



# News from the Executive Director

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

February 2004

Dear Friends and Supporters:

**Keeping the donor in the story.** Our new marketing and communications plan has resulted in a new look for our logo, some new colors and typefaces, and mostly importantly, a renewed emphasis on telling the stories of the donors. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation's story over the last 35 years is really the collective story of more than 6,000 donors. These are the people who have contributed the funds and, more importantly, contributed the ideas and the commitment that has built the Community Foundation and provided us the opportunity to continue their interests and service.

The brochures, reports, and other printed pieces you will receive from us during the coming months will feature the stories of many of our donors. We will use these stories to demonstrate how the Community Foundation helps donors support their favorite charities, provide scholarships for deserving students, and leave a legacy for the community which will be remembered well into the future. Two recent postcards featured Willie Elizabeth Shipley and Harold I. Josey. While both have been dead for many years, their gifts and legacy continue.

The scholarships we provide and the grants that we make would not be possible without the support of people like Miss Shipley and Mr. Josey. We see our work as helping to continue their interests and concerns. It is important to us that we keep the donor in the story when we talk about the Community Foundation.

**Strong financial results.** Both the Community Foundation Investment Committee and our donor base welcomed the recent strong return for the stock market. For the six months ending December 31, 2003, the general investment pool at the Community Foundation returned 11.49 percent compared to its benchmark of 9.86. Total assets at year-end exceeded \$414 million, an increase of \$71 million over the past 12 months.

Additional gifts and new funds at year-end have been very strong. The new Advised Fund Program, along with the ability for donors to have on-line access to fund information, has attracted a number of new donors and additional gifts to existing funds. We have some excellent new materials about the Advised Fund Program and both Joe Carter and Jennifer Stewart would be happy to visit with you about all of the options. You can reach either of them at the Community Foundation office, 405/235-5603 or at [www.occf.org](http://www.occf.org).

**Community Programs and Grants.** During the first half of our fiscal year, the Community Foundation Trustees approved 32 discretionary grants for more than \$320,000. At the recent February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Trustees approved new guidelines for the Fund for Oklahoma City. The target for the new direction will be "Good organizations doing important projects." Grant requests will be encouraged from strong, established organization that want to do new programs or want to expand existing programs into new areas. The first deadline for the new Fund for Oklahoma City grants will be April 1st and the new guidelines will be available soon at [www.occf.org](http://www.occf.org)

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**Church Endowments.** While the Community Foundation operates the largest program for non-profit endowment funds in the United States, until recently we did not have any funds for churches or other religious organizations whose primary activity is worship. Since churches do not file tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service and are not regulated or audited, our requirements for organizations did not accommodate them.

In 2002, the Executive Committee provided parameters that allowed us to include churches as part of the endowment program. As a result, during the past year we have added the first two church endowment funds. Emanuel Synagogue brought its endowment fund to the Community Foundation in July 2003 and All Souls Episcopal Church started an endowment fund in December 2003. We have also received a number of individual donor gifts to both of these funds. Additionally, Temple B'nai Israel has established a fund in honor of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary to support the Holocaust Resource Center at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library.

We are pleased to include these funds under the Community Foundation umbrella. For more information about endowment funds for churches or any non-profit organization, contact Gayle Farley at 405/235-5603 or [g.farley@occf.org](mailto:g.farley@occf.org)

**Professional Advisor Seminar.** Marcus Owens will return to Oklahoma City on June 10 for a continuing education seminar for professional advisors. The former head of the Exempt Organization Division of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C., Mr. Owens is a leading authority on the tax laws related to non-profit organizations and charitable giving. He was the speaker at the 2002 seminar that was attended by more than 150 professional advisors. Mr. Owens is currently associated with the Caplin and Drysdale Law Firm in Washington, D.C. Anyone interested in attending the seminar can contact Donna McCampbell at 405/235-5603 or at [d.mccampbell@occf.org](mailto:d.mccampbell@occf.org).

**Contact Us.** Helping you help the community is the mission of the Community Foundation. Making it easy for donors to support their favorite charitable organizations and activities and providing effective vehicles for endowment funds and other permanent support is what we do, all day every day, for people all over Oklahoma City and across the state. If you have an idea or need assistance with your charitable goals, please call and talk to us. We would love to visit with you.

Sincerely,



Nancy B. Anthony