Mission Statement

Investing in ideas and leadership that contribute to and advance the cultural, intellectual and social interests of the communities we support.
IN AUGUST OF 1999, the Conference of Southwest Foundations (now Philanthropy Southwest) published a leadership interview with John E. Kirkpatrick. At the time of the interview, John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick had already provided 44 years of philanthropic leadership in Oklahoma, and his comments focused on the benefits of diversification. The Kirkpatricks believed there were benefits in conducting their philanthropy through both private and public foundation structures, and they believed in a broad approach that would address their personal charitable interests as well as the diverse needs of the community. They established the Kirkpatrick Foundation in 1955, provided leadership for the formation of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation in 1969 and established the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, the largest affiliated fund at the Community Foundation, in 1989.
In approaching the various areas of philanthropy, I’m partial to diversification, rather than any particular area. I think it is important to be broad in our support.

— JOHN E. KIRKPATRICK
1999 CONFERENCE OF SOUTHWEST FOUNDATIONS
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, President Christian Keesee continues to fulfill his grandparents’ philanthropic vision through his leadership of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. Robust grant-making and endowment-building continues to respond to the diverse needs of central Oklahoma. Diversification is evident in the addition of special program initiatives that expand the Kirkpatrick Family Fund’s geographic boundaries to include Green Mountain Falls and Colorado Springs, Colorado, plus Marfa, Texas. The initiatives emphasize arts education, the role of the arts in community development and an important health concern for Oklahoma—the reduction of teen pregnancy.

The 2014 Annual Report reveals the Kirkpatrick Family Fund as a strong philanthropic leader in central Oklahoma, blending the guiding principles of our founders with the needs of our communities today.
AS YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS YEAR’S REPORT, 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. This annual report will provide you with a look at many of our activities and accomplishments during this time. What we must always remember is that these successes are not about the funding we have provided, but about the thousands of individuals who have selflessly dedicated hundreds of thousands of hours toward making our community a better place for all. I am proud that the Family Fund has been an encouraging partner.

This year, a major internal change was undertaken as we began to study our giving policy. Since inception, the amount of money we distribute per year has been based on a percentage of our assets. This percentage has not really changed much in the past 25 years. In considering this change, the trustees of the Family Fund kept the intent of our founders, Eleanor and John Kirkpatrick, in the forefront of our consciousness: that this fund was established to exist in perpetuity. Because of this, our investments are chosen with the long term in mind. This has also affected the giving policy. After much consideration, we feel that the original intention will not be overlooked and that our financial stability will not be threatened in any way by changing our policy. I am happy to report that over the next few months and years, you will see a significant change in the number of philanthropic investments we are making in the communities we serve.

As we look to 2015 and beyond, certainly our most important work is gently guiding the eventual move of Oklahoma Contemporary to its new building at 11th and Broadway in downtown Oklahoma City. The capital campaign is being led by two Kirkpatrick Family Fund trustees—Ann Johnstone and James Pickel. I am very grateful to them for their commitment, not only to this project, but for their commitment to improving arts offerings in Oklahoma City. A preliminary design of the new building has been unveiled and a significant amount of money has already been secured in the
quiet phase of the capital campaign. We also look to enhance partnerships in our efforts to reduce teen pregnancy in Oklahoma County, and will work with our friends and colleagues at the Oklahoma City Zoo toward the dedication of the new Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital in April of 2015.

Lastly, I would like to extend my great appreciation to Liz Eickman and Tina Burdett for their extraordinary work in fulfilling the goals and aspirations of our founders. Together with our philanthropic partners a great difference has been made in our community. Liz, Tina and I take very seriously the trust and responsibility that has been placed with us.

We look forward to an exciting 2015.

Sincerely,
Christian Keesee
IMAGINATION
THE KIRKPATRICK FAMILY FUND has quietly and effectively fulfilled the vision of the Kirkpatrick family for the past 25 years and will continue to do so in perpetuity. Since our inception in 1989, almost 650 qualified nonprofit organizations have received $68,887,513 through project, operating and endowment-building grants.

