

# OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SPRING

1992

## Belle Isle Residents Beautify Corner at Lombardy

In the 30's, developer G.A. Nichols laid out the Belle Isle neighborhood to meander along the banks of the Deep Fork River. He zoned the area for single story homes that would nestle into its natural setting. The houses were built two feet above the 100 year flood plan, so most of them have survived the periodic tantrums of the Deep Fork and allowed the roots of some residents to grow deep in the neighborhood.

The desire to preserve and enhance that setting has been a unifying force for Belle Isle's 125 households on several occasions. David Sapper, who lives in the house his grandmother built in 1939, can tell about those times. Most recently, the Western Beautiful Project that Sapper chairs for his neighborhood association obtained a \$7,240 grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. A plan is now in the works to landscape the corner of Lombardy Road and North Western near the entrance to I-44.

"When this project is finished, it will be a good lesson in what can be done to an inner city neighborhood to take the city out of it," Sapper said. Part of the landscaping plan calls for a berm that will help insu-



*David Sapper and his daughter Tookah sit on the dry wall he built with a few neighbors and 50 tons of native sandstone.*

late the area from the sound and view of traffic on I-44.

Belle Isle received one of the first grants awarded by the Margaret Annis Boys Trust, established at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation for the beautification of Oklahoma City. When the Boys Trust was announced, the Belle Isle Neighborhood Association was already working on the project, with money in the bank and permits for a landscaping plan. The Association decided to apply for a grant for the project and use its existing funds to set up a trust at the Community Foundation that would generate future income for maintenance.

Since December, Sapper and some neighbors have built a dry-wall themselves from hard native sandstone; other parts of the project will follow. For Belle Isle, all it seems to take is a few good men — with a neighborhood behind them.

### Next Grant Deadline April 30, 1992

Contact the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to discuss your proposal and receive forms and guidelines. The telephone number is 235-5603.

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# February Grants Total \$110,300

In February the Grants Review Committee for The Fund for Oklahoma City awarded 13 grants totalling \$77,800. The Margaret Annis Boys Trust Committee awarded two grants totalling \$32,500. Grant request deadlines are April 30, October 31, and January 31.

## Fund for Oklahoma City Grants

**The Mayfair Center, Inc.:** A two-for-one matching grant of \$10,000, to fund added parking and adaptations for handicapped parking in present parking area.

**Oklahoma City Art Museum:** \$5,000 for educational activities in conjunction with exhibition "Rodin Bronzes: The B. Gerald Cantor Collection" at the Museum's fairgrounds location.

**Oklahoma City Arts Commission:** \$600 for awards to the School Mural Competition.

**Oklahoma Community Theatre Association, Inc.:** \$7,000 matching grant to fund a series of six day-long theatre production workshops.

**Oklahoma Engineering Foundation:** \$3,000 to fund competition for MATHCOUNTS, a nationwide accelerated coaching program and series of competitions designed to produce math achievement in 7th and 8th grades.

**Central Oklahoma Association for Deaf-Hearing Impaired:** \$4,500

to Hearing Aid Assistance Program, which provides recycled hearing aids free or at greatly reduced cost to financially eligible individuals.

**Healing Hands Health Services:** \$10,000 to support renovation of a new clinic site that will make it more accessible for disabled staff and patients.

**Child Response Center, Inc.:** \$5,000 for purchase, renovation and furnishing of the Center, which helps prevent, detect and prosecute child abuse and promote the well-being of the child.



*The Thinker is one of 49 Rodin sculptures on exhibit until June 21 at the Oklahoma City Art Museum at the Fairgrounds. Various lectures and a film are scheduled throughout the exhibit. Call 946-4477 for more information.*

**Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma:** \$700 to help print a study guide in Spanish for Spanish-speaking driver's license applicants in the greater Oklahoma City area.

**Oklahoma City Metro Alliance for Safer Cities, Inc.:** \$5,000 to complete expansion of facility at Lake Draper.

**Oklahoma City Food Bank, Inc.:** \$5,000 towards expanding the refrigerated and dry storage area.

**Sugar Creek Camp:** \$7,000 to support part-time staff for a summer program for inner-city children that would create a beautification project at two city parks and teach the children responsibility for park property.

