ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR GROWING COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Hosted by the Kansas Association of Community Foundations
In partnership with the Kansas Health Foundation, Council on Foundations, Foundant Technologies; Powered by The National Advisory Group, over 60 Speakers, and many caring Supporters

www.growingCFs-national-conference.com

“HEART OF COMMUNITY”
OCTOBER 13-15, 2021
HYBRID
(IN-PERSON AND ONLINE)
WICHITA MARRIOTT
9100 CORPORATE HILLS DR | WICHITA KS 67207
Over the years, the Annual National Conference for Growing Community Foundations, hosted by the Kansas Association of Community Foundations, has gained national recognition and developed a genuine grassroots support from a variety of entities across the country turning into a collective effort, establishing a history, philosophy, and traditions that community foundations have come to rely on, respect, and trust.

The Conference is tailored but not limited to small-staffed and volunteer-led community foundations in rural, small urban, and suburban America. It is designed to meet the needs of both new and seasoned board members and staff in practical training to enhance skills in all major areas of community foundation management. We welcome all board members and other volunteers, executive directors and other staff of community foundations from the USA and beyond.

The 2021 Theme “Heart of Community” will explore how we can better serve our communities by finding the common ground beyond divisions, heal trauma, address inequities, apply good leadership to grow and expand a healthy equitable place to live, and take care of ourselves, staff, and community in the process. We’ll explore tried and true methods for this work, using measurable actions and stories from the field. We’ll engage with some of the best leaders who are taking on the challenge of building community in new and bold ways—from rural to urban and all points in between—to create a conference that combines the basic building blocks of operations with programs across the field to inspire and encourage community foundations of all sizes and locations.

This year’s theme will frame 3 days of 24 concurrent sessions, 3 plenaries, 6 deeper dives, and 6 retreats on topics related to: asset development, public policy and advocacy, and leadership. 2021 will offer a session by assets size bringing together—to create a conference that combines the basic building blocks of operations with programs across the field to inspire and encourage community foundations of all sizes and locations.

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JOIN YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COLLEAGUES IN PERSON OR ONLINE FOR THE 2021 HYBRID ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR GROWING COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS.

Travel for some good old-fashioned networking and professional development to embrace peers you have missed or explore what modern technology has to offer to help you stay remote yet meet new and old friends virtually while learning in the comfort of your home/office. Dive into the deep content live or listen to the recording at your convenience later during the year. From “blind-dates” and group discussions for the online attendees to interactive sessions connecting both audiences — there are plenty of fun ways to bond, learn, and grow! The West and the East, the North and the South come together to network and share experiences with others just as passionate about community foundations!

NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

Megan Barber Allende
Community Foundation of Mendocino County, CA

Steve Alley
Ellstrom Alley Clontz & Associates, AZ

Sara Carlson
Willmar Area Community Foundation/CommunityGiving, MN

Rosemary Dorsa
Indiana Philanthropy Alliance, IN, Chair

Brian Fogle
Community Foundation of the Ozarks, MO

Sandi Fruit
Retired, Central Kansas Community Foundation, KS

Don Hickman
Initiative Foundation, MN

Eric Hozempra
Longmont Community Foundation, CO

Svetlana Huttle
Kansas Association of Community Foundations, KS

Steve Jour
Central Minnesota Community Foundation, MN

Andrea Judd
Council of Michigan Foundations, MI

Michael Layton
Dorothy & Johnson Center for Philanthropy, MI

Maddy Metzger-Utt
Philanthropy Northwest, WA

Peter Panepento
Turn Two Communications, Community Foundation of Howard County, MD

Holly Rooks
South Central Community Foundation, KS

David Rosado
CF Insights, Candid, NY

Barb Byan
Bromikamp Company LLC, MN

Eleanor Sacks
Ellstrom Alley Clontz & Associates, OR

Dari Schields
Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation, KS

Leslie Scoby
Greater Sabetha Community Foundation, KS

Laura Seaman
League of California Community Foundations, CA

Judy Sjostedt Ritchie
Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, WV

Wendy Skellenger
Hutchinson CF, KS

Joe Sorenson
Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, IA

Angie Tatro
Central Kansas Community Foundation, KS

Janet Topolsky
Aspen Institute, DC

Christy Tustin
Golden Belt Community Foundation, KS

Kevin Van Bronkhorst
Council on Foundations, DC

Jeff Yost
Nebraska Community Foundation, NE
**HIGHLIGHTS**

Opening Plenary Lunch

"Heart of the Matter: Trauma Informed Philanthropy"

**Speaker:** Caitlin O’Brien  
**Moderator:** Steve Alley

The science is clear – the effects of trauma and adversity build up over the human lifespan and contribute to negative outcomes in all aspects of individual, family, community, and societal life. Some effects can even pass from generation to generation.

