

# Heartland Foundation surpasses \$10 million in assets



**HEARTLAND CF BOARD AND STAFF-** The Heartland Community Foundation Board and staff pictured together at Hays Publib Llbrary

Happy 18th birthday to the Heartland Community Foundation! This week, the organization celebrates nearly two decades of inspiring local philanthropy — and the timing is extra special: at the close of fiscal year 2025 on June 30, Heartland surpassed \$10 million in assets for the first time, ending the year at \$10,271,155.25.

“Reaching this milestone is a moment of pride for everyone involved with Heartland — our donors, board members, staff, and the entire community,” said Sarah Meitner, Executive Director. “Every dollar entrusted to us is a vote of confidence in our local non-profits and a commitment to building a stronger future for our region. It’s exciting to celebrate both 18 years of service and the power of generosity coming together to make a real difference.”

During fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), Heartland granted \$691,954.80 to local non-profits and community organizations, supporting programs and initiatives across Ellis, Rooks, and Trego counties.

Now home to more than 140 funds and supported by nearly 725 donors in fiscal year 2025 alone, the foundation’s resources include an operating endowment of \$2,010,134.68, countywide unrestricted funds totaling \$3,919,532.90, and numerous donor-directed funds. Heartland offers six primary fund types to meet most charitable goals — including donor-advised funds, which can be a tax-advantaged vehicle for giving — as well as funds for individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and tributes. These tools make it easy for donors to give strategically, flexibly, and in alignment with their passions.

Since its founding in 2007 by 47 visionary donors, Heartland has grown into the region’s trusted resource for charitable giving. The foundation’s permanent and endowed funds are invested for long-term growth, allowing Heartland to provide reliable grantmaking and support for local nonprofits year after year. By taking care of the giving, Heartland allows nonprofits to

focus on what they do best — serving families, seniors, children, and neighbors across Ellis, Rooks, and Trego counties.

“Heartland is the hub for charitable giving in our community,” said Josh Dreher, Board Chair. “From education to healthcare, food security to community development, Heartland makes it easy for donors to amplify their impact. Every gift, whether large or small, is pooled, invested, and granted in a way that ensures it goes further and makes a lasting difference.”

The foundation’s work extends beyond grantmaking. Heartland inspires philanthropy by providing tools, resources, and expertise to help donors give in ways that are strategic, impactful, and aligned with their passions. Over the years, Heartland has granted nearly \$5.4 million back into the region, supporting a wide array of causes and programs that strengthen communities now and for generations to come.

As Heartland celebrates its 18th anniversary, the

foundation extends heartfelt thanks to its founding donors, current and past board members, staff, and supporters, whose vision and dedication have shaped Heartland into a permanent pillar of regional philanthropy. We also want to extend a special thanks to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, for their continued investment, match dollars, pass-through dollars, and other ways they have supported Heartland and the other county community foundations in Northwest Kansas. And, we extend a special thank you to the Greater Salina Community Foundation, our host community foundation, and their staff and board for providing administrative, strategic, and investment support to Heartland and the other affiliates. Together, we have created a vehicle for generosity that makes giving easy, accessible, and impactful for everyone, no matter the charitable passion.

For more information about the Heartland Community Foundation and ways to give, visit [www.heartlandcommunity-foundation.org](http://www.heartlandcommunity-foundation.org).

About Heartland Community Foundation

Since 2007, the Heartland Community Foundation has been dedicated to improving the quality of life in Ellis, Rooks, and Trego counties through philanthropy. An affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation, HCF connects donors with the causes they care about and ensures that local dollars stay local. By building and managing more than 140 endowed and non-endowed charitable funds for over 80 local organizations, individuals, businesses, and designated causes, the foundation am-

plifies generosity and helps nonprofits strengthen their programs and services.

Since 2014, Heartland has granted nearly \$5.4 million back into the region, supporting initiatives in areas such as education, healthcare, food security, community development, mental health services, and

more. Through fostering a spirit of generosity, providing expert stewardship of charitable funds, and creating long-term endowments, Heartland empowers communities to thrive now and for generations to come.

