

Kirkpatrick Family Fund

Investing in the environment

For many years, John E. and Eleanor B. Kirkpatrick focused a portion of their philanthropy on programs that promoted community-wide beautification and the preservation of Oklahoma's rich heritage. As president of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund their grandson, Christian K. Keesee, has expanded this vision.

Through its environment focus area, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund is investing in positive programs that emphasis conservation, preservation and beautification. While these issues may seem dissimilar, each can have a positive or negative affect on our surroundings. Thanks to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, organizations are able to deliver programs that engage, educate and empower individuals to actively plan and care for their community's natural assets.

The range of recently funded projects illustrates the diversity of this focus area: Oklahoma City Beautiful teaches environmental responsibility to 3rd and 4th grade students through its Mother Earth program; a working territorial farm, the William Fremont Harn Gardens and Homestead preserves history for all ages by providing first-hand experience of what life was like more than 100 years ago; Preservation Oklahoma advocates and educates about the importance of preserving historic buildings and places that make communities and neighborhoods unique; and The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma conserves and restores Oklahoma's natural heritage through the establishment of preserves to protect the habitat needs of indigenous plant and animal life.

Through its environment focus area, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund is investing in programs that will ensure that future generations will have access to the unique assets of Oklahoma.

A Kirkpatrick Family Fund grant is helping The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma in its efforts to protect the Four Canyon Preserve in northwestern Oklahoma. The 4,000-acre preserve provides habitat for a number of rare grassland birds and reptiles as well as numerous rare indigenous plants such as the hedgehog cactus flower.

Photograph courtesy of The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma

