

Hello, Neighbors!



It's time for another round of fund stories for inspiration! And this week, I'm stretching the definition of a "fund story" just a little. These examples show how people have used what they have—whether a business, retirement savings, or a memorial gift—to make a difference, and how charitable planning can help that impact continue well into the future.

Our first story comes from Greenville, North Carolina, where 83-year-old Eddie Smith Jr., longtime owner and CEO of Grady-White Boats, recently made an extraordinary decision about the future of the company he has spent nearly six decades building.

Rather than sell the company, despite reportedly receiving acquisition offers worth hundreds of millions of dollars, Smith transferred ownership into 501c3 structure designed to keep Grady-White independent permanently. Future earnings will be used to support charitable causes throughout eastern North Carolina, including conservation, education, and healthcare.

Smith had originally planned for his son, Chris, to someday take over the business, but Chris passed away from ALS in 2021. Faced with deciding what should happen to the company, Smith ultimately chose a path that would protect his employees, preserve the business he built, and create a lasting charitable

Fund Stories

By Savannah Downing, Trego Co. Development Director, Heartland Community Foundation

impact in the region he calls home.

I love this example because it challenges us to think bigger about what a charitable legacy can look like. It doesn't always have to be cash written into a will. Sometimes the asset you've spent your lifetime building can become the legacy itself.

Our second story comes from Cumby, Texas, where 70-year-old Robyn Yerian saw a very different need. She invested \$150,000 of her own retirement savings to purchase land and establish The Bird's Nest, a tiny-home community designed for women between the ages of 60 and 80.

The idea grew from a concern many older adults face: aging without family or a strong support system

nearby. Today, women living at The Bird's Nest have their own homes while also having something equally valuable—a community. They share coffee, responsibilities, friendships, and the security of knowing someone nearby is looking out for them.

What I find especially interesting is what could come next. An endowed fund could provide a permanent source of support for future repairs, improvements, or other needs at a community like this. Robyn's initial investment created the community; an endowment could help sustain it for generations.

And our final story brings us much closer to home.

Recently, the Ellis Public Library shared the story

Heartland  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
An Affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation

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behind its new electronic sign and the special person whose memory helped make it possible. Robin Henman was a longtime friend of the library who, along with her husband Perry, spent years changing the letters on the library's old marquee—a task Robin apparently had something of a love/hate relationship with!

After Robin passed away, her family chose to help provide the library's new sign. It's a fitting tribute that allows Robin's memory and her connection to the library to remain part of a place she cared about.

That gift also provides another example of where an endowed fund could take a beautiful act of generosity one step further. A fund established in Robin's memory could provide annual support to the Ellis Public Library indefinitely. Rather than one meaningful gift marking her legacy, her name could continue supporting a place she loved year after year.

These three stories are very different. One involves a company worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Another began with \$150,000 in retirement savings. The third is a family's heartfelt memorial gift to a local library.

But they all begin with essentially the same question: What do I have, what do I care about, and how can I use one to support the other?

Your answer doesn't have to look like anyone else's. Your legacy might begin with a business, farm-

land, retirement assets, a favorite organization, a community need you've noticed, or simply a place that has meant something to you throughout your life.

Sometimes all it takes is looking at what you already

care about and asking one more question: How could I make sure it continues?

The future of Trego County is in our hands! What's your legacy?

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at  
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•Word

"You b\*stard!"  
The judge continued, "You are also charged with beating your mother-in-law to death with a monkey wrench."

Again, the voice at the back of the courtroom yelled out, "You \*\*\*\*ing b\*stard!!!"

The judge stopped, looked at the man in the back of the courtroom, "You! the judge yelled while pointing a finger. "I can understand your anger

•Foftales

in those moments.  
As the newspaper industry shifts and changes in the new age of digital and accessibility at your fingertips, never forget the value of having a hometown newspaper with its doors still open in your community.

Although the phrase "newspapers are dying" seems to be rolling off of everyone's lips in recent years, I am here to say that may be so for some daily publications and online social media accounts, but is not the case for your little weeklies.

Our doors are still open for business, and we are still able to sustain our small news staffs so that we may continue to serve our communities.

What's the difference between a weekly and a daily, some ask, a newspaper is just a newspaper, right?

Wrong!  
Anyone can pick up a daily newspaper and get the same state-wide news that is seen in the vast majority of those publications. Same story, pulled off the wire, just a different daily on the masthead.

That's where your little weeklies have the advantage, and how we keep our edge in today's digital age.

and frustration at this crime, but will not have any more of these outbursts from you, or I shall charge you with contempt! Now what is the problem?"

At the back of the court, the man stood up and responded, "For 15 years I lived next door to that b\*stard. Every time I asked to borrow a \*\*\*\*ing monkey wrench, he said he didn't have one!"

**QUOTES**  
My second-favorite

**Continued from Page 2**  
household chore is ironing. My first being hitting my head on the top bunk bed until I faint.

– Erma Bombeck  
– I haven't spoken to my wife in years. I didn't want to interrupt her.

– Rodney Dangerfield  
**LET US HEAR FROM YOU**

Submit your observations or jokes to: word@mainstreetmedia.us or mail them to this publication.

**Continued from Page 2**

use throughout the community? Printed by the one and only, your local newspaper.

I could keep going, the list is endless. Envelopes and notepads and raffle tickets and posters...all the way down to the invites you got in the mail for Granny's 90th birthday party.

You need it, we print it! You need it distributed, we can mail it! You need it covered, we're there, camera on our neck and notepad in hand.

All to provide a necessary service to the community. To continue to support our local way of life, to grow our communities.

That's the difference that a little weekly newspaper makes that no other service provider can touch. We give you our efforts, our hours, our paper, our time...we give our communities our hearts.

We give our readers their lives, in black and white, every week, without fail. And we do so gladly, openly and with every bit of effort we can muster, to make sure our communities are informed. To make sure they continue to survive.

Now that's hometown service at its finest!  
*Nickole Byers*

*It's Due Time that you checked out the...*

**Adult Craft Series: Mosaic Coasters**  
Make and design your own tile mosaic coaster!

Saturday Sept 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-3:00pm  
in the Library Community Room  
Supplies are provided, but limited!  
Please RSVP by emailing Sharon at: director@wakeeneypubliclibrary.org

**WaKeeney Public Library**  
610 Russell Avenue • WaKeeney, KS • 785-743-2960

**HOURS**  
MWF.....1-5 P.M.  
TU.....9 A.M.-6 P.M.  
TH.....1-6 P.M.  
SA...9:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.  
~Closed Sundays~

**LODGES AND CLUBS**

**WaKEENEY FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES**  
eaglesaerie3774@yahoo.com  
Facebook: WaKeeney Eagles Aerie  
Meets Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 P.M. at the Eagles Lodge, 24090 40 Hwy  
President: Calvin Pfannenstiel  
Secretary: Vacant  
Ladies' Eagles Auxilliary meets at the same time.  
President: Beatrice Bauer  
Secretary: Vacant  
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**Moore Post No. 197 AMERICAN LEGION**  
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