

# WFACF UPDATES

4th Quarter 2024



## A NOTE FROM NEW PRESIDENT, JAKE TRUETTE:

It is an honor to serve as the new CEO of your Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation. As I step into this role, I'm filled with appreciation for the vision of our two previous Executive Directors, Teresa Caves and Leslie Schaffner, respect for the hard work of the WFACF Team and dedication of our past and present Board Members, and gratitude to our generous donors and fund holders.

This season of thanksgiving, we look back with appreciation to those who seized the opportunity to establish the Community Foundation twenty-five years ago. And we also look optimistically to the future. Because of you, we are poised to continue to enhance the quality of life in the Wichita Falls area through the promotion and support of charitable giving for the next twenty-five years and beyond!

Thank you for your continued trust in the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation! Together, we can make a lasting difference for Wichita Falls and the surrounding area.

## Do you need to make a distribution from your IRA?

By donating to WFACF through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) you can support a cause you care about while possibly reducing your taxable income. Please contact us for more information!

## YEAR END TO-DO'S:

- As you are planning your year-end giving, please consider including a gift to WFACF.
- Gifts into a fund for 2024 must be received by noon on **December 31st**.
- If you would like to donate stock, please contact Leslie Petersen at 940-766-0829.
- Grant requests for year-end giving should be received at the foundation or through the donor portal no later than **December 16th**.
- Check out our Community Partnership Nonprofit Needs at [wfacf.org/donate!](http://wfacf.org/donate!) (see next page for details) **Open Dec 2- Dec 31**.

## A SEASON OF GIVING: A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded of the power of giving and the incredible impact it has on our community. The Community Foundation is proud to serve as a catalyst for philanthropy, helping to connect generous individuals and families with causes that matter most to them.

During this season of gratitude and goodwill, we encourage you to consider the many ways you can give back. Whether through a charitable donation, volunteering your time, or supporting local initiatives, your contributions make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Philanthropy is not just about financial gifts, it's about strengthening our community, and ensuring that the spirit of giving continues to thrive throughout the year. Together, we can help create lasting change and bring hope to those who need it most.

On behalf of the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation, thank you for your continued support and generosity. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season filled with love, peace, and purpose.

Warm regards, Leo Lane



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## SCHOLARSHIP SEASON IS HERE!

Scholarship applications for 2025 went live on December 1! To better accommodate students, the application opening date has moved a month earlier, to provide time for students to work on their application during the Christmas break. [The deadline for submitting an application is February 1.](#)

If you know a high school senior or college student who could benefit from a little help with their college expenses, please encourage them to visit the WFACF website at [www.wfacf.org](http://www.wfacf.org) and apply.

WFACF is home to over 60 scholarship funds. Many funds award multiple scholarships annually and/or multi-year awards. In 2024, over \$600,000 was awarded. In 2025, over 140 scholarships are expected to be awarded!

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** If you would be interested in helping us evaluate scholarship applications in the spring, please contact our office via email [info@wfacf.org](mailto:info@wfacf.org) or at 940.766.0829

## TIME FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP - OPEN DEC. 2 - DEC 31!

Is there a particular nonprofit (or several) that you love to support? The application window for WFACF's annual Community Partnership Grant Cycle has closed, and we received requests from over 50 local organizations for funding they need that is essential to their plans to better our local communities. The grant cycle is funded by WFACF's Fund for the Wichita Falls Area, an endowment that limits our granting amount to the spending rate for the current year.

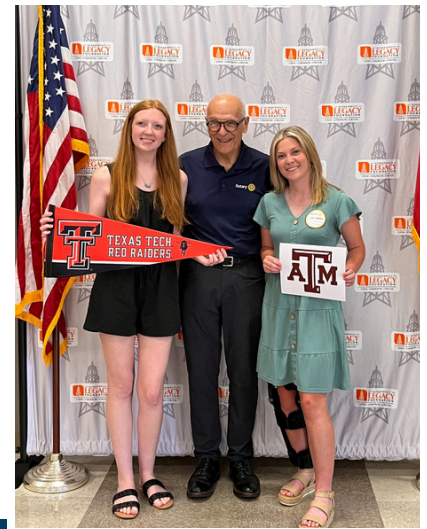
**How can you help?** Between Dec. 2 - Dec. 31, go to the Donate page at [wfacf.org](http://wfacf.org), or if you are a current fundholder, login to the Fund Advisor Portal. Check out the "Nonprofit Needs" page; it is a grant catalog of every area nonprofit that submitted a complete application for project funding to the WFACF grant cycle (also listed below). If an organization fits your passion, we invite you to partner with WFACF in fulfilling their needs, by contributing funds to their project.

