



Fall 2011 | Newsletter

## Community Foundation of the Ozarks

### Five New Members Join CFO Board of Directors

The CFO wants to welcome five new members to its Board of Directors. Each will serve a three-year term on the 21-member Board. Their terms began on July 1.

**Richard Cavender** retired in June after serving as executive director of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission in central Missouri for 32 years. He was a founding member of the Meramec Regional Community Foundation, which joined the CFO in 2010.



Richard also was named to an At-Large seat on the Executive Committee. He and his wife established the Richard and Jeanne Cavender Scholarship Fund to award to students in the Meramec region.

**Dr. Chris Craig** is the director of the College of Education at Drury University. He has been actively involved in the CFO's Rural Schools Partnership program and has worked, in particular, with the Ozarks Teacher Corps, which offers scholarships to teacher education majors who commit to teaching in rural districts after graduation. He previously worked at Missouri State University and Springfield Public Schools.



**Rob Foster** has served as the president of the Marshfield Area Community Foundation since 2006. The MACF, established in 2005 to serve the Webster County community, now holds assets of \$428,195 as of June 30. A Marshfield businessman, Foster also agreed to serve as Chair of the CFO's Scholarship Committee, which determines the CFO-administered scholarship awards. Rob also is a member of the Legacy Society, which recognizes donors who have made planned gifts to benefit their communities.



**Karen Miller** was a longtime educator for Ozark Public Schools before her retirement. However, she continues to be actively involved in the schools as the volunteer sponsor for Ozark's Youth Empowerment Chapter of high-school philanthropists. Karen was a founder of the Finley River Community Foundation, which surpassed \$1 million in assets this year, and has served on the FRCF Board for 10 years, including seven as president.



**Jami S. Peebles** is Executive Vice President and Southern Regional Manager for Central Trust and Investment in Springfield and brings more than 20 years of Ozarks region banking experience to the Board of Directors. She also has been a longtime advocate for the CFO's planned giving initiatives and is a member of the CFO's Professional Advisors Council. She and her husband, Tom, underscore their commitment to planned giving as members of the CFO's Legacy Society.



### CFO Unveils Capacity-Building Initiative

The Ozarks Empowerment Project, one of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks' major board-identified initiatives for 2011-12, was unveiled in August at the annual Agency Partners Luncheon. CFO invited panelists from participating organizations, identified as top minds in their specific fields, to discuss some of the specific elements of the multi-pronged initiative, which focuses on building stronger non-profit agencies and communities across the Ozarks.

The elements of the initiative include:

- **Strengthening Our Communities:** Two affiliate communities will be chosen for this year-plus program, developed in collaboration with the Missouri Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- **The Learning Community:** This program will offer intensive training and customized technical assistance to 10 non-profit partners over a 10-month period. Led by X-Factor Consulting, it will include four one-day group workshops and onsite, one-on-one coaching sessions.
- **Center for Non-Profit Communication:** A partnership with Drury University aimed at training staff and providing resources for non-profits. Drury is offering the region's first master's degree in non-profit communication and its students will be available to work with non-profits on community projects.
- **Workshops and scholarships,** through programs like GO-LEAD and GOLD at Missouri State University, to help agency partners realize their full potential.
- **An online "crowd funding" tool** to help reach



Rebecca Cash of the Willow Springs School Foundation accepts an Agency Partner Endowment Building Grant from CFO Chairman Cliff Brown.

new donors in the age of social networking (currently in development in partnership with the Springfield-based Marlin Company, a nationally known marketing and advertising firm). Also at this year's Agency Partner luncheon, grants of \$1,250 were presented to eight agencies for marketing materials designed to promote endowment building for their programs. Those agencies are: the East Newton R-6 Charitable Fund; Good Samaritan Boys Ranch; the Kimberling Area Library Association; Sigma House; the Springfield Ballet; the Tri-County Pregnancy Resource Center in Aurora; the Willow Springs School Foundation; and the Urban Neighborhoods Alliance in Springfield.

To learn more about the Ozarks Empowerment Project, and to download a brochure, please visit [cfozarks.org/oep](http://cfozarks.org/oep).

### New Cycles Expand Competitive Grants

The CFO is offering several new grant cycles with an overall increase of more than \$80,000 for competitive grantmaking during the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Altogether, some \$562,000 will be available for competitive grant opportunities for non-profit service providers and schools across the CFO's region. Grants are available in three general categories: Metropolitan Springfield; Ozarks Regional; and the Rural Schools Partnership.

The CFO will still offer \$125,000 for Community Response Challenge Grants tied to the red-flag issues; the 2011 report will be released in early October. Those grants will require 1:1 matching funds to be raised by Jan. 31.

The new grant rounds include:

- \$50,000 for Early Childhood proposals to support services focused on children ages 2-5, with an emphasis on "best practices" for quality childcare and/or appropriate school-readiness programming.
- \$50,000 for Community Innovation proposals. Possible topics could include environmental, sustainability or community development

issues, as well as any other emerging community needs.

- A Senior Issues grant cycle in which the CFO plans to partner with outside community agencies to offer programming assistance for senior citizens in Greene County. More details about this partnership will be announced after Jan. 1.

For the CFO's rural communities, the Coover Regional Poverty Grants will award up to \$127,500 for \$10,000 to \$20,000 grants that support new or innovative non-profit programs aimed at fighting rural poverty. These grants are made possible through the Louis L. and Julia Dorothy Coover Charitable Foundation Regional Grantmaking Program, which is a partnership between the CFO and Commerce Trust Company.

