-ADVISED FUND:** A donor can suggest annually how the earnings should be used in the community.
- ❖ **FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS:** A gift may be intended to support an area of interest, such as youth programs, beautification activities or medical research.
- ❖ **FUND FOR OKLAHOMA CITY:** This fund provides grants to a wide range of community activities.
- ❖ **SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:** Donors can contribute to existing scholarship funds or establish a new scholarship.

OU SCHOOL OF MUSIC – DOROTHY KENDALL PIANO SCHOLARSHIP: This fund was established in Mrs. Kendall's memory by her husband and children to provide piano scholarships for the OU School of Music.

FORWARD OKLAHOMA: The fund has been established with the remaining assets of this economic development organization, which has merged most of its efforts into those of the Chamber of Commerce. Grants will be made annually to organizations with projects consistent with its purpose of promoting Oklahoma City.

MIKE ALLEN EDUCATIONAL FUND: The Oklahoma City Federation of Teachers established this scholarship fund for graduates of the Oklahoma City Public Schools. This fund is a memorial for the late president of the organization.

ST. JOHN CHRISTIAN HERITAGE ACADEMY – WALTINE LYNETTE JACKSON ENDOWMENT FUND: This school for students in preschool through sixth grade is affiliated with St. John Missionary Baptist Church in northeast Oklahoma City.

OKLAHOMA YOUTH SYMPHONY: The symphony provides selected high school music students the opportunity to study and perform the world's finest orchestral literature.

CHILDREN'S CENTER: Fund earnings will support the convalescent center in Bethany for children with special needs.

ROSARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL: The school serves students in preschool through eighth grade and is affiliated with St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in near-northwest Oklahoma City.

OKLAHOMA VISUAL ARTS COALITION: This organization promotes visual arts through exhibits of Oklahoma artists and support for artists with special opportunities.

MAKE PROMISES HAPPEN: This camping facility near Guthrie is directed toward disabled and seriously ill children.

DONNA NIGH FOUNDATION: This fund was established with the transfer of the permanent assets of the Donna Nigh Foundation; the earnings will benefit developmentally disabled Oklahomans. ❖

New Designated Fund established to support Donna Nigh Foundation

What started out as a birthday gift to honor a friend has turned into a lasting tribute to a longtime advocate for the developmentally disabled and a permanent source of funding for this underserved segment of Oklahoma's population.

In 1985, a group of Donna Nigh's closest friends contributed jointly to form the Donna Nigh Foundation, in honor of the former Oklahoma first lady's work on behalf of the developmentally disabled in this state since 1968. Nigh had taken a keen interest in the state's institutions for the mentally retarded during a tour of state facilities she and her husband, George Nigh, had taken years earlier when he was lieutenant governor.

"It was at that time that I acquired a very strong feeling for these people. A lot of them had been abandoned as babies, and a lot of them were not even mentally retarded," she said.

The lack of appropriate facilities for the mildly retarded and the absence of private sources of assistance for this population caused Donna Nigh to realize her public position could make a difference in services across the state.

"When George was elected governor, I saw an opportunity for me to really do some meaningful things. I was particularly concerned about the older, mildly retarded clients who could function in society if given the opportunity," Nigh said.

The former first lady was instrumental in lobbying the state legislature to establish the state's first group home program. A pilot program of 10 homes was included in the Department of Human Services budget. The group home program, which is now a permanent fixture in the state budget and is named for Donna Nigh, has grown to over 100 homes that allow mildly retarded citizens to work and be a productive part of society.

One of the primary functions of the Donna Nigh Foundation is providing adaptive equipment for those in group homes or individuals cared for by their families. This equipment, including hearing aids, van lifts, wheelchairs or gear to assist in operating computers, is not covered by state or federal funding.

After 12 years of personally handling all requests to the foundation, the Nighs



Donna Nigh

have turned over administration of the funds to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. George Nigh will soon retire from his position as president of the University of Central Oklahoma, and the couple wants to ensure that the

foundation's work will continue well into the future.

