

# WFACF UPDATES

Volume 27/ 3rd Quarter 2023



## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of life in the Wichita Falls area through the promotion and support of charitable giving.

## STAFF

Leslie Schaffner—President  
Julie Looper—Program Mgr.  
Leslie Petersen—Office Mgr.  
Becky Schroeder—Finance Coord.  
Lori Knight—Program Clerk

Email: [wfacf@wfacf.org](mailto:wfacf@wfacf.org)

Phone: 940.766.0829

Address: 2405 Kell Blvd. Ste.100  
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, I want to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued relationship with the foundation. Your charitable commitment in our community is making an incredible difference in the lives of many and serves as the cornerstone of our mission to enhance the quality of life in the Wichita Falls area through the promotion and support of charitable giving. Because of you, critical programs, local nonprofits, and pressing issues are being addressed, leaving a lasting impact on countless lives.

As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded of the power of kindness and the joy that comes from giving. Your contributions not only provide essential resources but also create a sense of hope and unity that is needed now more than ever.

We look forward to continuing our work together in the coming year. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey and for your remarkable commitment to positive change.

Wishing you and yours a joyful and peaceful holiday season.



## NEW FUND HOLDERS

At WFACF we like to put the focus on **COMMUNITY!** Every fund holder and charitable investment makes our **COMMUNITY** stronger!

We are excited to welcome the following fund holders to the WFACF family.

Donor Advised Funds  
Shallenberger Trust  
John and Sheryl Barton

## YEAR END TO-DO'S:

- Grant requests for year-end giving should be received at the foundation or through the donor portal no later than **December 26th**.
- Gifts into a fund for 2023 must be received by noon on **December 29th**.
- Check out our Community Partnership/Nonprofit Needs at [wfacf.org/donate](http://wfacf.org/donate)! Open Nov 21 - Dec 31.
- As you are planning your year-end giving, please consider including a gift to WFACF.

## SCHOLARSHIP SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!

Scholarship applications for 2024 will go live on December 1! If this seems a little earlier than usual—it is. To better accommodate students, the application opening date was moved a month earlier, to provide time for students to work on their application during the Christmas break. That means the deadline for receiving applications is now February 1.

If you know a high school senior or college student who could benefit from a little help with their college expenses, please encourage them to visit the WFACF website at [www.wfacf.org](http://www.wfacf.org) and apply.

WFACF is home to 65 scholarship funds. Many funds award multiple scholarships annually and/or multi-year awards. In 2024 over 150 scholarships will be eligible to award!



Again, applications are open December 1 through February 1.



## NOTE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It is hard to believe that fall is upon us, and the holidays are right around the corner. As 2023 ends, so does my time as board chair and board member. I have learned a great deal, and as board chair for the past two years, have had a front row seat to all the wonderful things that are happening at the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation.

In the last two years, WFACF has awarded just under \$1.1 million in scholarships to local students. Through Texoma Gives the foundation facilitated a one day giving event that bolstered our area nonprofits with over \$3.7 million in donations. And through the foundation's continued support of our volunteer fire departments, the foundation grant cycle, and fundholders donations, a total of \$11.1 million has gone back into our community! That is in just two years with two months still in 2023!! Now that is amazing! But, while that is worth celebrating, our future is even brighter.

In 2024 the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. What started as a need recognized by Robert Priddy has turned into a foundation that has granted over \$110 million into our community. Now that calls for a celebration!! Plans are already in the works for an anniversary party in the fall and you are all invited. So, keep your eyes peeled for more information in the coming months.

It has been such an honor and privilege serving as board chair. The work that is done by the staff and board, and the generosity of fundholders, makes our community a better place to live. Now we must continue the work that was started in 1999, so the needs of our community are met in the next 25 years.

Thank you,  
Denise Moffat  
WFACF Board Chair 2022-2023

### Community Partnership – OPEN Nov 21–Dec 31!

Check out the "Nonprofit Needs" list in the Fund Advisor Portal or on the Donate page at [wfacf.org](http://wfacf.org). Each program/project listed is submitted by area nonprofits to WFACF through our Community Partnership Grant Cycle. If an organization fits your passion, we invite you to partner with WFACF in fulfilling their needs.

### TEXOMA GIVES – IT'S A WRAP!

Through your generous giving, and 1000s of others, Texoma Gives 2023 raised \$1,692,230 to help support the valuable work of 231 nonprofit organizations in the region! This year's giving day on September 7th pushed the 8th annual event past the \$11M mark in total funds raised since 2016. Almost 5,600 donors made 9,386 gifts to support their favorite organizations and causes.

Also, a special thank you to those of you who supported our three WFACF funds. Together, over \$20,000 was raised for the Volunteer Fire Department Fund, the WFACF Scholarship Fund and for the foundation's fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



## LUNCH AND LEARN CONTINUES

Last quarter we introduced you to our new Lunch and Learn opportunities. These monthly gatherings are the perfect way to learn more about the foundation and the benefits it provides for charitable-minded individuals like you. The conversations have been great and educational for all!

If you haven't been but are interested, it's not too late. Come have lunch with us—and bring a friend who might also be interested in learning more about how the foundation might fit into their charitable giving plan. It only takes an hour, from noon until 1 p.m., and we provide lunch!

To make a reservation, call 940-766-0829 or email us at [lschaffner@wfacf.org](mailto:lschaffner@wfacf.org). Lunch and Learns are the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Lunch & Learn Dates:

December 13

January 10

February 14

### Do you need to make a distribution from your IRA?

By donating to WFACF through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) you can support a cause you care about while possibly reducing your taxable income.

Please contact us for more information!

## ONE DONOR'S STORY

Sarah was a successful businesswoman and had always been passionate about giving back to the community. Over the years, she generously supported various causes, but she said something was missing. She wanted a more structured and meaningful approach to her charitable giving.

Sarah's interests led her to explore the option of establishing a charitable fund at the foundation. She realized that this approach offered several benefits. We helped her identify pressing local needs which aligned with her values and together helped her devise a comprehensive giving strategy.

By creating her donor-advised fund, Sarah obtained an immediate tax deduction for her significant contribution, allowing her to support her favorite causes while reducing her taxable income. Also, she decided to contribute appreciated stocks, further leveraging the tax advantages, as there were no capital gains taxes to pay.

The foundation's support was instrumental, handling the paperwork streamlining the grant-making process and ensuring her donations reached the most deserving nonprofits in a timely manner. With the foundation's guidance, Sara has been able to make a lasting impact on the causes that matter most to her.

By focusing her giving through the community foundation, Sarah has found the structure and meaning she had been looking for. Her giving now holds more significance for her and provides a substantial benefit to the organizations she holds dear.



## NEED A SPEAKER?

If you are part of a group or organization that provides programs during member meetings, please pass our name along to the program chair. We love opportunities to speak to groups about the great things going on at WFACF. To get on the schedule, contact us at 940-766-0829.