



# 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



Rick Bryant and Drew Hankinson

## BY THE NUMBERS:

- \$84,803 granted to 29 local nonprofits
- \$34,600 granted to six area animal shelters
- \$33,049 earned by assisting other nonprofits
- \$78,348 net proceeds Champagne Campaign
- \$11,500 pledged to Dream Factory Child Drew Hankinson
- 51 grant requests received in 2024
- \$4.2 million in assets invested with CFL

## WHY DONOR ADVISED FUNDS WORK FOR BUSINESSES – SCOTT’S CONCRETE’S STORY

I opened the Scott's Concrete Gifting Fund in 2015. I became familiar with the Community Foundation when my daughter-in-Law, Alison Martin became their coordinator. I was impressed by the fact that the charities that were supported were local.

Scott's Concrete has been in business for over 70 years. I was brought up by parents who stressed "you get what you give." Concrete is locally produced and consumed so giving local is a logical choice. Previously, I had just written checks to various nonprofits that I supported. Many were annual contributions and I would need to check back and see what and when I had given previously.

The first year I made a contribution to the fund I looked back at the past year and came up with an amount that I had donated. I then funded that amount into the Scott's Concrete gifting fund.

Essentially, I prepaid my donations and offset a portion of my tax liability for the year. All donations are tax deductible and can be made at anytime during the year. A big plus is the fact that the CFO keeps track of everything! I send an email to my contact and they handle and track all the paperwork. There is also a very user friendly website that can be accessed. I am a dinosaur! This is appreciated.

I love the idea that the locally supported nonprofits are vetted; not just once but continually. It is a great feeling to be able to see dollars at work in my hometown. My fund is of course one of many. The Community Foundation has gifted hundreds of thousands of dollars since its inception. The Foundation is regulated by a hard working board of volunteers.

This December, I gave my largest donation to date, \$100,000. Magic Dragon Trails and Wonderland Camp, to mention just a couple of charities have some larger projects in the works. By donation prior to the end of the year I can again offset some income taxes and be assured that my charities of choice will get much needed funds.

In short, I believe in the Community Foundation. To date, my family and my little company have funded over \$450,000. I know that it works and I trust them to manage my money efficiently and effectively. I highly recommend this to anyone who lives and works in our Lake Area and wants to make a difference!

Jane E. Martin

# “Bubbles Up” Champagne Campaign Celebrates Record-Breaking Success



The 16th Annual Champagne Campaign, themed “Bubbles Up,” raised a remarkable \$89,000 for nonprofits serving Camden, Miller, and Morgan counties. The September event held at the amazing The Grove at Memory Lane Events, brought the community together in a powerful display of generosity and impact.

Event Chair Beth Bankhead expressed her gratitude, stating, “The generosity of the Lake Area never ceases to amaze me. This record-breaking year means we can make an even greater impact in 2025 for the nonprofits working tirelessly in our community.”

We were honored to have Melissa and Chris “Pappo” Galloway serve as Honorary Chairs. The Galloways are true champions of the Lake Area, demonstrating unwavering dedication to philanthropy and economic development. Their support of CFL and many other local nonprofits exemplifies the spirit of giving that fuels positive change in our community.

In the words of Jimmy Buffett’s “Bubbles Up,” “Just know that you are loved, there is light up above.” That light was evident throughout the evening, particularly during a special moment when attendees raised over \$11,500 to fund adaptive equipment for Drew Hankison, a 16-year-old living with dwarfism, so he can drive the car his parents are purchasing for him. Guests also supported a grant for the Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association, culminating in a heartfelt helium balloon release.

Nathan Bechtold from Lake Expo did a stellar job as the emcee for the evening and sharing information of how CFL benefits the community. Rick Bryant owner of Bryant Auction provided inspiring commentary for the live auction, which featured autographed memorabilia, vacation packages, and custom art. Attendees enjoyed catering by Mama Cita’s and Pappo’s Pizzeria & Pub along with live music by Haley Powers.

We extend our deepest thanks to Melissa and Chris Galloway, all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers, and to the nonprofits who make a difference every day. As we look ahead to 2025, let’s continue to uplift one another—because together, we can make waves and lift others higher. Cheers to keeping the spirit of “Bubbles Up” alive in the year to come!



# Twenty Eight Community Grants Awarded



The Community Foundation of the Lake (CFL) is honored to serve as a lifeline for local nonprofits through its annual grant-making efforts. These grants, available to all 501(c)(3) nonprofits in Camden, Miller, and Morgan Counties, are a reflection of the generosity and shared commitment to uplift our community.

In 2024, CFL proudly granted \$84,803 to 29 nonprofits, supporting causes that touch the lives of countless individuals. However, the need continues to grow. This year alone, CFL received 51 grant applications, demonstrating the increasing challenges faced by nonprofits striving to meet critical needs across our area.

