

Grant County Community Foundation

Foundation Topics

For centuries men have been mystified by the actions of women. Sometimes we think we know them, what they want & what they are thinking. But in my personal experience, that is an illusion and a dangerous frame of mind. All my life I have been surrounded by strong, capable women, first with my mother and with my wife then for almost 49 years. I can say unequivocally, there is no force more daunting than a group of women united for a cause.

Q. I've heard about "Women of Purpose". What is this?

A. In the spring of 2011, an idea began bubbling among the women in the community. "What if we could pool our money to help other women step up to meet their potential?" Excitement began to build as thoughts surfaced of the unique challenges women face to further their education, prepare for careers, raise their families and keep themselves strong mentally and physically. From that idea, the Grant County Community Foundation's Women of Purpose Fund was born.

In a nutshell, this fund was established to empower Grant County women to take an active and powerful role in philanthropy to serve other women and children. It is not a club or organization. It does not have regular meetings or projects. The Women of Purpose fund is designed to allow dedicated, engaged women to make a difference in the lives of many without a significant time commitment.

There are 2 levels of participation available and donors can choose either level:

1. **Founders:** To launch the Women of Purpose fund we have a unique opportunity for area women to become founding members. We invite fifty (50) area women to become Founders by investing a minimum of \$1,100 to create the founding endowment of the Women of Purpose fund. These endowed funds will establish the foundation on which we will build in years to come.

Founders are invited to a luncheon annually to participate in an open discussion to determine the focus for the grant initiative for that year.

2. **Women of Purpose:** Each year the Grant County Community Foundation (GCCF) will invite area women to contribute \$100 in the Women of Purpose Fund to become a voting member. From each \$100 donation, \$50 will be added to the permanent endowment and \$50 will be dedicated to the grant initiative for that year. With this structure, there will be grant funds to distribute each year and there will always be an addition to the endowed fund for the future. Grants will be larger as the endowed fund grows and more women become Women of Purpose each year.

The total group of Founders and Women of Purpose will vote on the grant recipient for that year.

For the past 6 months, the group has been focused on building the founding endowment, and has raised over 2/3 of their goal. A dedicated group serves as the steering committee to organize the endowment

building effort and develop the standards for the first grant initiative that is now in progress.

This fund is uniquely structured and serves as a model for others. It will grow over time and make an increasingly meaningful difference to the women and children in our community for years to come.

For a limited time, this fund has a matching grant program available for women to become Founders. With a donation of \$600, a grant amount of \$500 will be made in the donor's name to make her a Founder and a Woman of Purpose. Since the dollars available in the matching grant pool are limited, I encourage you to take advantage of this offer soon.

Last spring my wife came to me and said, "I want to be a woman of purpose!" To myself, I thought—and when were you not? But, fortunately I said, "of course you do." And then, she informed me she would need \$1,100 by the middle of May to accomplish it. Although I was somewhat startled by that, I instantly recognized the steely glint of determination in her eye and wisely modified my response. She offered to accept that donation as her birthday gift and I quickly embraced that idea as I never know what to buy, hate shopping and had a pretty strong notion she was going to write the check anyway.

If you are interested in becoming a Founder or Woman of Purpose, a steering committee member will be happy to visit with you, or you can send your check to:

Grant County Community Foundation
Women of Purpose Fund
P. O. Box 1001
Ulysses, Kansas 67880

Contact information is:
Phone #620-356-2592
ken.keusler@gmail.com
Website: www.grantccf.org

My experience is that nobody does it better than women when it comes to organizing around a cause. Let's get behind this initiative & join in the success.