

For Immediate Release:

Community Foundation Supports Classroom Initiatives at USD 407

The Russell County Area Community Foundation announced \$15,280 in grants awarded to USD 407 to support innovative learning in the classroom. “The Community Foundation is excited to partner with teachers and administrators to support inventive programs that help students succeed. We hope these funds will spark creativity and make learning magical and fun,” said Angela Muller, Executive Director.

The grants include \$9,000 to purchase a mobile computer lap for students in grades 6-8. The lab will support educational activities, such as interactive online books, research, state assessment preparation, education games and textbook teaching. The middle school will also receive \$700 to support the Solar Lighting Peggy Taylor Memorial OWLS project. The OWLS project emphasizes hands on learning and increases student understanding and awareness of ecological concepts and practices. Careful consideration is given to the history of plants and their use by Native Americans and pioneers.

Russell High School will receive a \$1500 grant to purchase Apple I-Pad computers for the Special Education classroom. I-Pads are a user friendly tool for students with Autism, learning disabilities and intellectual disabilities, giving children confidence to do their schoolwork with little or no assistance. The high school will also receive \$580 to support a literacy program featuring magazines that help students develop critical thinking skills to better understand our nation and world.

The elementary school will receive a \$3500 grant to purchase digital cameras to support art education through photography. This grant is generously supported by a gift from the Myers Family Memorial Fund.

Other funding comes from the generosity of donors who contribute to the Foundation’s unrestricted grant fund, Appleseed Program, and Kansas Health Foundation Children’s Fund. Currently, donations to the Community Foundation’s endowed funds, with the exception of scholarship funds, receive a partial match through the GROW endowment challenge sponsored by the Kansas Health Foundation. Matching funds support the Foundation’s operations and community health projects.

The Russell County Area Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation, was established in 2001 to create a permanent source of philanthropy to address current and future community needs through grant making and partnerships. Since inception, the Community Foundation and its generous donors have directed more than \$800,000 to meaningful causes and issues – from the arts and childhood education to historical preservation and hunger relief. The Foundation is the largest provider of grants and scholarships in Russell County.

For more information on grants or how you can give to important causes, visit them on the web at www.rcacf.net or call 785-445-3611. The Foundation is currently engaged in a Winter Giving Campaign to raise funds and awareness for charitable outreach.