For more information about the CFO's competitive grantmaking programs, visit: [www.cfozarks.org/grants](http://www.cfozarks.org/grants); or contact Randy Russell, Senior Program Officer, at [russell@cfozarks.org](mailto:russell@cfozarks.org) or (417) 864-6199. Information about the RSP grants is at: [www.ruralschoolpartnership.org](http://www.ruralschoolpartnership.org); or contact Coordinator Julie Leeth at [jleeth@cfozarks.org](mailto:jleeth@cfozarks.org); or (417) 864-6199.

# Message from the Chairman

The summer of 2011 came and went at the CFO with no lull in activity and now we're preparing for a busy fall as the 2012 Action Plan gets underway and our work continues on other issues as well.

It's little wonder the summer stayed busy – a quick review of several of our year-end numbers shows why. Behind every gift and every grant and distribution, there is a process that needs to take place to support, record, acknowledge, invest and manage those funds. When the 2011 fiscal year ended on June 30, more than 12,500 gifts had been made – nearly 4,000 more than the prior year. And 3,940 grants and distributions went out the door in FY11, more than 1,000 over the prior year. We also established a record 268 new funds, up from 231 the year before.

The trajectory that took place over the past year was a result of some unique circumstances that likely won't be repeated in a single year again. Several significant bequests were realized; the CFO is serving as custodian for some national rural schools grants

monies; and the devastation in Joplin is an event we all hope never to repeat. But I'm looking forward to continuing the momentum developed over the past several years during my service as Chairman of the Board for 2011-12. I want to thank my predecessor, David Pointer, for his contributions and service during his year as Chairman, particularly in advancing the goals of our Rural Schools Partnership program.

Our Action Plan for 2012 coincides with a new strategic plan developed by the Board over the past year. You'll see several of the items in the Action Plan don't focus directly with collecting or distributing dollars to communities, but on providing leadership to make communities stronger in other ways. That is, and always has been, a part of our mission. The following outlines the key goals we'll undertake in the coming year:

- We will develop and implement the Ozarks Empowerment Project, which is a multi-faceted initiative to build capacity and offer training and development for both the staff and volunteer leadership of our non-profit agency partners and affiliates. You can learn more about this initiative on the front page.
- We will implement the South-Central Student Leadership Initiative. This continues an FY11 goal to create a leadership opportunity for rural students through a pilot project in the West Plains region. By the end of the last school year, students from nine schools were selected and participated in an initial meeting at the MSU-West Plains campus. Several more sessions are planned during the new school year to carry out the first-year pilot project.
- We will develop strategies to make more systematic visits to affiliates, agency partners and schools. We find that more communication with these partners leads to great ideas, energy and motivation to work on our mutual goals.
- We will continue our efforts to develop new donors with a goal of opening 25 Family & Community, Corporate or Giving Circle funds over the coming year. We believe these types



CFO Chairman Cliff Brown

of funds are a great way for philanthropically minded families, companies and professional or social networks to become engaged in our communities.

- We will continue the Funders Forum, which was reinstated last year, to bring together private and family foundations in our community to share ideas, priorities and learn about needs that may be addressed through philanthropy.
- And, we will implement strategies to ask our board members to become involved on more levels with the CFO; we hope to "cross train" board members who may serve on one committee with the work being done by other committees. We couldn't exist without our volunteer leadership and we want to make their service as fulfilling as possible for our directors.

So, as you can see, there is no shortage of activity planned in the months ahead. Community-based philanthropy is alive and well as part of the spirit of self-reliance that defines our region. I look forward to the CFO's leadership role in making a difference across the Ozarks.

## 2011-12 Executive Committee

- Chair: Cliff Brown, an attorney at Carnahan, Evans, Cantwell & Brown, PC
- Vice-chair: Jill Reynolds, vice president at Commerce Trust
- Secretary: Shari Hoffman, senior managing advisor, BKD Wealth Advisors, LLC
- Treasurer: Roger D. "Dusty" Shaw, rancher and businessman, Thomasville, Mo.
- At-Large member: Dr. Gloria Galanes, professor of communications, Missouri State University; and
- At-Large member: Richard Cavender, retired from Meramec Regional Planning Commission

## Summer Brings Affiliate Leadership Changes

### CFO recognizes outgoing presidents, welcomes the new

Summer often features some changes among the affiliate volunteer boards, including in the position of president. Eight affiliates have changed leadership since earlier this year. The CFO sincerely thanks the outgoing presidents, as well as all the volunteers who serve their communities on affiliate foundation boards, for their work. We want to welcome our new presidents and board members and appreciate your willingness to step into new leadership roles.



Randy Howard

**Aurora Area Community Foundation**  
Outgoing: Randy Howard  
Incoming: Scott Pettit



Sarah Adams Orr

**Finley River Community Foundation**  
Outgoing: Sarah Adams Orr  
Incoming: Janis Creek



Connie Johnson

**Table Rock Lake Community Foundation**  
Outgoing: Connie Johnson  
Incoming: Jim Holt



Chalee Crouch

**Eldon Community Foundation**  
Outgoing: Chalee Crouch  
Incoming: Trevor Vernon



Stanley Coggin

**Republic Community Foundation**  
Outgoing: Stanley Coggin  
Incoming: Cyndy Muench

**Benton County Community Foundation**  
Outgoing: Lesli Hill  
Incoming: Randy Eaton

**Hickory County Community Foundation**  
Outgoing: Walter Darling  
Incoming: John Kelly

**Oregon County Community Foundation**  
Outgoing: Gary Cross  
Incoming: Brenda Ledgerwood

# 150 Years in the Making

## The Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation Honors the West's First Battle



*Soldiers march in formation across the grounds at the Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation's re-enactment celebration of the battle.*

Non-profit partners of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks throw a lot of events that attract a lot of people year after year. That said, none of them can claim to be as long in the making as the three-day re-enactment staged by the Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation in August.

