

Why give to the Cheyenne County Impact Fund (CCIF), the only endowed fund for all of Cheyenne County?

Cheyenne County is fortunate to be one of the 26 northwest Kansas counties in the Dane Hansen Foundation service area. In 2016 the Hansen Foundation initiated a matching fund offer to match up to \$50,000 in donations to a county wide endowed fund. In 2016, Cheyenne County did not have a county wide community foundation, it had the Bird City Century II foundation serving the Bird City community and the St. Francis Community Foundation serving the St. Francis community. Residents of the county with a vision of a county wide foundation donated \$12,000 to establish the CN Co Impact Fund, the first county wide endowed fund. The Hansen Foundation matched the donations of those first thirteen donors to establish a fund with \$24,000. On December 15, 2017, the St. Francis Community Foundation voted to change its mission to serve the entire county and changed its name to the Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation (CCKCF). The CCKCF assumed the task of soliciting donations to grow the previously formed CN Co Impact Fund. In the two remaining weeks of 2017, the CCKCF board canvassed the county and raised a total of \$111,000 in donations. Bill and Cindy Keller of Pratt KS, donated \$40,000 of that \$111,000 total. The Hansen Foundation matched up to \$50,000 of all donation in 2017 bringing the total to \$161,000. Last year, 2018, was another banner year for the Impact Fund. Donations during the December Match Month totaled to \$85,000. Since donations exceeded the threshold of \$50,000 offer by the Hansen Foundation, the Hansen Foundation donated another \$50,000 to the CN Co Impact Fund. This equals a growth of \$135,000 in 2018.

The Hansen Foundation has again offered to match up to \$50,000 in donations to the CCIF in December 2019. Bill and Cindy Keller will also match \$25,000. With these two pledged matches, every dollar donated will be matched by \$1.50. (The first grants made from this fund were disbursed in 2019 to eight recipients for a total of \$6,400. Three grants were awarded to Bird City, 3 to St. Francis and 2 were awarded to county projects.) If the 2019 December donations to the CCIF would equal the 2018 donations of \$85,000, the Hansen Foundation match of \$50,000, and the Bill & Cindy Keller match of \$25,000, would grow the fund by \$160,000. If this goal is met, the total balance of the fund will have grown to **\$489,000!** The earnings on this balance could fund approximately \$14,350 in grants in 2020, compared to \$6,400 in grants funded by the Impact fund in 2019. As long as the Hansen Foundation and other donors match giving to the CCIF, all Cheyenne County residents, and anyone that ever called Cheyenne County home, should take advantage of growing the only Cheyenne County endowed fund.

Donations can be hand delivered to any of the four banks in Cheyenne County. Donations can be mailed to the Cheyenne County KS Community Foundation at either PO Box 967, St. Francis, KS 67756 or PO Box 593, Bird City, KS 67731. All checks sent by mail will be accepted for the December 2019 Match Month if postmarked on or before Dec 31, 2019. Make checks out to the **Cheyenne County Impact Fund**. Donations can also be made safely online at <https://www.gnwkcf.org/donate-cncomatch>

A barometer of donation progress will be updated on the CCKCF Facebook page. Please take this opportunity to grow the only county wide endowment fund in Cheyenne County.