**YWCA of Oklahoma City:** \$15,000 towards the salary for a social worker at Positive Tomorrows, a transitional education program for children of homeless families or families in crisis.

## Margaret Annis Boys Trust Fund Grants

**Oklahoma City Beautiful:** \$12,500 towards Lake Hefner Parkway Landscaping Project, which will establish approximately 2 1/2 miles of walking and biking trails along the east shore of Lake Hefner. The City of Oklahoma City will maintain the area and the State Department of Transportation will provide the bulk of the "hardscape" construction.

**City of Oklahoma City and Leadership Oklahoma City, Class IX:** \$20,000 to replace trees and construct an entryway into the arboretum at Will Rogers Park.

## New Designated Funds Announced

**Arthritis Foundation:** Started with a matching contribution from the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

**Belle Isle Neighborhood Association:** Started by the Belle Isle Neighborhood Association, to provide for the ongoing maintenance of a landscaping project funded by a donation from the Margaret Annis Boys Trust.

**Jesus House:** Started with a gift from an anonymous donor. The organization is a shelter for the homeless and provides other assistance for families and individuals.

**Mayfair Center:** Started with a

grant from the Kirkpatrick Foundation and added to by other donors. Mayfair operates a shared service facility for agencies which work with the elderly, located in the old Mayfair Heights elementary school.

**Metropolitan Library System Endowment Trust:** Started by the Trust which benefits the public libraries in Oklahoma County.

**Oakhurst Academy:** Started by a gift from the Kirkpatrick Foundation. Oakhurst is a successor to the New World School and targets gifted children who need individualized instruction.

**St. James School:** Started with a gift from the school, a Catholic elementary school in south Oklahoma City.

**Salvation Army Boys Club:** Started with a gift from the estate of Charles Baker Rumsey. The fund will support the Salvation Army's work with boys and girls.

**Skyline Urban Ministry:** Started with contributions from a number of individuals. Skyline is the urban ministry to the underprivileged which is supported through the United Methodist Church.

# Bachelors Club Sets Up Donor Advised Fund



*"Well knowing that beauty, charm and grace shall ever reign unexcelled in the eyes of men, the Bachelors Club of Oklahoma City does with pleasure advise all to whom these present may come that the following women selected by this club have been endowed with these attributes which by their possession require all mankind to do them honor."*

**Bachelors Club**

**B**eing knowledgeable about the current crop of beautiful young women in town is the legitimate duty of any self-respecting bachelor. In the course of 46 Christmas Balls, The Bachelors Club of Oklahoma City has done just that, by presenting over 1,000 debutantes.

Less visible than the ceremony surrounding the annual Christmas Ball is the fact that The Bachelors Club has also raised considerable sums for charity; in the past decade, over \$110,000 according to Bachelors Club President Cody Strunk.

This year, the Bachelors Club set up a \$50,000 donor-advised fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. A donor-advised fund allows donors to annually advise the Foundation as to how they wish the earnings from their fund to be spent.

G. Scaling "Buddy" Corbyn was present at the beginning of the Bachelors Club in 1938. He and a group of friends were at the Mitlo Beer Parlor on East 23rd Street, next to Deloris' Restaurant. Some of the girls already belonged to the French Heels, and the boys decided it was time to start their own club.

Corbyn said he was the Club's first Secretary/Treasurer because he was the only one who had a mimeograph machine in his office. "The Club was conceived on the back of a paper napkin," Corbyn chuckled. "Dues were \$5 a year; that didn't leave anything for charity. We were a party group." In those days, he said, even \$5 was hard for many young men to come up with.

The Club was inactive from 1941 to 45 because many of its members went into the service. Startup was difficult after the war because some of the members did not return and others had married. Corbyn said he thinks some mothers and the French Heels can be credited for revitalizing the Bachelors Club after World War II. The first Christmas Ball was held in 1946.

Last year, the Bachelors Club donated \$7,500 to these organizations: Oklahoma Zoological Society, Skyline Urban Ministries, American Lung Association of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Oklahoma City Beautiful, Oklahoma Blood Institute, Allied Arts Foundation, Good Will Industries, and the Oklahoma Society for the Prevention of Blindness.