The non-profit organization was founded in the 1960s and has, over the years, been the primary supporter of the National Parks Service-operated battlefield. Over the years the foundation has purchased multiple tracts of land that were important to the battle (Wilson's Creek currently owns upward of 70 percent of the battle's total study area, or area of historical interest), and also has helped build and stock one of the finest Civil War libraries in the entire National Parks system. The foundation has several funds with CFO, which contributed to the orchestration of the re-enactment this summer.

The battle's historical context is one of the more

under-appreciated of the entire war. It was the second major battle of the Civil War (after First Manassas/Bull Run) and arguably the most important one west of the Mississippi River. The battle and its aftermath helped fix Missouri's position (or lack thereof) throughout the war, and it featured the first death of a Union General — up-and-comer Gen. Nathaniel Lyon — at Bloody Hill. Overall, more than 2,500 casualties were recorded in several hours of fighting, making it (briefly) the single deadliest military land action ever to occur on American soil.

But the re-enactment — held on land just north of Wilson's Creek, because re-enactments by law can't be held on federal land — was more about celebrating history than lamenting the casualties. The three-day festival featured craft displays, food and drink, period music and dress, 1860s-style baseball games and more.

The Foundation incurred numerous expenses — some unanticipated that went into making the weekend a success.

"We used some of our funds with the Community Foundation to promote the re-enactment and to secure the land and complete site preparation for the spectator areas, re-enactor camps, and battle scenarios," said April McDonough, executive director of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation.

Re-enactment Chairman Jim Cox, also a WCBF board member, said one particularly sudden expense during the almost two years spent planning the event came just this spring with the construction of a



*A sturdy wooden bridge was among the major projects financed by the Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation leading up to the re-enactment. The structure will remain on the private property.*

permanent wooden bridge over Wilson's Creek. In the past, the Foundation had rented temporary bridges from the U.S. Army or the National Guard. But the Army's bridges had been destroyed in a tornado at Fort Leonard Wood and the Reserve's bridges were in use in flooded areas in eastern Missouri.

"Had we not had all these natural disasters, it wouldn't have been a problem," Cox said. "As it was, it was many, many thousands of dollars."

By the time the re-enactment wrapped, tens of thousands of people had walked the grounds and any net proceeds will go toward continuing to grow the battlefield's footprint and offerings, with a portion likely re-invested with CFO, said McDonough.

### More Civil War

Another major southwest Missouri event this fall, the Missouri Literary Festival, also focused on the sesquicentennial of Wilson's Creek and the Civil War. Held Sept. 23-25 at the Creamery Arts Center and Jordan Valley Park, speakers included "Gods and Generals" author Jeff Shaara, Dr. Bill Piston and many others. Learn more at [missouriliteraryfestival.org](http://missouriliteraryfestival.org).

### Finley River Board Shows Leadership in Legacy Giving Challenge

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks awarded the Finley River Community Foundation a \$2,500 grant for achieving 100 percent board participation as Legacy Society members who have committed a planned gift in their will or estate to benefit their communities.

The foundation has earmarked \$1,000 of the \$2,500 grant for its food pantry participating in the Ozarks Million Dollar Hunger Challenge II to receive Walmart State Giving Foundation matching funds, FRCF President Janis Creek said.

The Legacy Leadership Challenge, which ended June 30, was a campaign to encourage Community Foundation of the Ozarks affiliates to lead by example in joining the Legacy Society. The Finley River Community Foundation's 16 new Legacy Society members were the most among CFO's 43 affiliates. All current board members are now Legacy Society members.

"The 100 percent participation of FRCF's board members in the Legacy Society Challenge goes to their commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Ozark and eastern Christian County through community service, charitable

giving and endowment building," said Creek, who recently became president following Sarah Adams Orr, who led the FRCF when the challenge began.

The new FRCF Legacy Society members are: Dr. Cindy Baker, Jackie Barger, Margie Beadles, Brian Cathey, Carole Collins, Janis Creek, Susan Haralson, Joseph L. LaBarge, Jr., Karen Miller, Randy Mitchum, Mark & Sarah Orr, Kathryn Owens, Bill & Debbie Phillips, Tom & Patti Tobin, John Torgerson and Mark Woods. This brings the total number of FRCF Legacy Society Members to 19. Go to [www.cfozarks.org/finley-river/](http://www.cfozarks.org/finley-river/) to view a full list of Legacy Society members and to learn more about the FRCF.

The Community Foundation of West Plains, Inc., the Community Foundation of Southwest Missouri, Inc., and the Nixa Community Foundation equally split the other \$2,500 in unrestricted grant funds for the challenge of recruiting new community members to join the Legacy Society.



*Janis Creek*



# "He was just gone"

## The Tornado's Wrath Claimed Will Norton, But His Legacy Survives

**A**s Mark Norton lay broken in a crowded, chaotic operating room, Dr. Rex Peterson leaned in close to tell him the morphine supply was depleted and he was going to experience more pain than he'd ever known as the surgeon prepared to re-set the bones protruding from his left leg.

