

Frankfort

Community Foundation

Providing for this place we call home



2024 Grants Report



Message from our Board of Directors



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Frankfort Community Foundation, it is my pleasure to share the results of our 2024 grantmaking efforts. Thanks to the generous partnership of The Patterson Foundation and the unwavering support of our community, we have awarded a total of **\$53,500 in grants** to **15 local entities**, each working to enhance Frankfort as a vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

These grants reflect our shared commitment to strengthening the fabric of our community. From enriching arts and culture to improving public spaces and fostering economic vitality, each funded project aligns with FCF's mission to make Frankfort an even more attractive and thriving hometown.

This report highlights the progress of those initiatives, whether completed or still in progress, as of June 2025. We are inspired by the dedication of these organizations and the impact of their work on Frankfort's residents. Their efforts not only address immediate needs but also lay the foundation for long-term growth and connection.

None of which would be possible without the trust and generosity of our donors, partners, volunteers, and the continued support from the Frankfort residents. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for Frankfort, one project at a time.

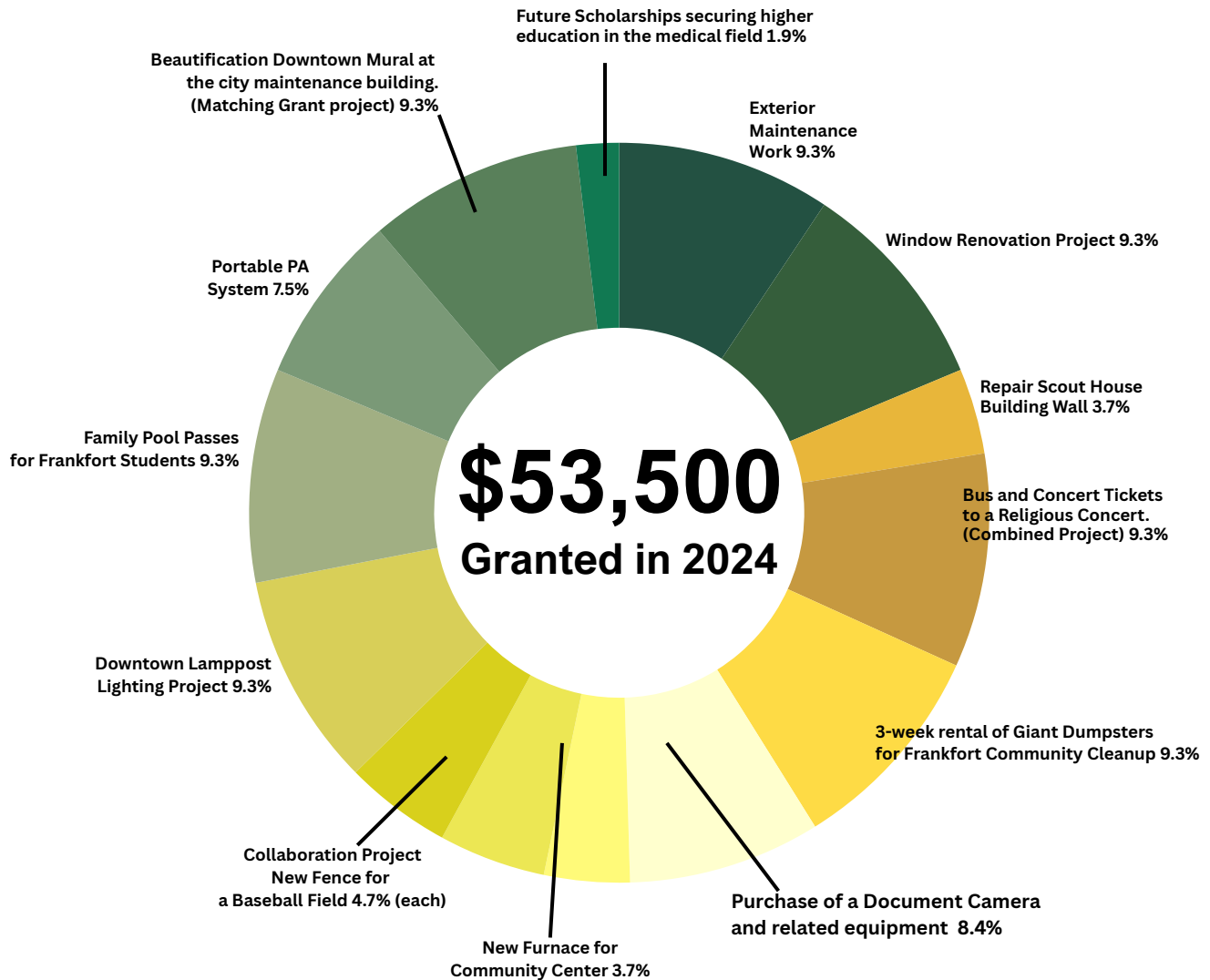
With gratitude,

Dennis Wanklyn
President, Board of Directors



2024

FRANKFORT COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM



Community Grants Program

	Amount Granted
Frankfort Community Care Home	\$5,000
Frankfort Development Trust	\$5000
Boy Scouts of America Troop 138	\$2,000
Annunciation Youth & United Methodist Youth	\$5,000
Neal Fund	\$5000
Friends of Frankfort Library	\$4,500
Friends of Vermillion Community	\$2000
Frankfort Recreation & Frankfort Baseball Team	\$2,500
Frankfort Janes	\$5000
Frankfort Children's Fund	\$5000
Frankfort American Legion	\$4000
Frankfort Memorial Fund	\$5000
Medical Scholarship for FCCH Employees	\$1000

Other Frankfort Community Foundation Grants

\$209,953

The Frankfort Development Trust has taken a significant step forward in preserving the historic Frankfort School, thanks to a grant provided by the Frankfort Community and Patterson Foundations. These funds have been allocated as part of the required match for Phase II of a four-phase window restoration initiative.

This phase focuses on the rehabilitation of twenty-one windows across three levels on the southwest side of the building. The scope of work includes comprehensive repairs to both interior and exterior window frames, sashes, hardware, and weather stripping, ensuring structural integrity and energy efficiency while maintaining historical accuracy.

Pishny Restoration, a Lenexa, Kansas-based firm specializing in preservation work, is executing the project, which completed the work fall 2024. This phase marked another milestone in the ongoing effort to restore the Frankfort School to its original grandeur while preparing it for continued community use.

