

April 8, 2010

## Community Foundation eyes \$300,000 matching grant

The Smoky Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) is applying for a \$300,000, six-year matching grant from the Kansas Health Foundation's Grow II program for Kansas community foundations.

"It will be a giant, but challenging step forward for the Smoky Valley when SVCF wins the Grow II matching grant and then works to receive all the donations that would be matched," said Bill Roth, Foundation chairman. "Success will depend on residents and organizations of the Smoky Valley supporting this project with their charitable donations to SVCF endowment funds."

The Smoky Valley area served by SVCF is defined as northern McPherson County and southern Saline County, including Lindsborg, Marquette, Bridgeport, Roxbury, Smolan, Falun, and Assaria. The SVCF objective is to set up a variety of local endowment funds, solicit donations to these funds and oversee fund income distributions. Year after year, income from local endowments provides financial awards to Smoky Valley organizations, Roth noted.

Since 2003, SVCF has awarded Smoky Valley organizations more than \$35,000. For example, endowment funds income assisted the Lindsborg hospital in buying equipment, the Children's Center with educational toys and games, TACOL with their move, Midsummers Festival with their web site, Riverview Estates, Inc. with a stand lift chair, and grants for many other local organizations. Success in winning the matching grant and getting all the donations that can be matched will provide an increase of more than \$50,000 in annual endowment income for Smoky Valley financial awards, Roth said.

The SVCF must raise endowment funds during each of the next six years to be awarded all the grant money. The Grow II grant will match \$1 for each \$2 donated to the Smoky Valley Healthy Living Fund, the Enhancement Fund, or the Administrative Fund. For all other funds, the match will be \$1 for each \$4 donated. Most scholarship donations are not matched by this grant. As part of its application process, SVCF must have in hand by Sept. 1, 2010, a total of donations received since June 1, 2009 and pledges for donations to be made after the application is sent in through December 31, 2011 sufficient to receive the first \$30,000 of the matching grant. Qualifying donations to date would earn a match of more than \$11,000 of the \$30,000 application

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requirement.

To complete its application requirements, SVCF board members will approach organizations, corporations and individuals during the next few months to secure new donations before the application is submitted, as well as pledges for donations to be made through the end of 2011. Donations and donation pledges may be in the form of cash, securities, irrevocable trusts or irrevocable estate gifts.

The SVCF was established in 2002 and is one of ten area community foundations affiliated with the Greater Salina Community Foundation. The Greater Salina Foundation invests and manages its own funds and the SVCF and other affiliate funds that total nearly \$50 million in endowments. Thus, affiliates such as SVCF can focus on endowment fund raising and on making appropriate income awards from its endowment funds. This enables SVCF donors to "give a gift that keeps on giving" since endowment funds are permanent income producers.

SVCF hopes residents of the Smoky Valley increasing permanent investments in the community, so that SVCF can underwrite larger projects in the Smoky Valley with the help of a Grow II grant, Roth said.

Those interested in more information about the project can contact Bill Roth, SVCF chairman, John Palmquist, treasurer, or any board member. Board membership and more information about SVCF are available at [www.smokyvalleycf.org](http://www.smokyvalleycf.org).