But it hardly compared to the even more exquisite pain a week later when Pastor Aaron Brown had to lean in again at Mark's hospital bedside in the pre-dawn hours to tell him his son Will's body had been positively identified after a frantic week of friends, family, strangers and search teams looking for the popular Joplin teenager who vanished into the twister.

An aspiring director whose career was kickstarted with more than 2 million views of his prolific YouTube videos, Will Norton was headed to a prestigious film program at Chapman University near Disneyland. He'd traveled to 34 states and 15 countries, and was learning to fly. His tennis team went to state finals and he went to leadership programs like Boy's State; he was just at one in Washington, D.C., when Bin Laden was killed and he joined the throngs outside of the White House.

"He was always just a great kid to be around. He made good choices, he never gave us a moment's worry," Mark says. "He was a good student. He volunteered his time. He made friends easily because he was real considerate."

**I**n what became one of the most dramatic stories in the tornado's aftermath, TV viewers, newspaper readers, Facebook and Twitter users the world over would follow the search for Will that began on May 22 with father and son driving home, toward a party waiting for the new Joplin High School graduate. After the ceremony at Missouri Southern, Mark had sent his wife, Trish, and daughter, Sara,

ahead and said he'd ride with Will. The blaring storm sirens had stopped; radio reports said weather was hitting Carl Junction to the north and they were heading south.

They were about five blocks from home, when the initial throes of the EF5 engulfed Will's Hummer H3, the sturdiest of vehicles, his parents thought, when they'd considered a car for Will. The pressure blew the windows out as they pulled over near Schifferdecker and Sunset Street to hunker down, Mark's arm pressing against his son. As Will prayed aloud, the storm's rotation raised and rolled the Hummer, and his seatbelt snapped. When it landed and the blackness cleared, Mark was pinned inside battered, but conscious. Will was gone.

"I called for him and he didn't answer," Mark says. "You think life's kind of over at that point. You pretty well know you've lost your son. I didn't know if my house was destroyed, too. I was having problems breathing. I can't even say I was afraid to die, even though I thought I was going to. You look over and your son's gone and that's all you can think about, really."

A stranger soon found Mark and rescuers arrived with the Jaws of Life to free him; they applied a tourniquet to his ripped arterial bicep, stapled his torn scalp and loaded him into an ambulance. The paramedics stopped to pick up more storm victims, eight or 10 in all, as dazed survivors helped push debris from the path they cut around downed power lines and through residential yards.

Sara, who returned to the University of Arkansas this fall as a senior studying finance, had been on

the phone with Mark as the storm hit the car. She thought she knew about where they would be as the celebration became a search party. Mark's sister found the car two or three hours later and it was hours more before Trish and Sara found Mark, by then in surgery at Freeman Hospital. When they finally saw him in recovery, Trish fainted.

Mark's initial fears that Will couldn't have survived being sucked into the swirling debris gave way to a semblance of hope in the following days blurred by more surgeries, morphine and hazy consciousness. Searchers scoured the massive debris, tracked leads, and checked hospital logs across several states, buoyed by various descriptions of a young man, without ID or unconscious, who might have been admitted or transferred at one distant hospital or another. Anything seemed plausible in those surreal first days. They even dredged several private ponds near the area where Mark and Will had pulled over and the SUV eventually landed, about 300 feet apart.

On day five, the debris having settled in the water, they dredged once more; this time they recovered a young man's body, identified via dental records as Will Norton. A cousin serving as the family's contact called Pastor Aaron Brown, who left for the hospital to tell Mark.

Mark recalls a later conversation where he tried to explain to Pastor Brown the loud, clear, but unusual mix of prayers, scripture and praise he heard Will reciting as they roiled in the storm.

"There have been one or two other instances of that from other families," Brown says. "I think in those moments something supernatural began to happen."

## Joplin Tornado: By the Numbers

**22** = Specific funds established for Joplin tornado relief to support everything from rebuilding the city's parks and planting trees to corporate benevolence funds at Joplin businesses to help employees.

**4,219,835.85** = Dollars, as of Sept. 15, donated to those 22 funds since May 23, the day after the EF5 tornado hit Joplin.

**2,796** = Number of individual gifts made to CFSWMO/CFO funds for Joplin tornado relief

**162** = Number of people killed by the tornado or in its aftermath

**300** = businesses lost in the tornado

**8,000** = homes lost



**270,000** = Dollars donated to the Joplin Schools Recovery Fund from the auction of Sheryl Crow's vintage 1959 Mercedes SL convertible. The singer/songwriter (and Missouri native) donated the car, which was sold by Gooding & Co. during the prestigious Concours de Elegance auto auction in August. Sheryl generously added an autographed

guitar, concert tickets and more. Gooding & Co., also made a contribution, along with the buyer — who wishes to remain anonymous — who wrote a matching \$130,000 donation to the School Recovery Fund in Crow's Name.

**500,000** = Dollars donated to the Joplin Tornado Recovery Fund by the Jolie-Pitt Foundation, created by Kickapoo graduate Brad Pitt and his partner, Angelina Jolie.

**10** = Campuses of Joplin Public Schools damaged in the tornado, with four likely total losses, including Joplin High School



God wanted to reassure family members that it's okay, he's with me and I'm real and I want you to have hope."

**J**oplin High School teacher Kristi McGowan, who spoke at Will's memorial service, says he had a maturity and empathy uncommon in a typical teenager.