Further updates will be provided as the project progresses, with future phases planned to address additional sections of the building. The Frankfort Development Trust expresses its gratitude to the Frankfort Community and Patterson Foundations for their vital support in this preservation effort.



Frankfort Community Care Home



The Frankfort Community Care Home has been awarded a \$5,000 grant to revitalize its exterior through a comprehensive trim painting project. This improvement initiative will enhance the facility's curb appeal while providing protective maintenance to the building's architectural features.

The project aligns with ongoing efforts to preserve the care home's facilities while creating a cheerful atmosphere for residents and staff. The care home's maintenance team will undertake the painting project, focusing on:

- Window trim refreshment
- Door frame restoration
- Decorative architectural element preservation

These exterior upgrades demonstrate our commitment to maintaining a welcoming and well-maintained environment for our residents and visitors. The fresh paint will not only enhance the building's appearance but also help protect it from weather damage.

Annunciation Youth & United Methodist Youth



The Frankfort Community Foundation provided a transformative opportunity for local youth by awarding a grant to the United Methodist Youth and Annunciation Youth groups. This funding allowed 46 young people, accompanied by ten sponsors, to embark on an enriching faith-based excursion on Wednesday, September 11th.

A chartered bus transported the group from Frankfort to Hutchinson, where they attended an uplifting Christian concert featuring performances by Katy Nichole and the Grammy-winning band Casting Crowns. Known for their powerful messages of faith and worship, Casting Crowns delivered an inspiring and spiritually moving experience for all in attendance.

In addition to the concert, the youth enjoyed exploring the Hutchinson fair, making the trip both a celebration of faith and a memorable community outing. The Frankfort Community Foundation's support made this unique experience possible, fostering fellowship and spiritual growth among the participating youth.

Both youth groups expressed deep gratitude for the foundation's generosity, which created lasting memories and strengthened their connections to faith and community.





The Neal Fund has demonstrated its commitment to Frankfort's beautification efforts by utilizing its \$5,000 grant to facilitate a community-wide cleanup initiative. The funds were used to secure three-week rentals of industrial-sized dumpsters, providing residents with a centralized and efficient way to dispose of unwanted debris, household waste, and bulky items.

This large-scale cleanup project encouraged broad community participation, allowing Frankfort to address accumulated waste while promoting environmental responsibility. The availability of giant dumpsters made it easier for volunteers, local organizations, and individual households to contribute to the effort, resulting in a visibly cleaner and more inviting community.

The Neal Fund's initiative reflects its ongoing dedication to enhancing quality of life in Frankfort through practical, high-impact initiatives. Residents and organizers expressed appreciation for the support, noting that such projects foster civic pride and collective action.



