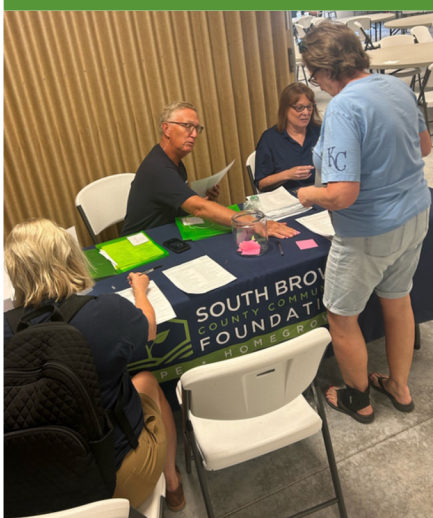


SOUTH BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



THE CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter



RECORD-BREAKING MATCH DAYS 2025!

By Ivy Stone

“To improve the quality of life in South Brown County by increasing charitable giving, educating, and connecting donors to community needs.”

The South Brown County Community Foundation (SBCCF) celebrated its most successful “Grow South Brown” Match Days yet during the Brown County Fair, July 15–17, 2025. Community members and friends of the community gave a record-breaking \$155,694.27 in donations, a 35% increase from the previous year.

This year’s event saw 209 donors rally behind 42 local nonprofits, demonstrating the community’s strong commitment to giving back. Donations poured in through in-person giving, online contributions, and mailed gifts—making philanthropy accessible for everyone.

(continued)

"Our community has once again shown incredible generosity," said Steve Chartier, SBCCF's Board President. "Each year, we see more people giving, more organizations supported, and more lives touched by the ripple effects of Match Days."

A highlight of this year's event was the introduction of the "Growing Up Giving" model, which empowered local 4th, 5th, and 11th grade students of USD #430, and the students of Armor Academy, to become young philanthropists. Participants received \$100 from SBCCF to direct to a fund of their choice. The students proudly presented "big checks" at the event, showcasing that philanthropy isn't just for adults, but philanthropy is a value the next generation is eager to carry forward.

Leading up to Match Days, SBCCF hosted a fundholder workshop and a "Meet Our Nonprofits" event that gave fundholders the opportunity to share their missions with the community.

The Patterson Family Foundation once again played a key role, contributing \$50,000 in matching funds that boosted community giving. Patterson awarded SBCCF an additional \$50,000 grant specifically to establish the foundation's first-ever operating endowment, advancing long-term sustainability. Local businesses and individuals also stepped up as matching sponsors contributing \$34,500, making 2025 the most financially abundant local match yet.

The impact of Match Days extends well beyond the three-day event. In 2024, SBCCF's record-breaking match inspired the creation of 10 new funds, including two endowments. This year's growth is expected to strengthen that momentum, creating opportunities for new initiatives and long-term support for causes across South Brown County.

SBCCF's Executive Director, Ivy Stone, said, "Match Days are about more than raising money. We are building a culture of generosity. Together, we're shaping a stronger, more connected South Brown County."



On a bright, sunny day, the SBCCF Board and Director proudly walked in the 2025 Brown County Fair parade, carrying their Match Day banner along the route.

In addition to Match Days, community energy carried into a special collaborative meeting hosted by SBCCF on July 22 at Horton High School. Many community members came together—local leaders, civic groups, nonprofits, and grassroots volunteers, so much so that extra chairs had to be brought in. The room was filled with optimism and determination, as neighbors united around a shared vision of reviving and renewing the community.

SBCCF board members, Sarah Gerving and Dr. Rebecca Kramer, and director, Ivy Stone, led attendees in a focused, positive discussion about partnerships, shared goals, and new grant opportunities. Attendees were also invited to participate in an online community survey, designed to capture the voices and ideas of residents to guide the next steps for community improvement. The group will meet again in October. Please check the SBCCF Facebook page for updates.



SBCCF is an affiliate of the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation, a leading 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to growing philanthropy and supporting Kansas communities.



South Brown County Community Foundation thanks the following generous Match Days Sponsors for \$84,500 in matching dollars:



LEGACY PARTNERS
\$10,000 & Above

PATTERSON



VISIONARIES
\$5,000 - \$9,999

**Amy Haddad
& Steve Martin
Charitable Fund**



ADVOCATES
\$1,000 - \$4,999

**Anonymous
Donor**

**Dennis & Lynda
Ross**



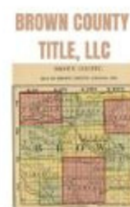
**Gil & Michele
Crouse**



**Mitch & Sarah
Gerving**



FRIENDS
\$500 - \$999



Jason & Ronda Smith



WINDOW BOX COTTAGE
Home Decor, Linens, Furniture & Antiques

PATTERSON FAMILY FOUNDATION VISITS SOUTH BROWN COUNTY

PATTERSON



The Patterson Family Foundation (PFF), based in Kansas City, Missouri, is a family-led foundation honoring the legacy of Neal and Jeanne Patterson. Guided by its mission, “Working together to help rural communities thrive,” the foundation invests in rural counties (currently 119) across Kansas and western Missouri through strategic grantmaking and collaborative initiatives.