"He always thought about the other person and that's what was so neat about Will," she says, recalling how he'd pick up donuts for class, bring his car around so kids wouldn't get wet in the rain, take food to a classmate who was sick. "He always wanted everyone to have their moment. That's why everybody was his friend. I had him in class twice a day for a whole year and never heard him say anything negative. Never did I hear Will Norton speak a bad word about anybody."

She also admired how much he appreciated his close family, speaking highly of his parents, eager to talk about family vacations. "He lived a full life. With Will, there were just no regrets."

For the memorial service — held two weeks after graduation day — Mark was able to leave the hospital in a wheelchair, and then go home to continue healing his 15 broken bones, torn and infected scalp and bicep injury.

"I didn't have internal damage like so many people did," says Mark, who returned to his job as manager of the Great Southern Travel office in Joplin on July 1. "It was all structural. Compared to what a lot of people had, I really wasn't that bad."

On his way home from the service, he got his first look at the devastation to his native Joplin. It shook him, he says, to compound his family's personal tragedy with the enormous scale of the community's loss. Still, he is resolute about Joplin's future.

"It's fortunate that not more people died when you think about it," he says. "It could have been thousands. When you look at the complete devastation of these homes, I don't know how anybody in that path could really survive. But yes, Joplin will be back — no doubt."

And, in a sense, so will Will. The Nortons attended an August ceremony at Chapman University where a presidential scholarship was named in his honor. Another scholarship fund established through the Community Foundation of Southwest Missouri, Inc., will help other aspiring Joplin media students. The Facebook page set up to track his search still has

more than 50,000 followers. Donors are supporting the Humane Society and Samaritan's Purse in his name. More than 87,000 have watched his sister and best friend Sara's perspective of the tragedy on YouTube.

"Nothing's going to replace him, of course, but it helps to know these are things Will's going to be proud of," Mark says. "He'd want us to continue to find ways to help and give back."

The Nortons' friends, family and faith help sustain them. As Pastor Brown says: "They are grieving deeply, but they also are able to see the good that has come about through this."

Mark describes Trish, whom he married 25 years ago in October, as taking things one day at a time while planning to get back into volunteer work and possibly teaching: "She cried every day just when she found out he was going to go 2,000 miles away to school."

"The good news is we don't have regrets," he says. "It does help knowing that he knows we loved him. We told him that every day. We tried to protect him. We bought him the safest car we could think of ... but he was only meant to be here 18 years. It's just that the kid had so much future and he's not being able to finish up life like he could have done here on earth. You always have these questions of why. It's not our job to question why; it's our job to have faith."

## Memorial Scholarship

The Norton family established the Will Norton Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor their son. The first scholarship will be awarded next spring to a Joplin senior interested in pursuing Will's passion for a career in film, TV or media.

Anyone interested in supporting the scholarship fund can donate online at: [www.cfozarks.org/donate](http://www.cfozarks.org/donate), or by sending a check noted for this fund to: Community Foundation of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 8960, Springfield, MO, 65801.

To learn more about Will's life and story, visit his sites: [youtube.com/will](http://youtube.com/will); [facebook.com/findwillnorton](http://facebook.com/findwillnorton); [twitter.com/willdabeast](http://twitter.com/willdabeast)



**3,000,000,000** = Estimated damage, in dollars, to the town

**151,000,000** = Estimated damage, in dollars, to Joplin Public Schools property

**25** = percentage of the city destroyed by the tornado

**75** = percentage of town damaged by the tornado

**22.1** = Miles the tornado traveled on the ground, start to finish

**5** = Strikeouts tallied by Boston Red Sox pitcher Clay Buchholz on June 3. Clay, whose wife, Lindsay, lived in Joplin, donated \$500 for each strikeout, plus an additional \$3,000, to the Joplin Recovery Fund. The Boston Red Sox Foundation matched that \$5,500 donation and added the sale of gift bags to

fans, resulting in a donation of \$24,199 from our friends in Massachusetts. (Note: Springfield, Mass., was hit by its own series of tornadoes on June 1.)

**3,000,000** = cubic yards of debris created by the tornado

**65** = percentage of debris that has gone to a landfill

**35** = percentage of debris that was organic and has been disposed of

**299,980** = dollars awarded to Joplin area non-profit service providers in the first round of Joplin Recovery Fund grants.



## 18 Agencies Receive First Joplin Recovery Grants

In early September, the Community Foundation of Southwest Missouri, Inc., awarded the first round of Joplin Recovery Fund grants totaling about \$300,000 to 18 non-profit agencies.

A community-based subcommittee of the CFSWMO Board had to narrow more than \$900,000 in requests for the \$300,000 approved for this first grant round. A second grant cycle is expected to be announced for this fall. The grants were awarded to non-profit agencies either directly affected by the May 22 tornado, or those experiencing increased caseloads.

Support for these grants was provided by private donations to the Joplin Recovery Fund, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the Tulsa Community Foundation and the Minnesota-based Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.

**Ozark Center for Autism** - \$25,000 to serve 50 children and teens.

**Joplin Habitat for Humanity** - \$8,000 to support the construction team working to build 10 homes for tornado survivors.

**Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Missouri** - \$9,950 for child-care "scholarships" and transportation costs to assist 20 families.

**Legal Aid of Southwest Missouri/Joplin office** - \$25,000 for paralegal staffing costs to assist more tornado survivors with legal issues.

