



Through hard work, smart decisions and good stewardship, Kansans have been able to save and earn a staggering amount of wealth that our ancestors probably could not have envisioned. With this wealth, we can raise a healthy, educated family, eat a wide variety of foods grown from all over the world and of course, drink clean, safe water from faucets in our homes. We can travel to nearly any country we want. In a few years, travel to outer space might be on this list for some of us.

Because of our wealth and freedom, many of our retirees have left the home communities of their parents and grandparents to enjoy out-of-state children and grandchildren, favorable weather and other amenities. They are also taking their wealth with them. Because of the estimated past potential for \$79 billion to be transferred to the following generation between 2010 and 2020, the Kansas Association of Community Foundations (see <https://kansascfs.org/>) developed the “Keep 5 in Kansas” (see <http://keepfiveinkansas.com/>) campaign.

While actual amount of wealth that left Kansas is not yet available for the decade ending this year, it is believed that the projection to 2064 is still accurate. This number is nearly \$600 billion. If five percent of this transferred wealth can be kept in Kansas and directed to community foundations, the amount

that could be kept here would be nearly \$30 billion. Imagine the improvements that could be accomplished with the interest alone if this small percentage were left within the community where it was raised. With this fact in mind, it is appropriate to ask those making important estate plans to consider leaving a small portion of their assets to a community foundation to assist the same community where they and their ancestors grew up and achieved success.

Supporting local community more important than ever

With most small towns facing uncertain futures, those that offer the most amenities to families looking for small town values will likely be the communities that survive and thrive. Partnering with a community consultant such as Kansas PRIDE, Inc. (see <https://kansasprideprogram.k-state.edu/>) can also help a community achieve a higher level of vitality. By developing a vision with other community

members and partners, improvements that once seemed out of reach can become possible. These improvements in a community can include a modern library, new park equipment and other recreation opportunities, fire department buildings, etc. It could also be a unique youth program that the youth of the community want to pursue. The list is unlimited. Pursuing and achieving these improvements will demonstrate the values new residents want to experience.

And while visions and ideas and plans need people to adopt and promote them, most community vitality efforts will also need a little bit of cash to get started. Don’t let a lack of cash be a wet blanket on those flickering community improvement ideas. Create a local community improvement fund at the local foundation, and show interested estate creators and planners that your community has a vision and is serious about putting donated wealth to work.

Where are community foundations? How do they work?

Community foundations are located in nearly every county of Kansas. Most belong to the Kansas Association of Community Foundations. In addition to the state association (which promotes the Keep 5 in Kansas campaign and provide educational and technical support) and the local community foundations, there are regional

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