PFF has been a major supporter of SBCCF since 2022, playing a critical role in the foundation’s growth and impact. Their generosity has included supporting three of SBCCF’s Match Days, for a combined total of \$190,000 in matching dollars; providing salary for SBCCF’s executive director position; and donating \$50,000 for SBCCF to establish an endowed operating fund that promotes long-term sustainability.

In late September 2025, SBCCF was honored to host Marissa Larrimore, Program Officer for PFF. Marissa led a thoughtful discussion with SBCCF board members Steve Chartier (President), Dr. Rebecca Kramer, and Director Ivy Stone, along with community members Maxine Rice, Elaine Salverson, Corey Scott, and Michelle Larson.

The conversation focused on key elements that contribute to rural prosperity, including volunteerism, community pride and investment in the next generation. In addition, attendees discussed challenges to rural prosperity, such as childcare, healthcare and housing.

SBCCF was honored to welcome such generous partners who traveled to South Brown County to see firsthand the impact of their support, and to listen with genuine interest to South Brown County’s strengths and challenges in rural Kansas.



MUSINGS FROM A MATCH SPONSOR

with Amy Potts & Marc Pisacka/Union State Bank



Hello Amy and Marc! Thank you for taking some time to sit down with South Brown County Community Foundation on behalf of Union State Bank. What are your roles at the bank, and how long have you served there?



Amy: I grew up outside of Bendena, KS in Doniphan County and graduated from Midway High School. I then went on to Missouri Western where I received my B.S. in accounting. Following that, I studied at Benedictine College where I received my MBA. I began my career with Union State Bank as a part-time teller 25 years ago. I have held several positions at the bank, but currently I am the COO/Cashier, a position I have held for the last 3 years.

Marc: I serve as the Vice President of Lending at Union State Bank – Bank of Horton. In this role, I manage a broad portfolio of lending services, including consumer, agricultural, and commercial loans. As of September 1, 2025, I have been with the bank for nine years. I was raised on a farm and ranch in Gering, Nebraska, and hold a bachelor's degree in finance from Chadron State College in Chadron, NE.

“What core values guide Union State Bank in the way you support both your customers and your team?”

Amy: Our mission at Union State Bank is to cultivate the communities we are part of through great relationships. We are committed to helping each community and the people within grow and thrive.

Marc: In addition, we value the balance between preserving our legacy as a community-focused financial institution and embracing innovation to better serve our customers. Our core values—Trust, Education, Integrity, Commitment, Diversity, and Teamwork—guide every decision we make and every relationship we build.



Union State Bank has been a faithful and generous local supporter of SBCCF's Match Days Fundraiser. Please share why the bank has chosen to invest in this effort.

Marc: We believe in actively reinvesting in the communities we serve to help them grow and thrive. As residents of these same communities, we are deeply committed to supporting their prosperity through both our banking services and our community involvement.

Amy: Supporting local causes boosts the entire community. By providing Match Day funds, we are able to maximize the benefit everyone receives with our donation. My office is at our Everest location and many Everest Funds have benefited from the Match Day to make improvements around town. The most recent and notable improvement is the construction of the new fire station by the Friends of the Everest Fire Department.

Will you please share anything you'd like about your family, hobbies, etc.?

Amy: I am the proud parent of a daughter and a son who attend ACCHS. They both are part of the Cross Country Team and participate in activities with our church. My daughter is also involved in Cheer Team, Dance Team, and several other school organizations. They keep us busy most of the time.

Marc: My wife, Melissa, and I have raised our family in the USD 430 school district, and our youngest currently attends Everest Middle School. We enjoy spending time together as a family, working in the yard or garden, and simply being at home. When I'm not outdoors, I'm usually in the shop working on cars, woodworking, or diving into research for my next project.

Thank you for your time and conversation! We are deeply grateful for the professionalism and commitment Union State Bank brings to our community, as well as your generous support for our mission as well.



FUNDS IN ACTION

MISSION LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP OF HORTON FUND

by Ivy Stone



Mission Lake Christian Camp exists to build faith and character through life-changing experiences for youth and adults. Each summer, the camp welcomes students from elementary through senior high and also hosts retreats for women, men, and teens throughout the year.