Learn more at [www.heartlandcommunity-foundation.org](http://www.heartlandcommunity-foundation.org).

Don't want to stay up late?  
Do you live in the country?  
Unsure about the weather?

Reserve a spot inside the Ellis Public Library to hand out candy and visit with the trick or treaters!

October 31st  
@ 2:30p -4:00p  
Call 785-726-3464  
to reserve your spot.

KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS ARE LOCALLY-ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FOR ELLIS & SCHOENCHEN CITY COUNCIL, USD #388 SCHOOL BOARD, ELLIS COUNTY ELECTED POSITIONS AND STATE AND US OFFICIALS

ELLIS CITY

DAVID MCDANIEL  
MAYOR OF ELLIS  
ELECTED IN: 2023

JOHN WALZ  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
ELECTED IN: 2023

DEVIN HENDERSON  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2023

TERRY ZERFAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2023

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 1ST & 3RD MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH, 6:30 P.M. AT ELLIS CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JOLENE NIERNBERGER  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2024

DAVA GASCHLER  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2024

MARTIN LABARGE  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2024

USD 388 BOARD OF EDUCATION

USD 388 BOE MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 6:30 P.M. AT ELLIS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

RANDY HONAS  
PRESIDENT  
ELECTED IN: 2023

AARON HONAS  
BOARD MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2023

MARTY HOLLERN  
BOARD MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2023

LATISHA HAAG  
BOARD MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2021

DEAN GOTTSCHALK  
BOARD MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2021

BRIAN SHANNON  
BOARD MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2023

BRANDON COMER  
BOARD MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2025

SCHOENCHEN CITY

SCHOENCHEN CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 P.M. AT THE SCHOENCHEN CITY BUILDING

KEVIN BIEKER  
MAYOR  
ELECTED IN: 2023

KYLE ZIMMERMAN  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2023

FRED FOLLMER  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
ELECTED IN: 2023

ELLIS CO. COMM.  
ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETS THE 1ST, 2ND & 3RD TUESDAYS OF EACH MONTH, 8:30 A.M. AT THE ELLIS CO. ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER - COMMISSION ROOM, 718 MAIN ST., HAYS.  
  
ALSO FOUND LIVE ON  
EAGLE CH. 14/614;  
NEK-TECH CH. 103  
OR GBT CH. 120

MICHAEL BERGES  
COMMISSIONER, DIST. 1  
ELECTED IN: 2022

NEAL YOUNGER  
COMMISSIONER, DIST. 2  
ELECTED IN: 2024

NATHAN LEIKER  
COMMISSIONER, DIST. 3  
ELECTED IN: 2024

ELLIS COUNTY OFFICIALS

SCOTT BRAUN  
SHERIFF  
ELECTED IN: 2024

AARON CUNNINGHAM  
ATTORNEY  
ELECTED IN: 2024

BOBBI DREILING  
CLERK  
ELECTED IN: 2024

VERNON RUDER, JR.  
TREASURER  
ELECTED IN: 2024

REBECCA HERZOG  
REGISTER OF DEEDS  
ELECTED IN: 2024

US HOUSE OF REP.

TRACEY MANN  
US HOUSE, KS-1  
DODGE CITY OFFICE: 620-682-7340

KS HOUSE OF REP.

KEN RAHJES  
DIST. 110  
EMAIL: KEN.RAHJES@HOUSE.KS.GOV

BARB WASINGER  
DIST. 111  
EMAIL BARB.WASINGER@HOUSE.KS.GOV

KS SENATE

RICK BILLINGER  
DIST. 40  
EMAIL RICK.BILLINGER@SENATE.KS.GOV

US SENATE

JERRY MORAN  
SENATOR  
HAYS: 785-628-6401

DR. ROGER MARSHALL  
SENATOR  
SALINA: 785-829-9000

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!  
CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TODAY!

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1880

Call the Review to get on the Railroader Train!  
(785) 726-4583  
review@gbta.net

City of Ellis Water Usage Report

Currently, Vegetation watering is prohibited from NOON-7:00 P.M. year round.

