

Christian K. Keesee



You could say that giving back to the community runs in Christian K. Keesee's blood. The grandson of John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick, founders of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, Chris witnessed at an early age the important role philanthropy played with both his grandparents and parents.

In addition to continuing his family's philanthropic support of the community by serving as chairman of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, Chris also serves as a Trustee of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and chairman of the Margaret Annis Boys Trust Committee. Through his own advised fund, Chris is an active supporter of numerous charitable organizations, such as City Arts Center.

"What appeals to me most about City Arts Center, is that it has become a place where art can be discovered in a completely non-intimidating way," explains Chris, founder, supporter and current board member of the organization. "A full range of art experiences can be explored by people of all ages and backgrounds in a welcoming and friendly environment."



Creative Communities

is about art education and yet much more.

Great Grants

For the hundreds of youth who live in Oklahoma City's public housing complexes, the innovative program is improving their quality of life and, for some, serving as a safe haven.

In 2001, City Arts Center was chosen as one of 20 agencies in the country to implement the after school program targeted at students living in public housing. Through year-round arts activities including drama, photography, ceramics and weaving, taught by professional artists and teachers, students are exposed to important life skills such as teamwork, commitment goal setting and problem solving techniques. Funded for the first three years by the National Endowment for the Arts, City Arts Center was able to continue the program thanks to a Fund for Oklahoma City Great Grant.

In 2005, several Creative Communities students designed and then painted a permanent mural at the Oklahoma City Zoo (*photo above*). For one of the artists, Shana McLaughlin, her involvement with Creative Communities has been life altering. "I have a good outlook on art and can now see how it could be one of my career choices," says the 16 year old who has participated in the program since its inception and now serves as a paid mentor. "I see myself now as a good role model who can show others that if I can go this far, then they can do anything."

The Fund for Oklahoma City allows us to support exciting programs such as Creative Communities. If you are interested in helping your community through the Fund for Oklahoma City, please contact Jennifer Stewart at 405/235-5603.

Helping Our Community

through a Great Grant.

Great Grants awarded through the Fund for Oklahoma City allow the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to assist organizations like City Arts Center continue innovative programming such as Creative Communities. Great Grants exists because thousands of donors have made gifts to the Fund for Oklahoma City with one charitable goal in mind: *helping their community.*

Thanks to its donors over the past 36 years, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has established itself as a charitable leader in central Oklahoma. We work with individuals, families and charitable organizations to create endowments for the benefit of the community. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation makes charitable giving *simple, flexible and forever.*

For more information on how you can help your community through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, contact us at 405/235-5603 or visit www.occf.org.



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Helping you help the community

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73101-1146



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