### Nonprofit Applicants:

Academy 4 (WFISD)  
Affirming Texas Families  
American Red Cross  
Archer City Writers Workshop  
Archer Museum & Arts Center  
Arts Council, WF  
Beacon Lighthouse  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Boys & Girls Club, Burkburnett  
Boys & Girls Club, WF  
Camp Chapparal  
Camp Fire North TX  
Catholic Charities  
Child Advocates -CASA  
Child Care, Inc.  
Christ Counseling Ministry  
Clay County Senior Citizens  
Easy Street Animal Shelter  
Electra Hospital Foundation

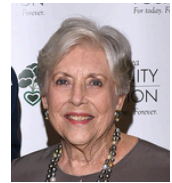
First Step of WF  
Friends of the Burk Library  
Habitat for Humanity, WF  
Holliday Education Foundation  
Hospice of Wichita Falls  
Interfaith Ministries of WF  
KCCU Radio  
Miss Fannies Friends  
MSU-Center for Nonprofit Mgmt  
Nocona Ministries  
Nortex Regional Planning Comm.  
NTX Area United Way  
PETS Clinic  
Presbyterian Children's Home  
Rathgeber Hospitality House  
Red River Valley Museum  
Rio del Fierro Composite Squadron  
River Bend Nature Center  
Senior Citizens Center, Burk  
Sober Living Inc.

Special Olympics, NTX  
Stop Child Abuse Today  
TX Family Initiative  
The Museum of NTX History  
The Salvation Army  
Wichita Christian School  
Wichita County Action Network  
WF Alliance, Arts & Culture  
WF Area Food Bank  
WF Backdoor Theatre  
WF Faith Mission  
WF Metro. Comm. Church  
WF Museum of Art @ MSU  
WF Symphony Orchestra  
WF Youth Symphony  
Wild Bird Rescue  
YMCA  
Young Life TX29  
Zavala Cultural Initiative



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Pat Thacker



"The idea of a Community Foundation for our area began more than 25 years ago in the minds of a few individuals who had hearts for philanthropy. It exists today and continues to grow because an ENTIRE area of people understood and embraced the concept of bringing charitable dollars TOGETHER to do the most good. By collectively continuing down this path there is no limit to the good that can be done."

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**11/28:** Times Charities opens  
**12/1:** Scholarship Application opens  
**12/2:** Community Partnership grant cycle opens  
**12/16:** Final day for grant requests from fundholders  
**12/25:** Times Charities ends  
**12/31:** Year-end gifts must be received by noon  
**12/31:** Community Partnership grant cycle closes  
**2/1:** Scholarship Application closes

**A new Fund Advisor Portal arrives in the new year, stay tuned for details to come!**

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## TEXOMA GIVES - IT'S A WRAP!

Through your generous giving, and 1000s of others, Texoma Gives 2024 raised \$1,775,124 to help support the valuable work of 212 nonprofit organizations in the region! This year's giving day on September 5th brought the 9th annual event just shy of the \$13M mark in total funds raised since 2016. Almost 5,000 donors made 8,812 gifts to support their favorite organizations and causes, with donations from 49 states and 9 countries!

Also, a special thank you to those of you who supported our three WFACF funds. Together, over \$23,000 was raised for the Volunteer Fire Department Fund, the WFACF Scholarship Fund and for the foundation's fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



## WFACF 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



**Dan and Carla Bolin**  
2024 Bridge Builder Award Honorees

It was wonderful to see so many friends, old and new, come out to celebrate 25 years of the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation. The evening at the country club was filled with love and laughter as we honored our founders, fundholders, and looked forward to the future of WFACF. Thank you for joining us as we looked back at the inception of WFACF, reviewed plans for the future, bid a happy retirement to Leslie Schaffner and a welcome aboard to new President, Jake Truette.



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## GET TO KNOW OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER!



- Name: Lauren Benton
- 1st Day at WFACF: May 2, 2024, in the newly created position of **Program Coordinator**, to assist with the scholarship program.
- Hometown: Wichita Falls, TX

- Immediate work history: Grant Compliance & Analytics Manager at Dallas CASA for just shy of 10 years, managing government grants, agency statistics, and minor accounting duties.
- Education: B.S. Mathematics, B.S. Statistics from Oklahoma State University
- Two Interesting Facts about Lauren:
  - Valedictorian of Rider High School class of 2007.
  - Peace Corps volunteer in Guinea, West Africa from 2011-2012 as a secondary math teacher.

### What Lauren wants to share:

“Beyond excited to have moved back to Wichita after 17 years away, with the last 13 in the metroplex, and to have found this amazing opportunity to work with the Community Foundation. Nonprofit is where my heart is, and being a part of one so focused on the longevity of the community that raised me, and that I will now raise my own children in, is incredible.”



## FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT:

Dear Fundholders and Friends,  
Because of you, I am filled with gratitude for the past six years of support, friendship, and shared commitment to philanthropy. Through scholarships that transform the lives of students to strategic investments that strengthen our region, you've continually demonstrated what is possible when people come together with purpose. It has been my profound privilege to work alongside such incredibly generous and intentional individuals. The conversations I've shared with so many of you are among the highlights of my time at WFACF and these moments will remain part of my most cherished memories.

In moving forward, I do so with immense appreciation for the opportunity to have been part of this extraordinary foundation that is integral to our region. Thank you for making my time at WFACF so meaningful.



You are the heart of this community, and I am forever grateful for this time with you.

With gratitude,

*Leslie Schoffner*

## NEED A SPEAKER?

If you are part of a group or organization that provides programs during member meetings, please pass our name along to the program chair. We love opportunities to speak to groups about the great things going on at WFACF. To get on the schedule, contact us at 940-766-0829.



## STAFF

Jake Truette - President  
Julie Looper - Program Manager  
Leslie Petersen - Office Manager  
Becky Schroeder - Finance Coordinator  
Lauren Benton - Program Coordinator  
Lori Knight - Program Clerk

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