Date	Gallons
22-Sep .....	197,598
23-Sep .....	181,495
24-Sep .....	199,968
25-Sep .....	218,507
26-Sep .....	176,878
27-Sep .....	198,165
28-Sep .....	211,013

EVERY DROP COUNTS

Stats	Week	30-Day	Yearly
Max .....	218,507	257,439	419,238
Min .....	176,878	148,544	37,830
Avg .....	197,661	202,621	209,997

Whenever conditions indicate a drought, or some other situation is causing a water supply shortage, the governing body of Ellis is empowered to address the threat.  
Resolutions declaring the existence and end of the following three special water conditions are:  
•WATER WATCH voluntary reductions in water use will be recommended;  
•WATER WARNING restrictions on nonessential use of water will be implemented;  
•WATER EMERGENCY mandatory restrictions on water use will be imposed.  
Looking to save water in and around your home?  
Low-flow toilets, high-efficiency washing machines and water barrels for gardens & lawns are just a few of the many ways we can reduce, reuse & recycle!

Other helpful Community Information/Locations:  
"Municipal Burn Site, 900 East 8th"  
Ellis residents may dump tree limbs and brush.  
No wood, grass, tumbleweeds, leaves, construction waste, or other refuse are permitted.

Hours

Mon - Fri (Sept-May).....8:15 am - 4:45 pm  
Mon - Fri (June-August).....7:15 am - 3:15 pm  
1st & 3rd Saturday each month.....8:30 - 11:30 am  
Each Wednesday evening.....3:00 - 7:00 pm

MAINTAINED AND OPERATED BY THE CITY OF ELLIS

"Recycling Center, 900 East 8th"  
The recycling site accepts CLEAN:  
aluminum cans, steel (tin) cans, plastic jugs and bottles, telephone books, newspapers, catalogs and magazines, cardboard, batteries, mixed papers, and sheet paper.

Hours

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.....8:30 - 11:30 am  
1st & 3rd Saturday each month.....8:30 - 11:30 am  
Each Wednesday evening.....3:00 - 7:00 pm

There is an attendant on duty during service hours.

Ellis Police Dept. Call Log

Accepted until noon Tuesdays

**Sept. 22** Fall, 500 Blk W 3rd St; Disturbance Noise, 1800 Blk Maple St; Other Agency Assist, 300 Blk E 8th St; Electrical Hazard, E 13th St / Madison St;

**Sept. 23** Civil Matter, 200 Blk E 6th St; Animal Lost, 400 Blk E 11th St; Document Service, 300 Blk Monroe St;

**Sept. 24** Animal Other / Wildlife, 100 Blk E 9th St; Animal Found, 500 Blk E 13th St; Follow Up Activity, 500 Blk 13th St; Animal At Large, 1200 Blk Madison St; Document Service, 300 Blk Monroe St;

**Sept. 25** Community Contact, 900 Blk Washington St; Suspicious Activity, 900 Blk Washington St; Traffic Stop, 800 Blk Washington St;

**Sept. 26** 911 Hangup Call, 200 Blk Washington St; Follow Up Activity, 800 Blk Jefferson St; Standby Game, 400 Blk W 10th St; Animal At Large, 100 Blk E 12th St; Welfare Check, 500 Blk W 17th St; Disturbance General, 504 Jefferson St;

**Sept. 27** Traffic Complaint, 500 Blk Golf Course Rd; Fire Structure, 100 Blk W 4th St; Lock Out-Lock In, 1700 Blk Monroe St; Juvenile Complaint, E 6th St / Washington St; Community Contact, 500 Blk W 6th St; 911 Hangup Call, 200 Blk Washington St; Civil Matter, 1000 Blk Washington St;

**Sept. 28** Follow Up Activity, 800 Blk Jefferson St; Follow Up Activity, 200 Blk Washington St; Follow Up Activity, 800 Blk Jefferson St; Breathing Difficulty, 700 Blk E 12th St; Accident - Noninjury, 200 Blk Washington St; Animal At Large, 1900 Blk Maple St; Animal Other / Wildlife, 200 Blk Washington St; 911 Hangup Call, 300 Blk Jefferson St; Cattle Out, Antonino Rd / 130th Ave;

Next week's reports will begin with Sept. 29