

may 06, 2011

Grant helps to grow local endowments

Angela Muller, executive director of the Russell County Area Community Foundation has announced the foundation recently received \$60,000 in matching grant funds from the Kansas Health Foundation. The Kansas Health Foundation is a private philanthropic program which is dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans. The grant is part of the Giving Resources to Our World II (GROW II) program.

The Russell County Area Community Foundation, which is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation, was accepted into the GROW II program in 2010. The Salina Community Foundation applied for GROW II on behalf of the Russell County Area Community Foundation.

The Greater Salina Community Foundation's adherence to stringent national standards and staff support were requirements for participation in GROW II.

GROW II is designed to help community foundations capture the transfer of wealth occurring in Kansas with the creation of strong endowments in such foundations through-

out Kansas. Endowed funds provide permanent philanthropic dollars which are used to enhance the quality of life for residents in the community foundations' service areas.

The board of the Russell County Area Community Foundation has been working to share information about this opportunity to receive matching funds for gifts to the foundation. For every endowed gift to the Russell County Area Community Foundation's administrative or community grant fund, as well as to the Public Health Fund, the Russell County Area Community Foundation receives a 50 percent match. For all other endowed gifts, with the exception of scholarships, the Russell County Area Community Foundation receives a 25 percent match.

The matching funds will be used to create two new endowed funds in the Russell County Area Community Foundation. One of these new endowments is the Kansas Health Foundation Operating Grant, which will provide ongoing support for the Russell County Area Community

Foundation. The other new endowment is the Kansas Health Foundation Fund, which will provide annual grants for programs and projects which support public health initiatives in the Russell County Area Community Foundation's service area.

In addition to the matching grant, the Russell County Area Community Foundation received a \$10,500 operating grant. This financial support is expendable and is designed to assist with expenses incurred in the effort to gather funds for the match.

GROW II is a six-year program. The receipt of those funds from the Kansas Health Foundation marks the end of the first of those six years.