

# LINDSBORG

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For Immediate Release  
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Lindsborg CVB

## **The Smoky Valley Community Foundation**

***"Enhancing the Quality of Life for Current and Future Generations"***

LINDSBORG, KANSAS - 08/09/2011 -

A community is only as strong as its members. The Smoky Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) is an enduring thread that connects a community overseeing its greatest needs and be a source of good works. "The SVCF is the perfect vehicle to insure the donations to your favorite charity will be professionally managed and invested."-Rebecca VanDerWege, Chairperson

The mission of the Smoky Valley Community Foundation is to establish endowments that enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by reinvesting in the Smoky Valley.

The first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio January 2, 1914 by banker and lawyer Frederick H. Goff. Mr. Goff conceptualized one place where benefactors could combine their resources into a permanent fund and from the interest accrued, grants for improving Cleveland's neighborhoods could be given. Proof that one person can make a difference, within five years Chicago, Boston, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Rhode Island and Buffalo had formed their own community foundations. Approximately 700 community foundations exist today in both urban and rural areas, and en masse command \$40 billion in assets while endowing some \$2 billion a year to various community needs. This concept has gone world wide in 37 countries with some 365 existing foundations.

Community foundations "provide a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving. [They] offer a variety of giving tools to help people achieve their charitable goals and create lasting good works in their communities."-from [communityfoundations.net](http://communityfoundations.net)

One of these is the Smoky Valley Community Foundation, established on March 5, 2002 in conjunction with the Greater Salina Community Foundation. A board of local volunteers was created to oversee funding and form an energetic, involved organization. Twelve original donors produced the initial funds. In assets, the foundation currently has 1.7 million. Twenty-five active endowed funds have been established to serve donor's charitable wishes. Anyone may donate any amount to these funds. To date, the SVCF has awarded \$642,000 in grants to assist the Smoky Valley

community.

Participating in GROW II, the Kansas Health Foundation's (KHF) second chapter of the Giving Resource to our World Healthy Kansas Initiative who will match funds up to \$300,000, SVCF plans to raise, with the community, over \$1 million. In March of 2013, SVCF will receive \$60,000 in matching dollars from the KHF to build endowments to underwrite solutions to local health issues.

SVCF has touched many lives. The Smoky Valley community can be proud of the gifts from many donors and the dedication of the SVCF board members that drive the Smoky Valley Community Foundation's continued success.

Past recipients are the Raymer Society for the Arts, Lindsborg City Band, Lindsborg Boy Scout Troop 120, Misdummer's Day Festival, The Children's Center, Marquette Fine Arts Council, Inc., Lindsborg Community Hospital, Bethany College and Riverview Estates, Inc.

For more information or questions on donating or any of the SVCF funds, please visit [smokyvalleycf.org](http://smokyvalleycf.org).

For event and travel information, call or stop by the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 104 E. Lincoln, Lindsborg, Kansas 67456. Ph: (785) 227-TOUR (8687) or Toll free: (888) 227-2227. E: [cvbdir@lindsborgcity.org](mailto:cvbdir@lindsborgcity.org). W: [visitlindsborg.com](http://visitlindsborg.com).

**See you in the 'Borg--A Destination For All Seasons!**

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