

## • SCHOLARSHIPS

A scholarship program was organized during the Foundation's infancy, and currently over a dozen scholarships are administered by the Foundation with assets of over \$300,000. Approximately \$8,000 in scholarships are awarded annually to graduates of Wabaunsee High School and \$6,500 to college students.

Those scholarships include:

Francis and Katherine Newton Scholarship  
Jason Wertzberger Scholarship  
Ralph and Juanita TenEyck Scholarship  
Glenn and Virginia Czirr Scholarship  
Ada Sage Laverty Scholarship  
John Gehrt Scholarship  
Marvin Hendricks Scholarship  
Mary Stuewe Scholarship  
Arnold Bandel Scholarship (2)  
Amy Schutter Scholarship  
Ken and Bonnie Gnadt Scholarship (2)  
Karen Wright Scholarship  
Two Wabaunsee High School Booster Club Scholarships

On a regular basis, family members and friends make contributions to their designated scholarships in order to assure their continued existence. Regular donations also make it possible to increase the size of scholarships awarded annually.

Anyone wishing to start their own scholarship or contribute to any one of the existing scholarships may do so by making a contribution to the Alma Area Foundation, P.O. Box 192, Alma, Kansas 66401. All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible, and a receipt will be issued to the donor.

## • SIGNAGE PROJECT

The Foundation has also worked with the Alma Chamber of Commerce on a signing project. The Chamber developed a walking/driving tour of the area that includes a number of historic sites within Alma. The Foundation assisted the Chamber in purchasing and erecting signs to mark those locations.

## • GNADT PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

In 1995, Alma native Ken Gnadt on behalf of his parents, Clarence and Edna Gnadt, donated a 34-acre plot of land east of Alma to the Alma Area Foundation. It was Mr. Gnadt's request that an upscale housing area be developed that would be a model to communities the size of Alma.

The Alma Area Development Corporation was formed, and the Foundation turned the land over to the development corporation. The land was annexed into the City of Alma, and curb and guttering and utilities were installed.

In 2004 the housing development was sold to a private developer, and homes are currently being built there.

New housing for the Alma area had been an ongoing area of concern. The Alma Area Foundation's development of the Park Valley Addition provided building lots when growth was nearly stymied in the Alma Community.

## • RAILROAD PARK

Additional projects the Foundation worked on included moving an old log cabin into Railroad Park on the south end of Missouri Street, Alma. It was restored and furnished with items donated by area residents and is open for viewing by appointment. It is next to the old native stone well house that the City of Alma built in 1930 to supply Alma with water. The well is no longer used.

An old millinery shop, which had been located in the 400 hundred block of Missouri Street, was donated to the AAF, and in 1999 was moved to Railroad Park. The Foundation restored the building, which dates back to the late 1890's. Many area residents donated hats, clothing and other period items that are on display in the millinery shop. This attraction is also open for viewing by appointment.

## • LIBRARY FACILITY PROMOTION IN ALMA

A project the Foundation undertook and completed was the establishment of a new location for the library in the City of Alma. The library had outgrown its space, and the Foundation took on the task of locating a larger building for the facility. Approximately \$10,000 in donations was raised to help with remodeling a building to house the library. This property was secured and rented with a long-term lease. The larger space allowed the library to continue to grow and serve the people of our area, both young and old.

In 2018, the lease agreement for the library was about to expire, and it was clear that the library would soon need to find a new home as the property was listed to be sold. Due to a generous gift from the Marion Armstrong Estate, the Foundation was able to purchase the building and extend a lease agreement with the Pottawatomie/Wabaunsee Regional Library Association, which will assure the library has a home in the Alma Community.

## • SUPPORT YOUR ALMA AREA FOUNDATION

As with any group or organization, it takes money to complete projects. Recently, a generous donation from an estate made it possible for the Foundation to purchase, and save, the library facility in Alma. In addition to that, the Foundation was able to provide funds to the Wabaunsee County Fair Association for upgrades and remodeling to one of their buildings. Funds were also available for the Wabaunsee County Historical Society to assist in their remodeling efforts in the museum.