**Community Clinic** - \$20,000 to provide 20 counseling clinics and 10 group sessions for uninsured tornado survivors.

**Jasper County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)** - \$25,000 to support needs for families not covered by FEMA, insurance or other resources.

**Joplin Family YMCA** - \$11,700 for assistance in providing childcare for infants to two-year-olds displaced by tornado.

**Community Support Services** - \$24,330 to rehab and make ADA-accessible replacement housing for group home residents.

**Carl Junction Education Foundation**

- \$25,000 for weekend food backpacks, schools supplies, and staff training to support displaced Joplin students.

**ARC of the Ozarks** - \$10,000 for support of new space to replace office destroyed by tornado.

**Preferred Family Health Care** - \$15,000 to assist families in visiting their teenage children in residential substance-abuse programs who were relocated to other Missouri cities after tornado.

**Salvation Army** - \$25,000 to support case management services to tornado survivors.

**House of Hope** - \$15,000 to support counseling and mentoring to teens affected by tornado.

**Duenweg Fire Department** - \$10,000 to maintain fire staffing and equipment.

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters** - \$6,000 to support training and activities for mentoring program after facility destroyed in tornado.

**Independent Living Center** - \$15,000 for support and services to assist tornado survivors.

**Children's Haven** - \$25,000 to help provide a safe play environment for displaced children.

**SPIVA** - \$5,000 for programming to sustain art therapy for children affected by tornado.





*Chadwick students and teachers already are starting to enjoy a new deck and herb garden completed this summer with support from a \$19,989 Coover grant.*

## Coover Grants Pay Off for Schools, Students

Each spring, the Rural Schools Partnership awards a number of Coover Place-Based Education grants, which are designed to get students directly involved in their communities through school-based research, service and entrepreneurial projects.

And now, several of these projects are coming to fruition for their communities. During the past summer, educators (and students!) were hard at work putting the finishing touches on their projects. Among them:

- Students in Hollister finished a project using 2010 Coover Grant that turned an unsightly flood zone on high-school property into a gorgeous outdoor classroom area called "Tiger Springs."
- In Chadwick, the school has now completed a multi-level deck and herb garden, which replaces a former gravel-and-grass space between buildings. The outdoor classroom garden will be used in classes from kindergarten to high school biology, and the space can be enjoyed by all. The intent is also to study the medicinal and edible benefits of Ozarks herbs.
- Finally, in St. James, the local Youth Empowerment Project team has put the final touches on the Firehouse Coffee Shop. In just a few months they have turned an abandoned fire station across the street from the school (leased from the city) into a coffee hangout for students and citizens alike. The students plan to hold future summer concerts to generate grantmaking funds for the YEP chapter.

You can read and learn about all of these projects — including two short documentaries on Hollister and Chadwick produced by CFO summer intern Charlie Bentley — at [ruralschoolspartnership.org](http://ruralschoolspartnership.org). Just go to the website and enter "Coover" in the search bar to find the stories.

This program is made possible through the Louis L. and Julia Dorothy Coover Charitable Foundation Regional Grantmaking of Commerce Trust Company.

The deadline for 2012 Coover Place-Based Education grants is March 2, 2012. For information, or to apply online, visit: [ruralschoolspartnership.org/grants](http://ruralschoolspartnership.org/grants).

## Funk Promoting RSP Principles in New Role

Former CFO President Gary Funk is now leading the new Center for Midwestern Initiatives to expand the concepts of the Rural Schools Partnership across a broader region of the country.

The Center is a program of the Rural School and Community Trust, which has partnered with the CFO on the Rural Schools Partnership and the Ozarks Teacher Corps programs. Funk is working to replicate programs developed at the CFO in a region that will initially include Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, and South Dakota, all of which have strong rural-education networks.

The common goal involves promoting place-based education, which encourages connections between rural schools and the communities they anchor by instilling a commitment to their culture and heritage among students and educators.

Since its founding, the Rural Schools Partnership has created a network of more than 100 rural schools in southern Missouri, developed more than \$4 million in charitable assets to support rural education, and built the Ozarks Teacher Corps, a scholarship program to return teacher-education graduates to rural communities.

"We will work with colleges in those states that have expressed interest in these concepts and share our goal of recruiting and preparing strong teachers for rural communities," said Funk, now a Senior Fellow with the RSCT. "We also will work with communities to develop school foundations and build philanthropic assets, which are increasingly important to support schools."



Lauryn Albrecht



Albert Bryant



Jessica Joiner



Morgan Mais



Whitney Packwood



Melissa Payne

## Back to School for First OTC Graduates

This fall's bustle of back-to-school activity includes the first group of graduates from the Ozarks Teacher Corps returning to school as new teachers who will be leaders and advocates for rural education.

Six students are the first graduates to complete the program, which provides \$4,000 annual scholarships for teacher-education majors who want to commit to teaching in a rural district for at least three years after graduation. During their time in the Ozarks Teacher Corps, they also receive additional training, hands-on experience and national rural education networking opportunities through their participation in the program.

**Lauryn Albrecht**, a Drury University graduate from Republic, is teaching communication arts at

Pleasant Hope Middle School.

**Albert Bryant**, a Drury University graduate, is teaching math in his hometown at Everton High School.

**Jessica Joiner**, a Drury University graduate, is teaching pre-school at the Joel E. Barber C-5 School near her hometown of Lebanon.

**Morgan Mais**, a Drury University graduate from Marionville, is teaching kindergarten at Monett Primary School.

**Whitney Packwood**, a Drury University graduate, is teaching third grade at Marionville Elementary School near her hometown of Billings.