Emerging field of trauma-informed practice aims to prevent adversity and mitigate its impact. Grantmakers are invited to consider how trauma impacts their work.

The Plenary will offer some guidance for applying a trauma-informed lens to community foundation’s work to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

**CEO Retreat “Banish Delusional Altruism and Make Friends with The Monsters Under Your Bed”**

**Speakers:** Kris Putnam-Walkerly and Megan Barber Allende

Leading a community foundation can be challenging in the best of times. Leading it through a global pandemic, natural disasters, racial injustices, political polarization, and never-ending change can be downright scary. Learn how “delusional altruism” holds us back from creating the change we seek and how you can create transformative change by first transforming yourself and your foundation. You will reflect on what you have learned and accomplished in the past 18 months, reset your priorities, and recharge for the year ahead. You will also reconnect with old friends and make new ones – including with those monsters under your bed.

**Telling the Community Foundation Story in Really Rural Areas (DDIY)**

**Speaker:** Betsy Wearing

Learn ideas, tips, and success stories to help educate and engage rural communities about their local community foundation and the important role it plays. But Don’t Do It Yourself (DDIY) - learn how existing communication and story-telling vehicles can often provide more exposure with less time and cost.

**Change from Within: Strategies for Building a Resilient Structure and a Dynamic Team**

**Speaker:** Kimberly Prescott

This session will provide strategies for recruiting and retaining employees, as well as maintaining operations long-term. The COVID-19 pandemic has required employers and employees alike to be flexible in their methods for managing the workload. While organizations have become increasingly comfortable with returning to in-person operations, receptiveness toward remote work has endured. Employers need to know their organization can run effectively despite where their employees are located, and employees need the assurance of job security in the face of unforeseen circumstances.

Employers should consider which positions within their organization are better served in the office, remotely, or in the community, regardless of those circumstances. At the end of this session, attendees will have an effectual understanding of ways to make their organization attractive to personnel, including board members and volunteers, ways to organize organizational strengths and leverage resources, as well as ensuring a plan for succession despite who and what may come.

**Community Foundations Basics Part 1 and 2**

**Speakers:** Amy Haacker and Sarah Aguirre Origer

Community foundations are unique and complex organizations and the task of orienting and training new staff, and board members is a constant challenge. Experience a fast-paced overview of the major functions of a community foundation.

**Board Retreat “Leadership Matters: Key Learnings in the Journey to Becoming an Antiracist Organization”**

**Speaker:** Pamela Ross

As community foundation leaders, we are experiencing a stronger and even more urgent need to ensure all individuals have access to opportunity in our communities. To effectively address the profound gaps in economic mobility and increasing racial disparities, we must intentionally examine the importance of leadership and the fundamental components of becoming an antiracist organization. This session will be filled with shared learnings and an open dialogue of transparency.

**From Vanilla to Vavoom! How To Transform Your Communications Strategy to Achieve A New Level Of Impact**

**Speaker:** Lori Bower

Community foundations often feel unknown, undervalued, and directionless with communications. This session will cover: (1) the critical step most organizations get wrong in their communications, (2) the process for creating a focused message and unified plan that gives you the value and awareness you deserve, and (3) four common ways community foundations position themselves.

**Program Retreat “Leaning In on Equitable Learning Recovery”**

**Speakers:** Ralph Smith and Charla Schafer

Learn about intentional efforts to build broad community support for efforts, initiatives and investments that commit to and focus on accelerating equitable learning recovery as the only way to ameliorate “the hurt that could last a lifetime.”

**Diversifying Your Asset Development: Accepting, Managing and Liquidating Complex Gifts, Including Real Estate, Private Business, and Land**

**Speakers:** Conny Bogaard and Micaela Weil

This session explores how the Western Kansas Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of Utah have found a niche in accepting, managing, and liquidating complex gifts (anything other than cash or publicly traded securities) for short term or long-term gain. This session proposes how diversifying your asset portfolio can catalyze the growth of your Foundation, while amplifying your Foundation’s charitable mission.

**Words Matter**

**Speaker:** Betty Johnson

What we say, how we say it, and when we say it, are important in all our conversations as they affect what our listener(s) hear and how they interpret our words. Come learn how to interact more effectively with others, learn about new terms in the nonprofit sector that are more pleasing to our constituents. Come learn how we all interpret differently, even though we all heard the same thing. Come learn how 2-way communication is important for success. This session will help you be more aware of how you interact with others, how some words are better than others, and how to improve your communication skills.

