



News from the Executive Director

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

November 2005

Dear Friends and Supporters:

New Building Update. At several meetings with donor groups this fall, we revealed the design of the new headquarters we are building at N.W. 10th and Broadway. Following a design competition, Hornbeek Blatt Architects were chosen as the project architects. Design approval was received on November 16 from the Oklahoma City Urban Design Commission. In addition, there was a very nice full-color rendering of the building along with a story in *The Oklahoman's* business section on that same day. The schematic design for the building layout has been finalized, and we are ready to begin the design development that will allow for construction and bid documents. With the design approval, we expect to break ground near the end of April. We plan a series of postcards to keep everyone updated on the building's progress. The response from the community has been extremely positive and we look forward to providing a very attractive addition to the Medical Center/10th Street Corridor and Automobile Alley.

Literacy is For Everyone. Beginning this fall, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has launched a new initiative focusing on providing the opportunity for every adult and child to read, write and speak English at a functional level that allows for self-sufficiency. We hope to develop a base of information about literacy and language opportunities and issues and to build the capacity of existing organizations to provide service to those who want to learn. Literacy and the ability to speak English are basic skills without which many health, social and economic issues are a much greater challenge. On November 22, the Trustees approved grants to six literacy and English language programs, and soon we will start providing opportunities for those groups as well as others to better coordinate their services. Learning to read as an adult is a very challenging process but there are many individuals and organizations in the community that are willing to help. We are pleased to have Mary Surbeck, recently retired teacher from Casady School, as a staff person working with these programs.

Celebrating 35 years of the Charitable Organization Endowment Program. On October 4th, we celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Charitable Organization Endowment Program with 350 of our closest friends. Checks for more than \$2.4 million were distributed as well as fund reports and a first-ever fund history notebook. The breakfast meeting was our largest ever distribution event and is probably the largest gathering of charitable organizations in central Oklahoma. A special 35th anniversary publication was produced as well as a featured postcard about Central Oklahoma Charities, a feature on our web site that makes contacting local charities simple and convenient. For more information about this program, or any of the participating charities, please visit www.occf.org.

Oklahoma City selected to participate in pilot program for coordinated recovery system. Following the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation worked closely with several other local organizations to provide a coordinated recovery system for those individuals and families that were directly affected. This effort continues today. As a result of that experience, several of our staff have consulted with other communities about coordinated case management and fund distribution after disasters in New York City, Washington, D.C. and cities along the Gulf Coast. As a result of these efforts, Oklahoma City was chosen as one of six pilot cities to implement a Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN) planning project to prepare communities for the service coordination and data-sharing that is required in a disaster response. Funded by

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the Eli Lilly Foundation and the Ford Foundation, the CAN project will initially be implemented in New York, Washington, San Francisco, Seattle, New Orleans and Oklahoma City. Our track record in this community for cooperation and coordinated services was the reason that we were chosen. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation will be part of the steering committee for implementing this planning effort in our community.

New funds established. During 2005, more than 80 new funds have been established at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Included are six charitable organization endowments, 12 scholarships funds, and 20 new advised funds. A fund was also established by the Marcus Hotel Corporation with a \$25,000 unrestricted gift in recognition of the re-opening of the Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City. The gift was presented at a ceremony at which the lease between the City of Oklahoma City and the Marcus Hotel group was signed. We were pleased to be recognized for the gift from Marcus and appreciate their commitment to both the redevelopment of Oklahoma City and to their support of the programs that add so much to our community.

Year-end Publications. During the past few weeks many of you have received year-end reports from us about specific funds as well as our Investment Performance Report for the general investment pool. Our Annual Report was mailed during the last week of October with a complete listing of donors, fund, grants and other community program activities. The Annual Report and the Investment Performance Report are also available on our web site, www.occf.org, under the Publications tab.

Year-end Giving Has Many Tax Advantages For Donors. For 2005, the U.S. Congress has added an additional incentive for those who contribute cash. Advised funds are a great way to get the tax advantages of year-end giving and defer the actual choice of a charity until a later date. Advised funds also make it easier to give appreciated securities and other non-cash assets to charity in a more efficient way. We have enclosed information about Express, Gift and Legacy advised funds. If you would like to discuss any of these giving options, please contact Jennifer Stewart, Donna McCampbell or Joe Carter at our offices at 405/235-5603.

January 24th Donor Event. Save the date of Tuesday, January 24th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will be hosting a special donor reception at the recently opened Oklahoma History Center. We hope you and a guest will be able to join us that evening and take part in the guided tours of the Center. You will be receiving an invitation and reply card in early January.

Happy Holidays! Thanks to individuals such as yourself, 2005 has been another great year for the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. We enjoy helping you meet your charitable and financial goals. We wish you a happy and healthy 2006.

Nancy B. Anthony