



Caring Community Foundation Announces First Two Corporate Supporters

The Caring Community Foundation's **Journey with a Cause – Expedition Campaign** is starting off with strong community support from Kan Equip, Wamego and Farmers State Bank, Westmoreland, Onaga and Manhattan. Each organization has committed to donating \$25,000 over five years to help strengthen the future of our rural communities.

The Caring Community Foundation (CCF) began its commitment to rural NE Kansas in 2016. Recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the future for our local small communities. The CCF has awarded nearly \$35,000 in local community and emergency grants and over \$70,000 in scholarships. The Foundation has funds to help a wide variety of local charitable causes.

“In five years we have grown to 27 funds and over \$1.6 million,” stated Jay Rezac, board president. “Most donors have a specific personal cause in mind and we are honored to assist them,” Rezac explained, “Our challenge is growing our unrestricted community fund, which we are targeting with this campaign. Our community fund helps cover operations, grants, and helps us respond quickly and effectively to current and future community needs.”

Susie Kufahl, CCF Director, commented, “The Expedition Campaign seeks community partners who share our commitment and have the means to join us in this vital campaign. The community fund is endowed so it will always exist, working to produce income to fund charitable causes and non-profits in the area in and around Pottawatomie County.”

KanEquip Inc. was founded in 1968 by Jim Meinhardt. For the last fifty plus years, Meinhardt and his team have earned a reputation as a leader and trusted partner providing quality products, support and innovative solutions to agriculture producers in the Midwest. KanEquip operates 14 locations in Kansas and Nebraska. “Our customers are our community and giving back to our community is important to us,” Meinhardt stated.

Shown in the KanEquip photo, left to right, are John Simecka, Mark Besthorn, Jim Meinhardt, Barbara Meinhardt, Jaimee Hoobler, Grant Meinhardt, April Goff, Craig Goff, Brydon Meinhardt and Jay Rezac. Simecka and Rezac are board members of the Caring Community Foundation.

Jim Moore, President of Farmers State Bank, started banking with his father, Ed Moore, in Westmoreland, after returning home from 6 years of service in the United States Air Force. Over the last decade, Farmers State Bank expanded to locations in Manhattan and Onaga as well. Jim Moore is well known for his community commitment and generosity. Jim serves as board treasurer for the Caring Community Foundation. “The Caring Community Foundation makes it possible for anyone to help support their community in a way that will keep giving and last forever,” Moore commented, “Farmers State Bank is enthusiastic about the good that we can accomplish together through this Foundation.”

Farmers State Bank employees shown in the photo, left to right, are Jennifer Fleming, Chelsie Eisenbarth, Kaylene Plummer, James Moore, and Alan Engelken.

For more information, find the Caring Community Foundation at www.ccfks.org, and on Facebook.

Caring Community Foundation, Inc.