**Melissa Payne**, a Drury University graduate, is teaching first grade in her hometown at Sparta Elementary School beginning this fall.

Joiner

said she believes her OTC

experience

helped prepare

her to hit the ground running as she set goals for her first year.

"I want my students to have a very firm foundation that will allow them to enter kindergarten ready to excel," she said.

The Ozarks Teacher Corps program is made possible by the Chesley and Flora Lea Wallis Trust, a \$1.7 million Community Foundation of the Ozarks charitable fund, and also supported by the Henry J. and Lucille J. Straus Scholarship Fund.



# Grant Report

The ongoing discretionary community grantmaking program of the CFO and its affiliate community foundations is funded with distributions from unrestricted and field-of-interest funds earmarked for specific communities or foundations. Grants listed below were made from June 1 to Aug. 30, 2011.

<b>Bolivar Area Community Foundation</b>	
Care to Learn - Bolivar grants for student needs	\$2,329.75
<b>Bourbon Community Foundation</b>	
Supplies to support American Legion project	\$1,000
<b>Community Foundation of Southwest Missouri, Inc.</b>	
Joplin R-8 School District, Bright Futures program	\$2,500
Amelia Piano Trio performance	\$1,000
Benevolence Funds: Tornado Damage Assistance	\$552,604.49
Benevolence Funds: Medical Expenses	\$1,090.91
<b>DACO Community Foundation</b>	
Dadeville R-II schools, computer mice	\$250
Greenfield Public Schools, National FBLA expenses	\$250
Greenfield Youth Athletic Soccer field	\$250
OACAC - Dade County Neighborhood Center, Reall Project	\$250
Dadeville R-II School District, scholarships	\$250
Greenfield R-4 Schools, scholarships	\$250
Everton R-III Schools, scholarships	\$250
<b>Dallas County Community Foundation</b>	
Dallas County Betterment Association, SW MO Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games	\$1,000

Buffalo Rotary Club, Davis and Mallory Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
Dallas County Betterment Association, Joplin relief	\$1,000
<b>Douglas County Community Foundation</b>	
CHART Project	\$1,000
Ava Art Guild, operating funds	\$2,000
<b>El Dorado Springs Community Foundation</b>	
Doc and Bonnie Bender Scholarship Fund	\$1,250
<b>Finley River Community Foundation</b>	
Care to Learn - Ozark student needs	\$14,000
<b>Community Foundation of the Hermann Area, Inc.</b>	
Services to support cancer patients in need	\$10,340.04
<b>Jacks Fork Community Foundation</b>	
Mountain View Family Youth Center	\$2,000
<b>Community Foundation of the Lake</b>	
Share the Harvest Food Pantry & Resale Nook	\$467
<b>Marshfield Area Community Foundation</b>	
Services to provide dental care	\$732.12
<b>Monett Area Community Foundation</b>	
Ozarks Regional YMCA building campaign	\$5,000
<b>Mt. Vernon Area Community Foundation</b>	
Mt. Vernon Community Betterment Assoc., Arts Council pavilion construction	\$1,758
<b>Nixa Community Foundation</b>	
Nixa R-II School District, school supplies	\$356.54
<b>Oregon County Community Foundation</b>	
Hirsch Feed and Farm Supply, Inc., supplies	\$198.64

<b>Ozark County Community Foundation</b>	
Ozark County Historium, Inc. Building Fund	\$2,500
Expenses associated with swimming lessons for kids	\$885
American Micro, microfilm preservation	\$368.85
<b>Republic Community Foundation</b>	
Care to Learn - Republic student needs	\$6,813.43
Republic High School, band director's podium	\$500
<b>Greater Seymour Area Foundation</b>	
Dollywood Foundation, cost of books and postage	\$3,474.51
Seymour Senior Citizens Center, challenge grant	\$2,500
Seymour Elite YEP Endowment Fund	\$1,000
<b>Ste. Genevieve County Community Foundation</b>	
Ste. Genevieve County Community Foundation Scholarship Fund	\$16,000
<b>St. James Community Foundation</b>	
St. James Sports Club, scout lodge building project	\$2,000
<b>Table Rock Lake Community Foundation</b>	
Kornerstone, Inc., scholarship	\$500
<b>Community Foundation of Taney County</b>	
Christian Action Ministries, children's clothing	\$250
OACAC - Branson, School Readiness Fair	\$500
Junior Auxiliary of Taney County, Snacks In Packs	\$300
Options Pregnancy Clinic, education	\$225
Crisis Center, support group materials	\$300
Church Army USA Branson, GED materials	\$125
Branson Fire Department, Lifenet	\$200
<b>Willard Children's Charitable Foundation</b>	
Willard Children's Health and Dental Fund	\$11,851.70
Willard Children's Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund	\$6,091.66
Willard R-II School District, special needs transition house	\$5,000

# CFO Calendar

- OCTOBER 4**  
Ozarks Teacher Corps visit to Leeton, all day
- OCTOBER 6**  
Regional Meeting at St. James (Meramec), 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- OCTOBER 14**  
Metro Springfield Grant applications due
- OCTOBER 19**  
Executive Committee, CFO boardroom, Noon Board Meeting, CFO boardroom, 3:30 p.m.
- OCTOBER 20**  
Youth Empowerment Project Annual Conference, Drury University, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- OCTOBER 21**  
Rural Schools Partnership Conservation grant applications due
- NOVEMBER 4**  
Metro Springfield Early Childhood Grant Applications Due
- NOVEMBER 16**  
Executive Committee, CFO boardroom, Noon
- NOVEMBER 24-25**  
CFO offices closed for Thanksgiving
- DECEMBER 7**  
Humanitarian of the Year luncheon, Doubletree Hotel
- DECEMBER 14**  
Executive Committee, CFO boardroom, Noon Board meeting, CFO boardroom, 3:30 p.m.
- DECEMBER 26**  
CFO offices closed for Christmas holiday

