

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
— OF —
NORTHWEST MISSOURI

cfnwmo.org



From the President/CEO

We had an active and productive 2015! Here are the highlights:

In February Mike Thomson and Steve Maxey joined us as Marketing and Fund Development Directors. Mike works in the Northwest part of our 18 counties and Steve in the Eastern area. We found with the travel involved covering our region we were not adequately meeting the needs of our entire region. Mike and Steve spent 2015 speaking to individuals, groups, and schools about the Community Foundation.

In March, we received a USDA Rural Development grant partially funding listening sessions as part of our Regional Vitality initiative in the region. These were called "Join the Conversation". This work continued throughout the year.

In June, we received the Entrepreneurial Assessment completed for our region by Southwest Missouri State University. It outlined existing resources in the area for entrepreneurs as well as, shortcomings in that area.

In October, we had our first Alliance of Missouri Community Foundations Conference in Columbia. This organization, begun and coordinated by us, has been in existence since 2012 and meets on a regular basis. At the conference, we discussed ways the community foundation can work better together for the good of the state and philanthropy.

All in all, we had a great year working for our donors and the region! We look forward to an equally productive 2016!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary R. Hinde".

Mary R. Hinde

We believe in the power of philanthropy to unite and transform communities in Northwest Missouri

Our Staff



Stacey Helfery

Administrative
Director



Patti Schultz

Administrative
Assistant



Mike Thomson

Marketing & Fund Development
Director



Steve Maxey

Marketing & Fund Development
Director

2015 Annual Event

February 4th Tom Bloch served as our keynote speaker at our 4th Annual Event. Mr. Bloch spoke about the power of philanthropy and vision for the next generation. He spoke about the importance of giving back to the community, which are words he lives by.

Mr. Bloch was once in charge of the world's largest tax services provider, but it wasn't until he gave it all up that he felt fulfilled. The former CEO co-founded a public charter school in Kansas City teaching inner city students life skills and instilling an entrepreneurial mindset.

"I felt something was missing in my life and I was in a fortunate position that I could give back by becoming a teacher in the inner city. And I found it very fulfilling, very rewarding and there's just something to be said about helping other people when you have that opportunity," Bloch said.

He continues to teach 7th and 8th grade math at University Academy. It has grown from 200 students in grades seven through nine in its first year to over 1,000 students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The school moved into a new, \$40 million facility in 2005, and it became the first school in Missouri to receive a ten-year extension of its charter. Over the last five years, all but two graduates of the Academy have gone on to attend college, an almost unheard-of success rate for an urban school.

Mr. Bloch is the author of [Stand for the Best](#), a memoir about his journey from CEO to inner city teacher and school founder.



Left: Mary Hinde, President / CEO
Middle: Tom Bloch
Right: Karen Graves, Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumni Award



We would like to thank Karen for her dedication to the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri and the region!

Karen and Jim Graves moved from Salina Kansas to St. Joseph in 1992. In Salina, Karen served the community and state of Kansas on numerous boards and commissions. She was elected to the City Commission and served as the first woman Mayor of Salina. She was elected President of the Kansas League of Municipalities and served on the board of the National League of Cities. During Salina's Bicentennial year, the Salina Journal named Graves as one of 11 Salina citizens that most influenced the direction of Salina since its founding in 1858.

Graves St. Joseph community activities continued her belief in service to one's community. In the arts community, she has been President of the Allied Arts Council, President of the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Arts, and Founder of the annual Trails West! arts festival, and Chair of the St. Joseph Symphony Centennial Endowment campaign. She received the Mayor's award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts.

Graves was named 2013 "Woman of Excellence" for volunteer service and recently received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Missouri Western State University. She currently serves the University as a member of the Centennial Capital Campaign for the 100th Anniversary.

She was chosen to carry the Olympic Torch as one of 20 Community Heroes in 1996. Graves co-chaired the Millennium Commission in 2000, overseeing eight projects to usher in the new century. She was President of the Neighborhood Partnership – a 42 block redevelopment project in Midtown which was one of three projects that helped win St. Joseph the All-America City designation in 1996.

Karen has been a commencement speaker at 4 High School and College graduation ceremonies. Her college, Kansas State University, awarded her the Alumni Medallion in 2003 – an award given to two people biannually for service to community. She was number 49 to receive this award from an alumni base of over 150,000 graduates.

Regional Vitality Initiative

As part of our Regional Vitality initiative, we held listening sessions in the region called “Join the Conversation”. We coordinated six meetings where regional facilitators could present data around five subject areas:

Entrepreneurship
Education

Workforce Development
Quality of Life

Business Development

Then discussions were held in breakout sessions to find out what residents think our challenges and assets are.

Out of the six regional “Join the Conversation” meetings came themes that have been consolidated and vetted through two regional meetings called Caucuses. These will help guide the course of Regional Vitality toward its desired outcome.

It was agreed by all our regional citizens we can best maximize potential when our communities strategically plan and work together on developing eco and economic systems that benefit all, but are too difficult for any one community. The Regional Vitality initiative is intended to support the Northwest Missouri citizens and leaders in creating sustainable systems supporting regional collaboration that drives regional philanthropy and prosperity.

The Regional Vitality effort is turning its attention to a system thinking approach to focus on how best to help the people of Northwest Missouri access their desired brighter future. The Regional Vitality team continues to meet and is now focusing on laying out the collective information from the “Join the Conversation” sessions considering existing data to prepare a concept paper discussing next steps. This document will be used by the team to seek funding for the next steps of the process.

These baseline capabilities are needed to move the process forward:

1. **Communication System**, both internal and external, to be developed especially for those working together throughout the region. This platform will also enable us to tell stories of what is occurring across the region and to disseminate data and other information that may encourage others.
2. **Region Profile** to build a common understanding of conditions in the region to be used as a decision-making platform by the communities of the region
3. **Research and data platform**, again to build common understanding of our opportunities and threats to be used as a decision-making platform by the communities of the region
4. **Boundary Spanners** are teams with diverse background and geographic representation to evaluate specific data sets to assess specific opportunities and threats that may be too difficult or expensive for a community, but is addressable together.

The Regional Vitality Initiative will dovetail with the Communities of Excellence 2026 to grow regional leadership capabilities, community leadership capabilities, and to develop a regional system of communication. This system will be used to address the challenges of the region and capitalize on the strengths of the region.

The desire of the Regional Vitality effort is to enhance existing programs and possibly create new ones by introducing a region wide systems approach to discuss issues. This then can be utilized or capitalized on at the local level. Thinking regionally and acting locally will bring about a heightened awareness of collaborating to bring about desired effects. The tangible outcome of this type of collaboration could be: increased number of jobs, more entrepreneurs and growing businesses. It might be a heightened quality of life brought about by increased economic development. Both outcomes will lead to increased charitable giving and philanthropy to further fund growth and prosperity.

Financials

Assets....\$20,250,825
Contributions....\$1,024,858
Operating Expenses....\$210,519
Grants....\$1,397,775

Funds

The Community Foundation administers several different fund types to meet your charitable giving needs.

Donor Advised - 22

Designated - 2

Field of Interest - 39

Scholarship - 54

Organizational - 19

Total - 136

We would like to thank our many donors who have given back to Northwest Missouri through their funds. It is through their generosity we will make Northwest Missouri a viable region!

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Cfnwmo.org



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