



News from the Executive Director

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

March 2005

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Assets top \$460 million. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation finished the December 31, 2005 quarter with the highest market value of assets in its 35-year history -- \$462 million. Thanks to excellent investment performance during the past six months and continued support from donors who established a record number of new advised funds, we continue to build endowment resources that will support our charitable causes for years to come.

Honoring Jeanette Gamba. Current and past Trustees of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation recently held a dinner to honor Jeanette Gamba, past Trustee and Board President, for her 10 years of service to our organization. Gamba joined the board in 1994 and served as president from 2000 to 2003. Not only was Gamba the first female to lead the Oklahoma City Community Foundation board, she was, in the words of fellow past Trustee Bill Johnstone, "the first Italian-American," a distinction indicating the affection and appreciation of her fellow trustees.

Expanding Our Outreach. The "Oklahoma City" in our name describes the location of our office and the center of the geographic area that we serve but does not limit our interest or define our outreach with any specific boundaries. In the past few months, we have made considerable efforts to expand our presence in all parts of the community:

On February 24, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation hosted a gathering with the South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce at Mount St. Mary's High School. More than 120 attended the reception that featured updated Riverfront Development displays as well as information about our organization and the school. Last October, we hosted a similar event at the Edmond Historical Society along with the Edmond Chamber of Commerce.

The Margaret Annis Boys Trust and the Parks & Public Spaces Initiative recently approved grants to the City of Bethany to continue the landscaping of the 39th Expressway median and to the City of Yukon to re-landscape the Chisholm Trail Park. An additional grant to the Arcadia Preservation Society will help restore historical plantings for the Round Barn that is a landmark in eastern Oklahoma County.

Clean and Beautiful Schools has expanded to include 20 elementary schools in Moore. Landscape plans and initial tree plantings have been completed at 10 of the schools with the balance to follow in the next year. This brings the number of schools that have received assistance from the Clean and Beautiful Schools program to more than 100 throughout Oklahoma County and Moore.

A recent grant from the Fund for Oklahoma City to the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City will help that organization repair the gym floor at its new location at N.E. 36th and M.L. King Boulevard and will support a summer basketball camp to serve the youth of northeast Oklahoma City.

Sponsoring Rabbi Kushner's presentation. We will join with the James L. Hall Center for Mind, Body and Spirit to bring Rabbi Harold Kushner to Oklahoma City for a public presentation on Wednesday, April 13. Best

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known as the author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, Rabbi Kushner's presentation will be held at Oklahoma City University's Freede Activity Center and will be free to the public.

Update on Disaster Relief Fund and Survivors' Education Fund. April 19 is the 10th anniversary of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation worked with a number of organizations to coordinate donations and services to assist the survivors after that tragic event. That work continues in two important areas. The Survivors' Education Fund, established to provide scholarships after high school for children who lost a parent to death or disability, continues to work with more than half of the 213 eligible children. Of those who have completed the program, 70 percent have earned a degree, an excellent result especially under the circumstances the students experienced. Direct case management, medical and counseling support continues for more than 100 individuals and families. The Trustees of both the Disaster Relief Fund and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation recently approved a plan for utilization of the remaining resources that will provide a safety net for these survivors well into the future. We are working with the American Red Cross on a joint report on the services that have been provided over the past 10 years and continue to be supported by the two organizations.

Video now available. In addition to the commercials airing in the Oklahoma City market since last September, we have produced a six-minute video that expands on these donor stories and explains more fully how individual donors have worked with us to meet their financial needs and charitable goals. The video is a great presentation for a civic club or other group and our staff would be happy to make a presentation using the video. If you are interested in having this program for a meeting, please contact Cathy Nestlen at 235-5603 or c.nestlen@occf.org. The video is useful for professional advisors in an office setting and is available in both VHS and CD formats.

The Oklahoma River Foundation Endowment Fund. In an agreement with the Oklahoma City Riverfront Development Authority, we will manage an endowment fund that will provide long-term support to enhance the public areas of the new Oklahoma River. The proceeds of the first holiday light parade were deposited in the endowment fund with additional future gifts to come from the proceeds of other special events. Oklahoma City Community Foundation Trustee Ron Norick is chairman of the Riverfront Development Authority. Trustee Paul Dudman and staff member Brian Dougherty also serve on the governing board.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Kirkpatrick. John Kirkpatrick celebrated his 97th birthday in February. While his health keeps him at home more than he would like, he is still vitally interested in the activities and people of the community. When asked what he was going to do on New Year's Eve after his 5:30 p.m. scheduled dinner with four friends, he responded, "raise some hell." For those of you who know Mr. Kirkpatrick, it was exactly what you would have expected. We wish him a very happy birthday and continue to thank him for his vision, leadership and support during the past 35 years.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. Anthony