In 2014, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund distributed grants to 139 organizations totaling $6,173,400 to support projects and general operations.

2014 GRANTEEES

ANIMALS
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, NY
Best Friends Animal Society, UT
Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Society, CO
Farm Sanctuary, NY
Fund for Animals, NY
Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, CO
Humane Society of the United States, Washington, D.C.
Wildlife Conservation Society, NY

ARTS & HUMANITIES
Allied Arts
Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa
Arts Council Oklahoma City
Brightmusic Society of Oklahoma
Business of Art Center, CO
Children’s Hospital Foundation
The Chinati Foundation, TX
Church in the Wildwood (United Church of Christ), CO
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, CO
Colorado Springs Philharmonic, CO
Crowley Foundation, TX
Fiber Artists of Oklahoma
Fine Arts Institute of Edmond
Friends of the Mansion
Green Box Arts Festival, CO
Gunston Hall Regents Fund, VA

Students participate in a Marfa Contemporary drawing class.

Photograph courtesy of Oklahoma Contemporary
ARTS & HUMANITIES (continued)

- Historical Society of the United States
- District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
- Individual Artists of Oklahoma
- Jazz in June
- Judd Foundation, NY
- Marfa Live Arts, TX
- Menil Foundation, TX
- Mid-America Arts Alliance
- Oklahoma Children’s Theatre
- Oklahoma City Ballet
- Oklahoma Contemporary
- Oklahoma Historical Society/ Oklahoma History Center
- Oklahoma Humanities Council
- Oklahoma Museums Association
- Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park
- Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition
- Oklahomans for the Arts
- Ormao Dance Company, CO
- Paseo Arts Association
- Perpetual Motion Dance
- Red Earth
- Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, CO
- [Artspace] at Untitled
- Harn Homestead
- Yukon Community Support Foundation

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES/HEALTH/SOCIAL SERVICES

- A Chance to Change Foundation
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County
- BritVil Community Food Pantry
- Calm Waters Center for Children and Families
- CASA of Oklahoma County
- Center for Children and Families
- Citizens Caring for Children
- Daily Living Centers of Oklahoma
- Dentists for the Disabled and Elderly in Need of Treatment
- The Education and Employment Ministry
- FIRSTEP, OKC Metro Alliance
- Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma
- HeartLine
- Infant Crisis Services
- Metropolitan Better Living Center
- Meals on Wheels of Norman
- Oklahoma Alliance on Aging
- Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
- Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma
- Rebuilding Together OKC
- RAIN Oklahoma
- Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
- Skyline Urban Ministry
- Special Care
- St. Anthony Foundation
- Sunbeam Family Services
- Teen emPower!
- The Oklahoma Caring Foundation
- The Urban Mission
- United Way of Central Oklahoma
- Upward Transitions
Variety Care Foundation
Youth Services for Oklahoma County
YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City
YWCA Oklahoma City

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Executive Service Corps of Central Oklahoma
Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma
Oklahoma City Economic Development Foundation
Oklahoma City Housing Services Redevelopment Corporation
Oklahoma City Police Department
Possibilities
Texas Mountain Trail Region, TX

EDUCATION

Community Literacy Centers
The Madeira School, VA
Menlo College, CA
Payne Education Center
Philanthropy Southwest, TX
Pikes Peak Library District Foundation, CO
Positive Tomorrows
St. David’s School, NY
St. John’s Episcopal School
The Anne Hodges and H. Wayne Morgan Fellowship Fund
The University of Oklahoma Naval ROTC

ENVIRONMENT

Barr Camp, CO
Cascade Colorado Park Association, CO
Myriad Botanical Gardens
OKC Beautiful

The Kirkpatrick Family Fund supports the efforts of Harn Homestead to preserve the historic homestead and its purpose of educating the public about Oklahoma’s territorial years.

