



News from the Executive Director

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

May 2004

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Canna Update. As we welcome Oklahoma's warm weather for spring and summer, the cannas planted last year by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation in more than 30 Oklahoma City flower beds are coming back to life. Last spring when the City Parks Department decided to no longer maintain these beds, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and Oklahoma City Beautiful worked together to plant 30 highly visible beds and to find neighborhood adopters to care for them. I'm pleased to report that almost all of the cannas are coming back this year and soon these beds will be in full bloom.

Trustee News. The Trustees of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation have elected a new member. J. Larry Nichols, Chairman and CEO of Devon Energy, was elected to a three-year term as Trustee beginning July 1, 2004. Nichols will replace retiring Trustee Jeanette Gamba who had served the maximum term of 10 years. Gamba, president of Jordan Associates, also served as president of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Trustees from 2000-03. She was the first woman to serve in that capacity.

James H. Holloman, Jr. was re-elected as president of the Trustees and Ronald J. Norick and Paul B. Odom, Jr. were re-elected as vice presidents. Kirkland Hall is the Treasurer. Other non-Trustee officers are John L. Belt as Secretary and General Counsel, Marilyn Myers as Assistant Secretary, Nancy Anthony as Assistant Secretary and Executive Director, and Carla Pickrell as Assistant Treasurer and Director of Administration. All of the officer terms are for one year.

Long-Range Planning Retreat. On Saturday, May 15, 23 Trustees, officers and staff met for the day to participate in a Long-Range Planning Retreat. The meeting was facilitated by Marty Kavanaugh and was held at the OCU Meinders School of Business. Minor changes were made to the mission statement while the challenges of the next five to 10 years were discussed. A full report on the outcome of the planning process will be prepared and adopted by the Trustees at the September meeting. The outlook for growth and continued leadership is excellent and the Trustees are focused on finding the best way to ensure that the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is ready for those opportunities.

Trustees Approve \$233,649 in Grants. Trustees approved 24 grants for \$213,649 at the May board meeting. Two important grants were approved that will support the final chapter of the MAPS projects. A \$20,000 grant to the Metropolitan Library System will help the library sponsor events for the opening of the new Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library in August. Many activities are planned over several months to encourage citizens to visit the newest library building. An additional grant of \$20,000 was awarded to the Oklahoma City River Trust to also assist with inaugural events in several locations along the new riverfront project. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation has contributed more than \$100,000 over the last three years to help promote the opening of MAPS projects and the re-introduction of arts activities to the downtown area.

Sharing Good News. In late April, just a day before the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, Barbara Williams, her three daughters and two grandchildren visited our offices and brought flowers to Anna-Faye Rose, Disaster Relief Fund coordinator. Mrs. Williams's husband died in the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Murrah

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Building. Her three daughters – Sarah Sweet, Allyson Moore, and Maryl Williams – have all graduated from college and two of the girls have achieved graduate degrees. The Survivors' Education Fund, administered by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, paid for all of the girls' education. The family wanted to thank Anna-Faye for her help in coordinating the assistance and scholarships. For the Disaster Relief Fund Trustees and the staff that have worked with so many families over the last nine years, it was a great joy to see this family succeed and thrive despite its tragedy.

Remembering a Donor. In December 1993, Mrs. Mary Meier came into the Oklahoma City Community Foundation office on a very cold and rainy day. We had never met her before and I probably thought that she was some hapless soul trying to get out of the weather. From her layers of coats and covers, she brought out a check for \$10,000 to establish a fund in memory of her brother Lt. Felix Christopher McKean, who was killed in World War II in Italy 50 years earlier. We eventually published some of his poetry in a Community Foundation newsletter. She appreciated our efforts in helping her remember his promise that was tragically taken by war. The \$10,000 was an insurance payment she had received as a beneficiary of his estate. Mary was a journalist and loved music. Her husband Milton worked as a reporter and editor for the Oklahoma Publishing Company for more than 40 years. He died in 1998. When Mary died this past spring, she left the residual of her estate to establish unrestricted funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation in honor of both her parents and Milton's parents. These funds are very much appreciated and we thank Mary and Milton Meier for their legacy to our community.

Web Site Has New Look. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation web site, www.occf.org, has a nice new look. All of the same great information is still there, including the Planned Giving Design Center, and everything should be easier to find. Central Oklahoma Charities has both alphabetic and subject indices as well as a new search engine feature. I invite you to visit www.occf.org and try it out.

June 10th Seminar. For attorneys, accountants, and other professional advisors, the June 10 Professional Advisor Seminar featuring Marcus Owens is filling fast. Owens will speak on Emerging Issues for Charitable and Tax Exempt Organizations. Continuing education credits will be available. There is no charge but registration is required. Go to www.occf.org for more details. The seminar will be held at Oklahoma City Community College.

Looking Forward. Fiscal year 2004, which ends for us on June 30, has been an exciting one with lots of growth and opportunities. As we approach the start of a new Oklahoma City Community Foundation year, we look forward to reporting to you on the status of our funds and programs.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. Anthony