At SBCCF's recent Match Days fundraiser, the Mission Lake Christian Camp Fund received \$6,129.57 in donations, along with a 50% match, for a total of \$9,194.35. Plans for use of funds include finishing the building of a fishing dock, laying driveway gravel, refurbishing picnic tables and shelters, and repairing siding.

For a list of all SBCCF funds, visit our website at www.southbrowncountycf.org.





FUNDS OF THE FOUNDATION

ANIMALS

Brown County Humane Society SBCCF Fund

COMMUNITY/CIVIC

Brown County Fair Fund
Civic Center Fund
Horton Chamber of Commerce Fund
Horton Fish and Game Association Fund
South Brown County Community Foundation Fund

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Everest Community Park Maintenance Fund
Everest Improvement Fund
Horton Industrial Development Inc (HIDC) Fund
Mission Trails Fund
Powhattan Beautification & Improvement Fund
Reinvent Horton Community Development Inc Fund
SBCCF Charitable Purpose Grants Fund
Willis Betterment Fund

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES/CHARITIES

Church of the Lord Jesus Christ Renovation Fund
Fearfully & Wonderfully Made Fund
Heart of Horton Fund
South Brown County Ministerial Association Fund
St. Leo's Catholic Church Fund
Zion Lutheran Church- Everest KS Fund

EDUCATION

Armor Academy Fund
Charger PTO Fund
Everest, KS Public Library – Barnes Reading Room Fund
Horton High School Alumni Association Fund
Horton Public Library Fund
USD 430 Activities Fund

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Amberwell Health Fund South Brown Fund
Amberwell Hiawatha Health Fund
Kanza Mental Health South Brown County Fund
NEK Friends of Hospice Fund
NEK Home Health and Hospice Fund
South Brown County Health & Wellness Fund

MEMORIAL

Danny J. Petersen Memorial - MOH 1970 Fund
Keith Olsen Memorial Fund

PUBLIC SAFETY

Friends of Everest Fire Department Fund
Powhattan Fire Department & Public Safety Fund

SCHOLARSHIP

Carlita Pederson Music Education Fund
Chargers Bright Future Goins Family Scholarship Fund
Highland Community College Foundation Horton Fund
Norman Ross Memorial Scholarship Fund
Pottroff and Logan – Shop Door Scholarship Fund

SENIOR CITIZENS

Horton Senior Center Fund

YOUTH RECREATION

Everest Little League Fund
Horton Community Baseball Fund
Mission Lake Christian Camp of Horton Fund
Willis All-Stars 4-H Club Fund

NEW SBCCF OFFICE & PODCAST AT HORTON HIGH SCHOOL



SBCCF is thrilled to announce that Room 209 at Horton High School is now our official office space! We are deeply grateful to USD 430 for this generous in-kind donation, and we look forward to giving back to students and families in return through our programs, partnerships, and continued community investment.

This fall, SBCCF is also launching its first podcast! We are excited to open a new channel for connection—sharing our story, encouraging philanthropy and promoting volunteerism across South Brown County.

A special thank-you goes to Felix Jiminez, Digital Marketing Coordinator at the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation, who guided Ivy through selecting the right equipment and traveled to Horton to help with setup. We also thank Christie Woods, business education teacher at Horton High School, for installing our new vinyl wall sign that gives the office a nice touch.



GIFT OF GRAIN - LESLIE SCOBY

Affiliate Liason, Greater Manhattan Community Foundation



For generations, farmers have invested in the land to grow strong harvests for their families, but did you know that your crops can also significantly grow a stronger South Brown County? The Gift of Grain program offers local farmers a unique way to give back while also unlocking significant tax savings.

This program has been around for years, and SBCCF is excited to highlight it once again. Local elevators have been notified and will provide donation forms, making it simple to participate. For a donor who is actively engaged in farming on a cash basis, donating grain directly to the South Brown County Community Foundation, or any public charity, can be far more beneficial than donating cash.

Here's how it works: the farmer donates grain at the grain elevator, the charity sells the grain, and the farmer receives the tax advantage. Because many farmers now take the standard deduction, cash gifts often do not provide tax benefits. However, donating grain allows a cash-basis farmer to exclude the sale of grain from income, and that can result in federal, state and self-employment tax savings.

Most farm operators can also deduct expenses related to producing the donated grain. Another advantage is you don't have to give in the same year you grew the grain. Donations can be made from the current or even a previous year's harvest.

Farmers considering this option should always consult their professional tax or legal advisors to determine their specific benefits.

For those who want even more flexibility, opening a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) at SBCCF is a great tool. With a DAF, your tax savings are immediate, but you can choose when and how to support your favorite charities. SBCCF can walk you through the simple form to get started. Give SBCCF director Ivy Stone a call at 217-778-4895.



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