Looking ahead to 2025, CFL aims to award \$100,000 in grants to deserving organizations that work tirelessly to address issues such as poverty, education, healthcare, and economic development. The annual grant round opens in January, and CFL's dedicated grant committee carefully reviews each application to ensure that funding is directed to where it can make the greatest impact.

CFL doesn't stop at awarding grants. The Foundation actively follows up with recipients to understand how the funding has been used and to ensure it creates meaningful, measurable outcomes. These efforts are central to CFL's mission of enhancing the educational, cultural, health, and economic vitality of the Lake Area.

The increasing demand for support highlights the urgent need for community involvement. Together, we can rise to meet these challenges. Every dollar raised through community support fuels the ability to make a difference. By working together, we can help bridge the gap and ensure the nonprofits in Camden, Miller, and Morgan Counties continue to provide the essential services our community depends on.

- THE HEALING BOX PROJECT
- OSAGE BEACH SENIOR CENTER
- CAMDENTON R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT
- LAKE AREA HELPING HANDS
- BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
- LAKE OF THE OZARKS IDIOTS CLUB
- GREATER LAKE AREA CHORALE
- PREGNANCY HELP CENTER LAKE OF THE OZARKS
- TRI-COUNTY YMCA OF THE OZARKS
- CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER
- FOOD FOR MORGAN COUNTY
- THE SNEAKERS PROJECT
- CITIZENS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- IVY BEND COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY
- FUNDRUNS
- FAITHBRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- WONDERLAND CAMP
- WESTLAKE AQUATICS
- LAKE AREA INDUSTRIES
- LAKE REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM
- COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST OUTREACH CENTER
- CHILD ADVOCACY COUNCIL
- THE CHANGING TABLE
- HEROES OUTREACH PROGRAM
- BRANCHES FOR THE LAKE
- SPECIAL LEARNING CENTER
- SHARE THE HARVEST
- KIDS HARBOR, INC.

# Karen Jean Rudek Endowment Benefits Animals

CFL proudly celebrated the 6th annual round of grants from the Karen Jean Rudek Field of Interest Endowment Fund. Rudek's endowment was established for local horse and dog shelters, sanctuaries, and rescue organizations. These funds ensure the ongoing care of animals in Camden, Miller, and Morgan counties.

Karen Jean Rudek, a devoted animal lover, entrusted CFL with her estate to establish this fund, ensuring her passion for animal welfare would continue in perpetuity. However, creating a legacy fund like this doesn't require an entire estate. Anyone can establish an endowment to reflect their values and support causes close to their heart, whether through a one-time gift, ongoing contributions, or a planned giving strategy. Currently, endowment funds pay out four percent of the average fund balance so a \$100,000 fund would generate \$4,000 a year.

Field of interest endowments are a meaningful way to address community needs or support nonprofits long into the future. An endowment provides essential stability and is a permanent source of funding. Endowment funds can take many forms: cash, stock, real estate, wills or trusts, retirement plan assets, and life insurance are just a few examples. You can make a lasting impact, no matter the size of your contribution, while benefiting from financial advantages like tax savings.



Missouri Forget Me Not Horse Rescue



Ivy Bend Animal Rescue



Dogwood Animal Shelter



Meowtown



Caring Hearts Dog & Cat Shelter



Ozark Kat & K9 Shelter

## Stanley Ball Leadership Award



CFL President Stacy Pyrtle, was honored with the Stanley Ball Leadership Award in July 2024 by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. This award, which included a \$2,500 grant for CFL from CFO and Central Trust Company, recognizes her outstanding leadership and dedication to the Lake community.

Pyrtle's accomplishments include raising CFL's profile among businesses, championing the Magic Dragon Trail System, promoting nonprofit capacity-building, and strengthening CFL's volunteer board of directors. "Stacy embodies community involvement and tirelessly works to make civic betterment a reality," wrote Beth Bankhead, CFL Vice President, in her nomination.

# *A Legacy of Leadership: A Toast to Beth Tankersley Bankhead*

The Community Foundation of the Lake extends heartfelt gratitude and admiration to Beth Bankhead for her exceptional service as Vice President and Chair of the Annual Champagne Campaign. Beth has been a driving force behind two consecutive record-setting Champagne Campaign events, a testament to her passion, vision, and tireless dedication to the Foundation and the community it serves.

Under Beth's leadership, attendance and sponsorships for the event grew dramatically, as did the number and quality of auction items. Beth and her husband Tom traveled extensively, engaging local businesses and individuals to foster support, resulting in unprecedented philanthropic contributions.