**Racial Equity Self-Assessment Toolkit for Community Foundations**

**Speaker:** Natalie Beck

When you know better, you do better! And when we can view the world thru a racial equity lens, we empower ourselves to eliminate barriers before they become seemingly insurmountable problems. You will leave this session with a racial equity self-assessment toolkit designed specifically for community foundations. Together, we will explore how institutional racism shows up within community foundations and the communities we serve. We will utilize the toolkit to identify strategies and best practices. The toolkit assesses programming, grantmaking, board and staff leadership, and marketing. Join this session to hear lessons learned, celebrate successes of our profession, and explore how you can develop your own racial equity strategies.

**Impact Investment Deeper Dive “Different Paths…One Destination: Local Impact Investing as a Tool for Equitable Development”**

**Moderator:** Deb Markley  
**Speakers:** Tara Vance, Aubrey Abbott Patterson, Marsha Pope, and Janie DeVore Gillis

Local impact investing is a means of driving equitable community prosperity. When practiced by community foundations, it is a way to redefine their role as capital providers (not just grantmakers) and to activate...
investments and endowments for community impact. In many ways, it is an extension of community leadership by community foundations. While the destination is the same for community foundations that choose to become local investors, the journey varies from one foundation to another. This session explores the distinct journeys of four Kansas community foundations – their unique motivations, impact goals, and the design features of their local impact investing strategies. Participants will see that local impact investing is a tool that any community foundation can embrace – rural or urban, large or small. The session will also explore some common themes related to engaging donors and community partners and ways to “right size” a local impact investing strategy so that it is workable by the foundation. Participants will have time to explore their own motivations and potential as local impact investors through small group table discussions and virtual breakout sessions.

Legal Deeper Dive “Diving into the Deep End of the Pool – Legal Considerations of Disaster/ Pandemic Response Philanthropy, Grants and Investments with For-Profits, the Evolution of Donor Advised Funds and Other Foundations”

In 2020, philanthropies across the country needed to dive (or were pushed) into the disaster funding that foundations are even more informed to respond to the next disaster. We will also discuss recent efforts to place further rules and administrative burdens on donor advised funds, gifts into those funds, and on the foundations that sponsor donor advised funds.

Leading Difficult Conversations about Philanthropy

Speakers: Conny Bogaard, Lisa Schalla, and Diego Zegarra

The COVID-19 pandemic and the racial tensions following the death of George Floyd last year, have exposed social and racial inequities and with that, the limits of traditional, ‘give money and step away’ philanthropy. In this session, presenters from different cultural backgrounds address the critical leadership role of community foundations in formulating a more inclusive philanthropy that is centering around marginalized communities. Through storytelling, self-assessment tools, and new engagement strategies, let’s explore how to refine and reinvent our work.

Closing Plenary “Community Heartbeat: Models of Community Resiliency”

In 2020, we faced a quartet of tough challenges – the pandemic, the economic downturn, racial injustices, and political divisiveness. We acted quickly and collectively as family members, neighbors, donors, volunteers, and funders. Almost 250 community foundations signed the national call to action to simplify our grantmaking and lend our voices to more equitable responses. What lessons are we carrying forward through 2021 and beyond? How are we changing our practices and policies for the long run? How are we helping nonprofits and communities not just recover but be more able to withstand future challenges? And how are we reconnecting our neighbors so we can move past the things that divide us toward the brighter futures that unite us? In this lightning round plenary, you will learn dozens of answers to those questions from your peers and leave inspired to bring your foundation’s heart and soul to creating more resilient communities.

Trending Legal Topics”

Speakers: Robin Ferriby, Phillip Purcell, and Ben McDearmon

In 2020, philanthropies across the country needed to dive (or were pushed) into the disaster funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of those programs highlighted the rules of making grants to or investing in for-profit entities. This session will review the legal considerations of these topics so that foundations are even more
## KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS ANNUAL MEETING

### 3:50 – 4:15pm
#### CONCURRENT SESSION 2

**Corporate Hills Ballroom**
- **Empowering All-Star Board Members**
  - Laura Searan, Vanessa Bachat

- **Diversifying Your Asset Development**
  - Cora Bechtel, Mia Whal

**Atrium Room**
- **Breaking the Community Foundation Story in Really Rural Areas (DDIY)**
  - Laura Baron Reyes

**Salon 1-2**
- **Intermediate/Advanced**

### 4:15 – 5:45pm
#### CONCURRENT SESSION 3 BY ASSET SIZE

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<th>Leadership</th>
<th>Multi-tracks</th>
<th>Communications/Marketing</th>
<th>Finance/Operations</th>
<th>Asset Dev./Sustainability</th>
<th>Program</th>
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### 5:45pm – 6:00pm
#### NETWORKING BREAK