Friends of Frankfort Library

The Frankfort Library has acquired professional grade digitization equipment, including a high resolution smart scanner, digital camera, laptop, and a four-bay disk storage station, to preserve and share the community's historical records.

This initiative will systematically scan and catalog the library's existing collection of vintage photographs, documents, and fragile archival materials, converting them into a secure, searchable digital database for researchers and the public.



In addition to institutional holdings, the library hopes to collaborate with local families and organizations by inviting community members to contribute personal historical photos, letters, and artifacts for digitization. This crowdsourced approach will expand the archive's depth, creating a richer collective record of Frankfort's heritage. Once processed, the digitized collection will feature metadata tagging and optical character recognition (OCR) to enable easy keyword searches, streamlining access for genealogists, students, and historians.

The project reflects the library's commitment to safeguarding local history while adapting to modern research needs. Future phases may include public workshops on preservation techniques and curated online exhibits showcasing the digitized materials.



The Frankfort Community Center has completed a critical infrastructure upgrade, replacing its aging heating system with a new high-efficiency furnace made possible through a \$2,000 grant from the Frankfort Community Foundation and supplemental funds from local fundraising efforts.

Mitchell's Plumbing & Heating of Frankfort expertly handled the installation, transforming the facility's climate control capabilities. Before-and-after photos document the striking improvement—the original outdated unit (shown in initial images) contrasted with the modern system now ensuring reliable, cost-effective heating for center visitors.

This vital enhancement reduces energy consumption while maintaining consistent comfort for the many groups utilizing the space year-round. The Community Center Board extends sincere gratitude to both the Foundation and contributing donors for their partnership in this essential project, which will benefit Frankfort residents for years to come. Future maintenance cost savings will allow redirected resources toward additional facility improvements and programming.

Note:

- 1) Previous furnace prior to replacement
- 2) New energy-efficient system installed by Mitchell's Plumbing & Heating



Frankfort Recreation & Frankfort Baseball Team Combine Project

The Frankfort Recreation Commission has completed significant improvements to the community baseball field this fall, thanks to grant funding from the Frankfort Community Foundation and the Patterson Foundation. The initial phase of enhancements included the installation of a new perimeter fence, providing both improved safety and a refreshed appearance to the field.

Additional planned upgrades will further elevate the facility's quality. The Frankfort Baseball program has allocated remaining grant funds to purchase a new wind screen for the center field fence, which will improve visibility and reduce wind interference during games. In the spring 2024, the program oversaw reseeding efforts to ensure a lush, playable surface for the upcoming 2025 season.

These collective improvements reflect the foundations' commitment to supporting youth sports and community spaces in Frankfort. The Frankfort Recreation Commission and baseball program extend their gratitude to both organizations for their investment in local athletics, which will benefit players and families for seasons to come. Future maintenance and additional enhancements will continue to prioritize safety, functionality, and the overall player experience.