"When we knew that my husband would be retiring we realized that a lot of things in our lives would be changing," Donna Nigh said. "We are the only foundation in the state

of Oklahoma exclusively for the mentally retarded, so the need is there. We felt comfortable in knowing that even when we are not around, it would carry on."

The Community Foundation offers donors the assurance that permanent endowment funds will continue to be used for the intended purposes of the donor in perpetuity. The Nighs' children will also be involved in directing the distributions from the fund, and she hopes they will continue in their parents' tradition of helping others.

"It's still very much a part of my life, and I don't intend to drop my concerns about these people and my desire to help them," she said. "We felt like this would take some of the load off of us, as far as the handling of the investments and the bookkeeping and all of that. At this particular time in our lives, we know that it is going to be taken care of, but that we will still have the ability to be a part of it." ❖

Mission Statement

The mission of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, a non-profit public charity, is to serve the charitable needs of the Oklahoma City area through the development and administration of endowment funds with the goal of preserving capital and enhancing its value for the benefit of the Oklahoma City area.

The mission will be fulfilled by pursuit of these goals:

- Provide convenient, efficient, and effective ways through which donors can contribute assets to charitable purposes.
- Encourage donors to create funds which will benefit the community both now and in the future.
- Advocate for the development of endowment funds and provide appropriate means by which permanent endowment funds can be built and wisely managed to provide long-term support.
- Develop the Funds for Oklahoma City, restricted and unrestricted community endowments, which can be used by the Trustees and the community to develop, coordinate, and enhance services and programs which meet the changing needs of the community.

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Connect Oklahoma continues to provide web sites for Designated Fund agencies

In last September's issue of *The Catalyst*, we announced an opportunity for non-profit organizations to create a Web site on the Internet at no charge through the Daily Oklahoman's Internet service, Connect Oklahoma. The opportunity still exists for interested agencies to join the more than 100 other organizations online at Connections, the non-profit directory on Connect Oklahoma.

The Community Foundation has provided financial and staff support to this project in an effort to encourage agencies to "get online" and take advantage of this new technology.

Jackie Jones, who was director of the Arts Council of Oklahoma City for many years, has agreed to be the Community Foundation's liaison between the Connect Oklahoma staff and local non-profit agencies. Her role is to encourage participation among agencies with Designated Endowment Funds at the Community Foundation and to facilitate the technological process of going online.

When the Community Foundation's

partnership with Connect Oklahoma was first announced last September, only seven agencies had Web sites on Connections. Now more than 100 organizations have Web sites linked through this central location, and 38 of those are agencies with Designated Endowment Funds administered by the Community Foundation.

We would like to see all of our Designated Endowment Fund agencies online, to enhance a service directory function of Connections. Eventually, a search engine will allow potential funders, clients or other agencies to search for specific services or types of agencies locally.

Currently, Connections provides a good representation of the types of activities and services available in the area through our non-profit organizations. Connect Oklahoma has agreed to provide this service free of charge to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations indefinitely.

If your organization has a Designated Endowment Fund and would like to participate, please contact Jackie Jones at 405/842-0278. ❖

Mrs. Kirkpatrick

...continued from page 1

interest and her input," Myers said.

Eleanor Kirkpatrick turned a personal love for the arts into a lasting legacy for Oklahoma City.

"In addition to Mrs. Kirkpatrick's fine qualities of philanthropy and civic involvement, she was a truly delightful person with a wonderful and gracious manner," said Nancy Anthony, executive director of the Community Foundation.

"She never lost touch with the community in which she lived." ❖



John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick with Don Ellison, the attorney who helped them establish the Community Foundation.

Community Program Proposal Deadlines

After School Options
July 15

Agency Capacity Building
July 15

Fund for Oklahoma City
August 15

Margaret Annis Boys Trust
October 15

Community Gardening
October 15

Groups interested in these programs should contact **Susan Elkins** for guidelines, or **Dale Levy** to discuss proposals for collaborative projects, at 235-5603.



Oklahoma City

Community
Foundation

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