**Resource Hall**
- **BLIND DATES ONLINE**
  - Online

**Atrium Room**
- **Supports, Partners and Community Impact**
  - Mike Batchelor

**Salon 1-2**
- **Supporting Foundations Can**
  - Amy Galll

**Room A-C**
- **Leadership**
  - Kathy Grochow

**Room DE**
- **Communication/Marketing**
  - Tony Macklin

**Room F**
- **Finance/Operations**
  - Supported by

### 6:00 – 8:00pm
#### WELCOME RECEPTION AT WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY TECH, THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR AVIATION TRAINING CAMPUS

**Ballroom A-F**
- **Community Heartbeat: Models of Community Resiliency**
  - Tony Macklin

**Plenary A-F**
- **(A) Michelle Brown and Dodie Doudna**
## Conference Partners

**Opening Plenary Supporters**

- Kansas Health Foundation
- Council on Foundations
- Foundant Technologies
- Midwest Evaluation + Consulting

**Closing Plenary Supporters**

- Ekstrom Alley Clontz & Associates
- Express Training

**Thursday Reception Host**

- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Dane G. Hansen Foundation

**Networking Break Supporters**

**Leadership Track**

- Express Training
- Kansas Health Foundation
- TechSoup

**App/Online Platform**

- Western Kansas Community Foundation
- Kientz & Penick CPA, LLC
- Stellar Technology Solutions, LLC
- AkoyaGo

**Wednesday Setup Exhibitor**

- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Hayssell
- Evergreen Grand Day Solutions

**Thurday Setup Exhibitor**

- Kintz & Penick CPA, LLC
- The Funders Network
- Locus

**Deep Dive**

- The Employees of CFA for Southeast Michigan (Mark Neithercut)
- Judy Sjostedt Ritchie

**Retreat Supporter**

- Indiana Philanthropy Alliance
- Kittelman

**Session Supporter**

- FiduciaryPath
- Schultz & Williams
- Fund Evaluation Group

**Networking Break Supporter**

- League of California Community Foundations
- Nossaman
- Greater Salina Community Foundation
- Greater Manhattan Community Foundation
- Commerce Trust Company

**Solidarity Supporter**

- Community Foundation of the Ozarks
- Community Foundation of Greater Marion County
- Community Foundation of Greater Schwartz
- Community Foundation of Greater Dayton
- Initiative Foundation

- Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation
- Longmont Community Foundation
- Candid CF Insights
- Community Foundations of Greater Denver
CONFERENCE STATISTICS

2020 STATES REPRESENTED
Including DC and Puerto Rico

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U.S. STATES REPRESENTED 2010-2020
Including DC and Puerto Rico

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TOTAL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE BY YEAR 2010-2020

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TOTAL NUMBER OF CFS REPRESENTED 2010-2020
Including DC, Puerto Rico, and all participating countries

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U.S. ENDING BALANCE 2020

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CF POSITIONS REPRESENTED 2020

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Last year, over 600 participants from 265 community foundations representing 44 states, DC, and Puerto Rico and 7 other countries: Bermuda, Germany, Columbia, Brazil, Canada, Russia and New Zealand, attended the virtual Conference. As a hybrid, the Conference has the capacity to welcome even more attendees! Don’t keep this Conference a secret. Please share it with others who might benefit from this opportunity designed by the National Advisory Group comprised of community foundation practitioners in the United States.

RATES:
The format of the Conference has evolved to a HYBRID to accommodate diverse needs, budgets, schedules, and capacities of community foundations expanding the reach of the Conference and making it more equitable while preserving its DNA: a deep practical learning, concrete ideas to walk away with, valuable connections, and know-how from those who do the community foundation work day-to-day. Choose from the following two options:

Online participation special registration offer:
No need to spend on travel, hotel and per diem! An opportunity to include more board members and staff and give them flexibility to engage at their own pace as they may attend as many sessions and networking events as their schedule accommodates and watch the rest later!

**$399 per person**
Includes online access to live streaming of conference retreats, deeper dives, concurrent sessions, plenaries; participation in online chats, group discussions, and “blind dates”; access to recordings for a year;

In-person participation registration rate: **$699 per person**
Includes meals, in-person receptions, conference retreats, deeper dives, concurrent sessions, plenaries, and networking, as well as access to recordings for a year;

BOOK A ROOM!
See Accommodations tab on the Conference website

CONFERENCE BUZZ:

“This is the most comprehensive conference for CFs that I am aware of.”

“This is, full stop, one of the most important events of the year.”

“The Conference faced a difficult challenge in unprecedented times, met it head on, and created an overall easy, convenient and informative conference experience”; “I was amazed at how successful this virtual format was.”

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPT. 24, 2021

www.growingCFs-national-conference.com
The Annual National Conference for Growing Community Foundations’ National Advisory Group carefully selects speakers for a broad base of knowledge and experience. Opinions expressed are those of the speakers and do not purport to reflect the policy or position of the Kansas Association of Community Foundations or its members, hosting the Conference.