Photograph courtesy of Harn Homestead
Youth at the Cesar Chavez Boys & Girls Club.
THE KIRKPATRICK FAMILY FUND provides leadership for building charitable organization endowment funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation through its matching grant program for qualified nonprofits in central Oklahoma. Since 1989, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund has contributed a total of $11,131,400 to 266 endowment funds established by qualified nonprofits.

In 2014, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund made endowment gifts to the following organizations totaling $342,000.

- Central Oklahoma Humane Society
- Edmond Mobile Meals
- El Reno Public School Foundation
- Frontier Country Historical Society
- Guthrie Educational Foundation
- Jazz in June
- Kingfisher Educational Foundation
- Library Endowment Trust
- Metro Tech Foundation
- Noble Public Schools Foundation for Academic Excellence
- NorthCare
- Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children
- Oklahoma FFA Foundation
- Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
- Oklahoma Physical Therapy Foundation
- Oklahoma Railway Museum
- Oklahomans for Special Library Services
- Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
- The University of Oklahoma Naval ROTC
- White Fields
- YWCA Oklahoma City
The Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation, a subsidiary of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, is committed to the enhancement and preservation of the unique qualities of Green Mountain Falls and Chipita Park, Colorado. The purpose of the Foundation is to focus on historic preservation, open space, parks, trails and projects that are integral to the positive development of these communities, located in the foothills of Pikes Peak. The Kirkpatrick family has ties to the area dating back to the late 19th century.

In 2014, the Foundation acquired just over 139 acres of undeveloped forest and green space, known to residents of Green Mountain Falls as Dewey Mountain, to protect the slope from inappropriate development. This acquisition will preserve the unblemished backspace that the community values and has the potential to provide residents and visitors to the area with ideal year-round hiking opportunities.

The Dewey Mountain property joins the list of properties under the care of the Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation, including Mountain Road Corner, the H. B. Wallace Reserve, Lakeview Terrace and Green Box Workshop.

The H. B. Wallace Reserve, acquired in 2008 from the Wallace Estate, provides 2.5 miles of trails and beautiful views on 95 acres of undeveloped forest.

Photograph courtesy of Tom Kimmell
The 2014 Green Box Arts Festival provided artists and visitors with an opportunity to nurture the creative process and explore new artistic directions in the natural beauty of Green Mountain Falls, Colorado. The five-year-old festival is committed to fostering creative expression and the presentation of all art forms at the very highest level.

Highlights of the 2014 Festival included performances by the American Ballet Theatre’s Studio Company, the United States premiere of the art installation “The Swings: An Experiment in Musical Cooperation” by Montreal design collective Daily tous les jours, and excerpts of new work by Keigwin + Company. The eight-day festival was rounded out with numerous visual and performing art classes and workshops, as well as films, culinary arts, nature and art walks, and astronomy under the night sky of Green Mountain Falls.

American Ballet Theatre’s Studio Company at the 2014 Green Box Arts Festival.

Photograph by Tom Kimmell
Program Initiatives

Oklahoma Contemporary

25 Years of Dedication

Oklahoma Contemporary, formerly City Arts Center, was founded in 1989 by Christian Keesee and Marilyn Myers, and it remains dedicated to carrying out its mission of arts education and the work of contemporary artists.

Oklahoma Contemporary has undergone an extensive planning process in preparation for its 2017 relocation to downtown Oklahoma City. The decline of arts instruction during the school day has strengthened its commitment to arts education, new media and the creative process for youth and adults.

Oklahoma Contemporary is developing a regional footprint and expanding its reach and connection to other communities interested in and committed to arts education and contemporary artists. Marfa Contemporary, a satellite gallery of Oklahoma Contemporary, is located in the small West Texas community of Marfa, which has a giant reputation in the national and international arts scene. It provides Oklahoma Contemporary its first step toward establishing a regional presence.