**Fletcher and Vicki Williams visited with Bachelors Club President Cody Strunk, right, after receiving an award at the 1991 Bachelors Club Ball.**

## About the Oklahoma City Community Foundation

Since 1969 the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has helped donors accomplish their personal charitable goals and assisted non-profit organizations through grants and endowment fund support.

The Foundation is governed by nine trustees who represent a broad range of community organizations and interests. A separate fiscal committee composed of officers from four different banks invests and manages the Foundation's assets.

The Foundation's staff works with the Board of Trustees, the Fiscal Committee, donors and charitable organizations. They administer the asset base and seek out ways to fill needs in the community.

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 1991, the Foundation's assets were valued at \$65 million. During that year, more than 250 charitable organizations received grants and distributions from endowment earnings of \$3 million.

Through the Foundation, donors can provide ongoing support for specific institutions or general causes by advising the staff and Trustees of their wishes. By donating money to the Fund for Oklahoma City, their contributions can be used at the trustees' discretion to support needs in the community as they arise.

A gift to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is a lasting gift to the community.

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# Positive Tomorrows Brings Homeless Children to School



*Secondary teacher Billy Moren conducts a one-room class for grades four and above.*

**T**he student store, consisting of a library table covered with an assortment of goodies like candy, rings with glass "stones" and whoopee cushions, was open. Students at Positive Tomorrows, a transitional school for children of homeless families, approached the "store" with anticipation on their faces and tokens in hand that they had earned for good behavior. Carefully, they selected their merchandise and returned to their classrooms.

"Discipline is not a problem here," said Positive Tomorrows Director Joye Oakley. "Self discipline and self confidence is. We have

***"We are a holistic approach to serving the needs of children of homeless families or the children of families in crisis."***

***Joye Oakley***

well-defined rules — a system of progressive discipline and time outs for bad behavior, good consequences for good behavior.

"We are a holistic approach to serving the needs of children of homeless families or the children of families in crisis," said Oakley. "We try to provide positive role models so the kids learn that life does not have to be lived in chaos. I've never had to suspend a child since we started this program."

Developing the relatively simple

concept of a transitional education center required a complex networking process that brought together local family shelters, Oklahoma City Public Schools, the YWCA, Neighborhood Services Organization, the United Methodist Church, Coopers and Lybrand, Campfire, Community Action Agency, the Oklahoma City Junior League, City-County Health Department, United Way and the Federal Government. Oakley said that when compared with other states, Oklahoma has a phenomenally good record of establishing community partnerships.

Positive Tomorrows opened its doors in November 1990, with a staff of two teachers certified in elementary and secondary education, a secretary and director, a speech and learning pathologist and a social worker. When a \$200,000 Federal grant ran out a year later, the speech pathologist and social worker had to go. The YWCA continued to provide space for the school.

A \$15,000 grant made by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation will be used in hiring a new social worker, whose duties include recruiting the children from shelters, working with them directly while they are participating in Positive Tomorrows, and following up on them after they are reassigned to the public schools. The grant is from the Fund for Oklahoma City, an endowment designated to meet the changing needs of the community.

So far this school year, Oakley

said that nearly 200 children have been enrolled in the program. Ideal capacity is 15 in the elementary and 15 in the secondary class, but enrollment is difficult to predict especially when there is no social worker to recruit students from the shelters. "We have had as many as 40 and as few as 5," Oakley said.

Teachers Billy Moren and Juanita Green routinely prepare lesson plans for multiple grade levels; Green's class includes kindergarten through third grade, Moren's grade four and above. In spite of the two-room schoolhouse approach, Moren said the children at Positive Tomorrows are easier to teach than others he has taught because they are more receptive and seem glad to be there.

The average stay at Positive Tomorrows is 25 days. "The key is getting the families housing, compiling birth certificates, immunizations and school records, and moving the children into the public schools," Oakley said. Probably ninety-five per cent of the children are assigned to local public schools; five per cent are destination unknown, she said.

"As a group, these kids have the same dreams, the same range of abilities as other kids," Oakley said. "When we look after them it makes it easier for their moms to get other things in order. This program works."



*Director Joye Oakley opens the "student store" for children who can spend their good behavior tokens there.*