In 2020, the Foundation provided grants to 12 businesses that were struggling with the effects of the economic downturn created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We encourage those who either live in the Alma area, those that have lived here and have moved away or those that may have family or friends living here to donate to the Alma Area Foundation. The organization members work hard to benefit and promote the area.

## • DONATIONS

Any donation made to the Foundation is completely tax deductible. A receipt is issued to all donors, no matter the size of the donation. It is an excellent way to remember a loved one on a birthday, anniversary or upon their passing, since it helps promote their hometown and its development. The Foundation is capable of accepting real estate, stocks, bonds and other non-cash donations. It is also appreciated to be remembered in a will.

If you would like to make a donation to any of the existing scholarships or create your own, or if you have a project that you would be interested in contributing to, or creating, please contact any of the Alma Area Foundation Board of Directors for more information.

## • MEMBERSHIP

The Alma Area Foundation is also open to new members. Annual dues are payable in March of each year. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this progressive organization is encouraged to contact one of the board members for more details.

You may use the form on the following page to complete and mail to the Foundation, if you would like to make a donation or would be interested in more information.

Thank you for remembering your community and supporting its growth.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would be interested in donating to the Alma Area Foundation. Please contact me so that I may learn more about this progressive organization.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to the Alma Area Foundation. I/we would like it  
to be used for the following purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Donations may be sent to Alma Area Foundation,  
ATTN: Patricia Ringel, P.O. Box 192, Alma, KS  
66401.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*You may send my receipt to the address listed  
above.*

## ALMA AREA FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ervan Stuewe, President

785-499-2947 – [ervstuewe@gmail.com](mailto:ervstuewe@gmail.com)

Paul Miller, Vice President

785-765-2295 – [rockhill76@hughes.net](mailto:rockhill76@hughes.net)

Patricia Ringel, Treasurer

785-341-1059 – [garytrishringel@gmail.com](mailto:garytrishringel@gmail.com)

Shannon Wertzberger, Secretary

785-313-1108 – [sales@wrelic.net](mailto:sales@wrelic.net)

Connie Miller, Scholarship Chairman

785-313-3001 – [mltraneq@gmail.com](mailto:mltraneq@gmail.com)

Tonia Michaelis, Member

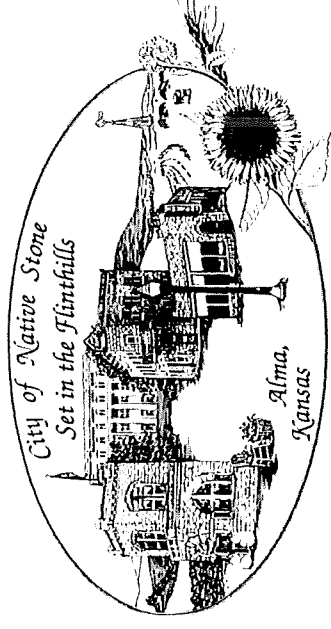
7875-456-3408 – [Toniamichaelis@gmail.com](mailto:Toniamichaelis@gmail.com)

Alan Winkler, Member

785-765-3382 – [aewinkler@embarqmail.com](mailto:aewinkler@embarqmail.com)

# ALMA AREA FOUNDATION

*Established in 1994 for the social, economic  
and educational development of the Alma area.*



## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALMA AREA FOUNDATION

On November 23rd, 1993, a small group of interested residents gathered in the lobby of The First National Bank in Alma and discussed the possibility of establishing a foundation. The purpose of the foundation would be to promote economic development of the area as well as encompass social, educational, and other issues. At that meeting it was decided to name the new organization The Alma Area Foundation.

From that meeting an idea sprang forward that has, through the years, spawned a number of ideas and projects.

The NOT FOR PROFIT organization is exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Contributions to this organization qualify as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.