2014 brought many changes to Oklahoma Contemporary, programmatically and administratively, as it prepares for its future. The Kirkpatrick Family Fund has proudly supported the 25-year evolution of the organization and its commitment to quality arts education for all.

Photograph courtesy of Oklahoma Contemporary
ARTS EDUCATION
The Kirkpatrick Family Fund, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, Variety Care, Teen emPower! and Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma have united to form the Central Oklahoma Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaboration with an overall goal of reducing the teen pregnancy rate in Oklahoma County by 33% by the year 2020.
The Kirkpatrick Family Fund recognizes teen pregnancy as a critical social, health and economic issue. Children born to a teen parent are at higher risk for persistent poverty, abuse and neglect, health and mental health issues and problems in school. Oklahoma has the second-highest (worst) teen birth rate for 15- to 19-year-olds in the U.S. and one out of every five teen births in the state is in Oklahoma County. The Kirkpatrick Family Fund has provided significant leadership and financial support to reduce the teen birth rate in Oklahoma County. Initiatives funded by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund have lent support to the broader public/private effort, which has resulted in lowering the birth rate for teens ages 15-19 by 22% in Oklahoma County between 2006 and 2013.

In fiscal year 2014, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund worked alongside its partners, the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, Variety Care, Teen emPower! and Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma to form the Adolescent Health/Teen Pregnancy Prevention Work Group under the Wellness Now Coalition of the Oklahoma City-County Health Department. This public/private partnership is committed to the aggressive reduction of the teen birth rate in Oklahoma County by using evidence-based solutions and building a comprehensive community-wide effort that supports the health and well-being of teens in our community.
The Board of Trustees of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund continues to fulfill the philanthropic vision of its founders, John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick.
Standing, from left
ELIZABETH EICKMAN
DIRECTOR
JAMES PICKEL
ANN JOHNSTONE
GEORGE RECORDS
JANE SUTTER
LOUISA MCCUNE-ELMORE
ADVISOR
CHRISTIAN KEESEE
PRESIDENT
JENNY LOVE MEYER

Seated, from left
ANNE HODGES MORGAN
VICE PRESIDENT
NANCY ANTHONY
SECRETARY/TREASURER
GEORGE DREW
JANE HARLOW
POLLY NICHOLS

Not pictured
DOUGLAS CUMMINGS
IN RETROSPECT, the Kirkpatrick family has consistently been on the leading edge of philanthropy, recognizing and nurturing the seeds of good ideas over the past 25 years. John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick can be credited with providing leadership that established many cultural and social service institutions, but perhaps their greatest accomplishment was to nurture the philanthropy of other donors. They were interested in encouraging others to also lead and be a part of strengthening and improving central Oklahoma.

Looking forward, Christian Keesee and the trustees of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund continue this legacy of leading-edge philanthropy. The 2014 Annual Report reflects the diversity of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund’s interests and the organizations we fund, plus initiatives that receive special investment and the focused attention of the board and staff.

Our work with Oklahoma Contemporary is intended to redefine arts education and expand the boundaries of how we think about art and what this means for the future. Our investment in the Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation and Green Box Arts Festival allows us to partner with the communities of Green Mountain Falls and Chipita Park to define their future through art, preservation and building on the environmental assets of the area. This spirit of partnership becomes even more important as the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, through “collective impact,” joins with individuals, nonprofits and community leaders to reduce births to teens in central Oklahoma.

The Kirkpatrick Family Fund looks forward to the future and the role it will continue to play in carrying out the vision of the Kirkpatrick family.
STAFF

ELIZABETH EICKMAN
DIRECTOR

TINA BURDETT
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER

ERIKA WARREN
GRANTS ASSOCIATE

TYLER DAVIS
PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE
John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick sit on the rock wall next to their cabin in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado in 1971.
"The legacy set forth by my grandparents, John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick, inspires me daily to remain steadfast in honoring and building their philanthropic vision."

— CHRISTIAN KEESEE