Beth's commitment extended beyond the event itself. She championed relationships across Camden, Miller, and Morgan counties, increasing visibility for CFL and drawing more widespread support. Her organizational expertise ensured every detail was executed flawlessly, including securing a new, larger venue for the 2024 campaign.

Beth's impact has been felt in countless ways—from directing traffic at the Lake of the Ozarks Shootout to identifying grant opportunities for CFL. Her unwavering dedication has elevated CFL's mission, creating lasting benefits for nonprofits in our community. She was recognized by Community Foundation of the Ozarks as a Board Member of Excellence in 2024.

As Beth steps back to spend more time with her family, her contributions leave an enduring legacy of service and success. Thank you, Beth, for your extraordinary leadership and heartfelt devotion to the Lake community. You will be deeply missed, but your impact will be felt for years to come.

For those inspired by Beth's service, CFL invites you to join our Ambassador Program. Whether you can help with events, outreach, or other initiatives, there's a role for everyone to make a difference. Contact us at [Info@CommunityFoundationoftheLake.com](mailto:Info@CommunityFoundationoftheLake.com) to learn more.



# *Cheers Beth!*



# Grant Writing Workshop



Over 40 participants attended the Community Foundation of the Lake's grant writing workshop at The Church of Osage Hills in May to empower Lake area nonprofits. Led by CFL Board Member and professional grant writer Dawn Busick, with contributions from Beth Bankhead, the session covered identifying grant opportunities, developing applications, budgeting, and project planning. CFL not only assists local nonprofits with funding but also helps them find additional funding opportunities. The workshop equipped attendees with tools to address community needs and navigate the grant process, reinforcing CFL's mission to strengthen educational, cultural, health, and economic development in the Lake area.

## Building a Stronger Community Through Partnerships



The Community Foundation of the Lake (CFL) continues to strengthen the Lake area through meaningful collaborations with other civic organizations. We wish to thank The Lake of the Ozarks Shootout Offshore and Shootout committee for their donation to the Magic Dragon Trails project. Magic Dragon Trails committee members and CFL board members worked a variety of events this year to assist with both of these great boat races.

The Central Bank of Lake of the Ozarks and Noon Day Rotary Wingfest is another fun partnership that benefits the Lake area! We always enjoy working at this amazing evening of delicious food and community camaraderie. We appreciate the opportunity to serve and the support of CFL's capacity fund to provide grants in Camden, Miller and Morgan counties.

For the second year CFL joined members of Branches for the Lake in conducting bicycle camps to teach children to ride a bicycle. This is always a fantastic experience seeing kids go from having little to no experience riding a bike to many independently pedaling away after one week.

CFL board members also participated in the Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas on the Square this year. Several Chamber members donated bicycles to be given away at this community event. We had a steady stream of children spinning our bicycle wheel of fortune for a chance to win a bicycle as well as other prizes. Fifteen lucky kids rode away with a bicycle that day and we were incredibly impressed with older siblings who won a bike and gave them to their younger sibling demonstrating the true meaning of Christmas and selfless giving.



To the businesses and individuals who stepped up as sponsors, provided in-kind donations, or made financial contributions for our Annual Champagne Campaign—thank you for believing in our mission. Your support allows the Community Foundation of the Lake (CFL) to continue funding initiatives that transform lives and strengthen our community. We encourage everyone to recognize and patronize these businesses that have so generously invested in our shared future.

A special thank you goes to those who purchased auction items and helped make this event extraordinary. Your contributions not only support CFL's mission but also turned dreams into reality, including raising \$11,500 to help Drew Hankinson achieve his dream of driving through vehicle modifications.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the area nonprofits we fund. You are the boots on the ground—working tirelessly to serve veterans, individuals with disabilities, those facing hardships, and so many others in need. Your dedication and compassion inspire us all, and CFL is honored to play a part in amplifying your impact.

This success is a testament to the power of collective giving and the strength of our community. Together, we're not just addressing immediate needs but building a foundation for long-term prosperity in Camden, Miller, and Morgan counties.

As we move into the coming year, let's continue working together to support our local nonprofits and champion the businesses that help make this possible.

Thank you for making 2024 a record-breaking year. Here's to the continued success and generosity of our remarkable community!

With gratitude,  
Stacy Pyrtle  
CFL President

# Poppin' For A Purpose

*17th Annual Champagne Campaign*

*Honorary  
Chairs*



**Saturday September 27th, 2025**

**Doors open at 4:30 P.M.**

**Memory Lane Events**

**78 Walnut Grove Rd, Eldon MO**

**General Admission - \$125**

**Dinner Provided by**



**Live Auction by  
Bryant Auction**

**Presented by**



Contact Jan Amos at 321-258-5828  
for tickets and sponsorship information