## 3 Affiliates Join CFO's Million-Dollar Club Lockwood, Aurora, Finley River All Celebrate the \$1 Million Milestone

Volunteers and donors from the Dade County community of Lockwood celebrated the Lockwood Community Foundation reaching the landmark threshold of \$1 million in assets with a July luncheon.

Affectionately known as "Million Dollar Babies," Lockwood joins 13 other CFO affiliates in the \$1 million-plus category. The Lockwood Community Foundation received a \$500 Unrestricted President's Grant for reaching the milestone.

The Aurora Area Community Foundation and the Finley River Community Foundation also reached the milestone earlier this year and received the President's Grants.

In Lockwood, CFO president Brian Fogle opened the luncheon, held at Lockwood's Roy E. Carr American Legion Post, with a few words, followed by a delicious lunch of beef brisket, potatoes, green beans, salad, bread and blackberry cobbler. Afterwards, Fogle thanked the Lockwood volunteers, donors and board, particularly foundation stalwarts and co-founders Fred and LaRue Lemons, for doing very big things in a small town.

"One million is a huge achievement for anybody," Fogle said. "You're successful because of people like you, who want to make a difference and want to leave something behind."

Fred Lemons - who is currently board president - then honored the board members in attendance, and shared some of the story of the foundation's origins.

"We were going to try and do it ourselves," he said. "But someone told me: 'You don't want to get mixed up with a bunch of lawyers ... it'll take years!'"



Members of the Lockwood Community Foundation board at the luncheon celebrating their \$1 million status.

### Million Dollar Affiliates (assets as of June 30)

Community Foundation of Southwest Missouri:	\$11,146,619.27
Community Foundation of Taney County:	\$3,381,308.69
Truman Lake Community Foundation:	\$2,603,054.18
Aurora Area Community Foundation:	\$2,461,618.79
Willow Springs Community Foundation:	\$2,637,934.00
Dent County Community Foundation:	\$2,068,894.47
Nixa Community Foundation:	\$2,006,845.32
Table Rock Lake Community Foundation:	\$1,851,723.22
Crawford County Foundation:	\$1,511,976.00
Greater Seymour Area Foundation:	\$1,465,815.33
Monett Area Community Foundation:	\$1,348,701.35
Bolivar Area Community Foundation:	\$1,278,526.76
Lockwood Community Foundation:	\$1,135,318.96
Finley River Community Foundation:	\$1,064,113.08

# CFO News in Brief



Springfield Sister Cities Association Coordinator Cindy Jobe traveled to Isesaki, Japan, in the late spring for a trip that had been delayed by March's devastating earthquake and tsunami. In the meantime, though, Ozarkers donated more than \$54,000 to the SSCA's fund at the CFO, so Jobe presented a check to Isesaki Mayor Kiyotaka Igarashi for tsunami relief efforts. While Isesaki wasn't directly affected by the catastrophe, the SSCA felt that Sister City leaders there would be better able to target the funds toward relief efforts.



Friends, colleagues and family members of retired City Utilities General Manager John Twitty donated to a fund created to honor his years of service to Springfield. At a June retirement reception, CFO President Brian Fogle, right, presented Twitty with a ceremonial check for more than \$23,000 to start the Twitty Charitable Fund.

## CFO Welcomes Matt Lemmon to Staff

Matt Lemmon joined the CFO staff as a communications specialist on July 1.

Before joining the CFO, he worked for Whitaker Publishing for the past six years, most recently as the Digital Director for its flagship publication, 417 Magazine. Prior to that, the Ozarks native worked for the Christian County Headliner and the Springfield News-Leader.

Lemmon has a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's of business administration, both from Drury University. He and his wife, Nichole, a teacher at Central High School, have a baby daughter, Harriet. He will work on the CFO's communications and marketing efforts with Louise Knauer, with a focus on electronic, web and social media development.



## "Flights" Highlights 10 Weeks Festival

The second annual Flights of Fancy at the Springfield-Branson National Airport raised \$3,455 toward the final tally of \$10,305 for the "10 Weeks Festival" supporting the Care to Learn Fund and the Arts Education Endowment Fund.

This year's event included the Springfield Regional Arts Council's annual Ozzie Awards, where Virginia Bussey, center, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her many contributions to the local arts community.

A variety of Springfield arts groups entertained the 200 guests, including several stray "Cats" from Springfield Little Theatre's production and Kim Crosby, top, with Sean Spyles and Traci Pritchard performing on behalf of SRO Lyric Theatre.

Sign up for our monthly e-mail updates. Just send a request to [mlemmon@cfozarks.org](mailto:mlemmon@cfozarks.org) or call us at (417) 864-6199.

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**OUR MISSION** | The Community Foundation of the Ozarks is committed to working with donors, Agency Partners and regional affiliate foundations to strengthen our region through asset development, grantmaking, public leadership and collaboration.

Forging a Strong Link  
Between Donors  
and Community Needs.