



News from the Executive Director

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

DECEMBER 2003

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Year End: As we reach year-end, the Trustees and staff of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation would like to thank all of you for your gifts and support during the past year. Since most of our contributions go to permanent endowment funds, the immediate rewards to charity and the community are much slower in coming and often less visible. The long-term impact is very significant, however, and you can be assured that your endowment gifts will provide dividends for charities for many years to come.

For any donor who wants to make a year-end gift and really wants to wait to the last minute, the Community Foundation office will be open until 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 31, and we will be happy to accommodate cash, stock or other assets you might want to transfer. If you are planning a last minute gift, please call and notify us.

After January 1, we will prepare summary gift receipts for any donor whose gifts totaled more than \$200 during 2003. Although we send receipts at the time of the gift, for donors who make multiple gifts during the year the summary gift receipt consolidates all of the information needed for your tax return into a single report. These should be mailed before the end of January and will fulfill the I.R.S. requirement for a receipt to substantiate a charitable gift.

Advised Funds: In October, we introduced new names for our advised fund program. The Legacy, Gift, and Express Funds have been promoted to Community Foundation donors and to professional advisors for the last three months and, as a result, a number of new funds have been started. Because online access to fund information is available for most funds, a number of donors have been able to check their balance online and then e-mail a grant recommendation in one easy step. If you would like to see a demonstration of DonorCentral, please call Jennifer Stewart at 405/235-5603 and she will assist you.

All of the details of the Legacy, Gift, and Express Funds are on the Community Foundation web site, www.occf.org. A special brochure prepared for professional advisors provides a quick and easy summary. We have included a copy of the brochure with this letter. Our advised funds are a great idea for anyone who gives to charity on a regular basis.

Scholarship News: Six years ago, we began the Community Foundation Scholars program which awards at least one "good citizen, good student" scholarship in every high school in Oklahoma County. An evaluation we conducted this fall tracked the first two groups of scholarship recipients. The graduation rate for these 160 students was more than 66 percent, well above the national average of 45 percent. We are extremely proud of this result and the more than 100 Community Foundation Scholars who are now college graduates. The "good-citizen, good student" formula seems to be a successful approach.

People News:

John Belt, the long-serving General Counsel for the Community Foundation, was recently awarded the Earl Sneed Memorial Business in the Arts Award from the Oklahoma Arts Council. John's work with the Paseo Arts District has been a labor of love for many years. The recognition is very well-deserved.

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Alice Allen Everett turned 100 in November and Pearl Means reached age 99 in December. These two Community Foundation donors are both active and well and we congratulate them on reaching these wonderful milestones. John Kirkpatrick will turn 97 in 2004 and he also keeps up with the Community Foundation's activities. Maybe being a Community Foundation donor increases your chances for longevity....

Trustee Judge Nancy Coats did not have an opponent when she ran for re-election in 2000. She suggested to her campaign chairman, Harry Merson, that the campaign account be donated to the Community Foundation to help start a new Mental Health Court. The Court, which also received some start-up funding from state and Federal sources, has completed its first year and demonstrated the positive impact of moving many mentally ill individuals out of jails and into community-based services. We were pleased that the Community Foundation could help Judge Coats initiate the Mental Health Court and commend her for her efforts to make a change which is positive for both the clients and the taxpayers.

Trustee Ron Norick and staff member Brian Dougherty will both be honored by Oklahoma City Beautiful for their contributions to projects which have improved the appearance of Oklahoma City. Both serve on the Riverfront Development Authority, a City body which oversees the MAPS projects along the North Canadian River. The river is filling with water and many of the improvements along both the north and south banks are in place. Some wonderful new trails and recreational areas will be developed over the next few years. We are pleased that we have been able to contribute to these projects and congratulate Ron and Brian on their honor.

Looking toward 2004: In 2004, the Community Foundation will celebrate its 35th anniversary. Such dates are always a time for both review of past accomplishments and planning for the future. The Trustees will undertake a long-range plan review during the first six months of 2004 and will adopt the strategy which will sustain the Community Foundation's growth and service for the next few years. Our commitment to developing permanent endowments and helping donors help the community will continue. We will always be looking for ways to improve service and to be better stewards of your gifts.

I have now been at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation for more than 18 years and can probably be given some blame for most of what has happened during that time. I personally know almost everyone who receives this informal letter each quarter and count your friendship and support as the greatest benefit of my job. We have all worked together to build a wonderful organization which will support this community in perpetuity. On behalf of all of the Trustees and staff, thank you and best wishes for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. Anthony
Executive Director