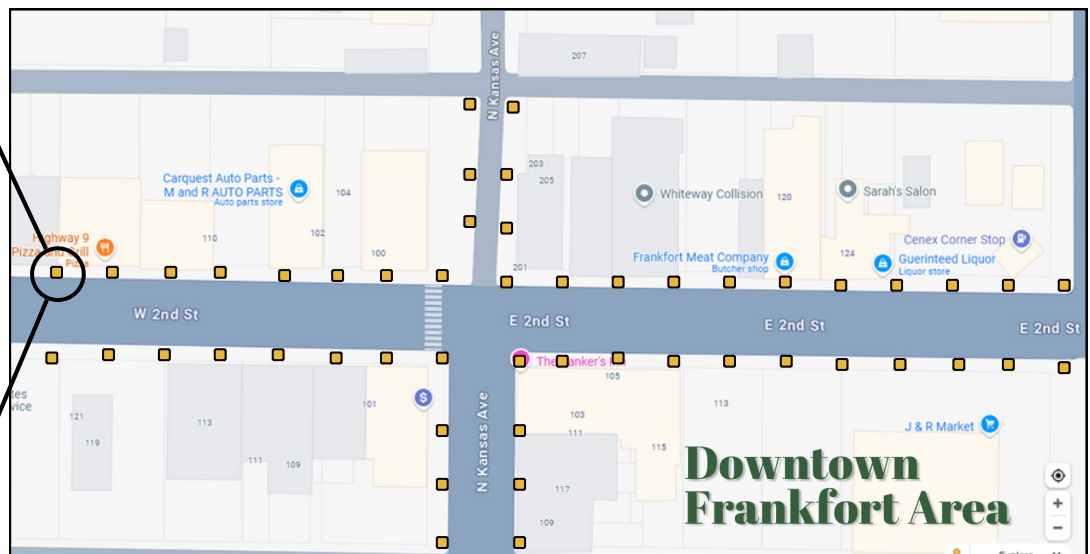


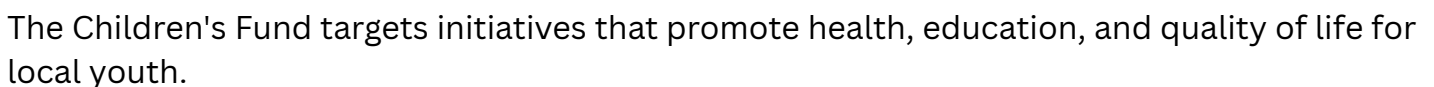
The Frankfort Janes, in collaboration with community partners, are spearheading an ambitious downtown revitalization project that will install 38 new streetlights along the north/south and east/west corridors of Frankfort's central business district. This strategic lighting enhancement aims to create a more welcoming and visually appealing atmosphere for both residents and visitors.

The carefully planned illumination project represents a significant investment in Frankfort's small-town charm and economic vitality. By improving nighttime visibility and ambiance, organizers anticipate the upgraded lighting will: Enhance pedestrian safety after dark, highlight the downtown's historic architecture, encourage evening foot traffic for local businesses, and create a more inviting environment for community events.

"We're excited to see Frankfort continue thriving as one of Kansas' special small towns," said a Frankfort Janes representative. "Thoughtful improvements like this lighting project help preserve our character while making downtown more enjoyable for everyone."

The installation will proceed in phases. Frankfort Janes will get the project underway, to see the downtown area lighted and completed. This initiative follows other successful downtown enhancement projects supported by local organizations dedicated to Frankfort's ongoing growth and beautification.





Frankfort's American Legion Post 181 has significantly upgraded its community outreach capabilities with the acquisition of a professional-grade portable public address system, made possible through grants from the Frankfort Community Foundation and Patterson Community Foundation.

The new \$3,990 system, prominently featured during this year's Memorial Day services, where Carol McKinney served as announcer, offers advanced features including:

- Wireless handheld microphone operation
- Bluetooth connectivity for versatile audio streaming
- Capacity for up to four simultaneous wireless microphones
- Powerful speakers capable of addressing crowds of 1,500 people

"The new system allows us to properly honor our veterans during ceremonies while serving the broader community at events throughout the year," noted Post representatives. The grant demonstrates how foundation partnerships can amplify the impact of local service organizations.



Carol McKinney

The Frankfort Memorial Fund has allocated its \$5,000 grant as matching dollars toward the creation of a vibrant community mural on the city maintenance building, marking the latest initiative in downtown beautification efforts.

This public art project will transform a prominent municipal structure into a visual celebration of Frankfort's heritage and character. Artists will collaborate with community members to design and execute the large-scale mural, which will serve as both a tourist attraction and a source of civic pride.

The project aligns with the Memorial Fund's mission of creating lasting, visible improvements to Frankfort's public spaces. The Frankfort Community Foundation board is in the process of vetting artists to take on the large-scale project. They hope the project can get started in the fall of 2025.



Medical Scholarship for FCCH Employees

Frankfort Community Care Home Administrator Haley Stevens and Linda Fincham recently shared insights about their impactful medical scholarship program during an interview on The Greater Manhattan Community Foundation's podcast. The discussion, facilitated by Mitzi Richards, GMCF's Director of Philanthropy, focused on how the Frankfort Community Foundation's Match Day and the Patterson Foundation sustain this vital educational initiative.

The scholarship program originated through the generosity of the Fincham family, honoring the legacy of Chester and Donna Fincham, former FCCH residents who passionately supported staff pursuing medical education. To date, three FCCH employees have benefited from this financial assistance, enabling them to advance their healthcare careers while continuing to serve Frankfort's senior community.

"Thanks to the ongoing support from Match Day and the Patterson Foundation, we can maintain this scholarship as an enduring resource for our dedicated staff," Stevens explained during the podcast. The funding ensures the program remains available for future applicants, reinforcing FCCH's commitment to workforce development and quality care.

This collaboration between family philanthropy, local foundations, and care home leadership demonstrates Frankfort's innovative approach to addressing healthcare education needs while honoring community members' legacies. The podcast episode highlights how small-town partnerships create meaningful, lasting impacts.

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Haley Stevens and Linda Fincham recording with GMCF's Mitzi Richards