

WFACF NEWS HUB

In loving memory of **John Hirschi**



John Hirschi, a founding member of the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation, passed away on January 15th. John dedicated his life to the service and development of our community, and we are grateful for the influence he had on the WFACF and many other nonprofits. John left a remarkable legacy; we are thankful for his example of what it means to deeply care for one's community.



Wichita Falls Area
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

February 2025

We live in an on-demand society where technology has put the world at our fingertips. With the press of a button or a voice command, you can find almost anything. You can donate to an organization you care about in seconds or share something about it on social media for all to see.

But if we're not careful, ease of access can limit the need for personal connection and the opportunities to build lasting relationships. It can remove us from reality and limit our ability and desire to think beyond ourselves for the greater good. We can't sacrifice connection for convenience. And we can't improve the quality of life in the Wichita Falls Area from a distance.

Your Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation is a hands-on organization, committed to building community one relationship at a time. We will utilize tools and resources to communicate more effectively and offer new ways of engaging, but we will never forget that relationships fuel philanthropy.

Because of you and our future fundholders and advocates, we can ensure that WFACF remains a key contributor to a thriving community as we equip donors with resources to enhance their charitable giving goals, support nonprofits through various programs and services, and serve as a connector between individuals, groups, and organizations across our area and beyond.

Let's get to work!

Jake Truette
President & CEO



"To enhance the quality of life in the Wichita Falls Area through the promotion and support of charitable giving."

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Volunteer Fire Department

Grant Applications are OPEN!

Apply online
at wfacf.org

Deadline:
March 31, 2025



Welcome to the team, Savannah!

Savannah Morales joined the WFACF team on January 2nd as our Marketing & Communications Specialist. She has 8 years of nonprofit experience in community engagement, volunteer coordination, and marketing/creative work in Wichita Falls and surrounding areas. Savannah and her husband, Nick, have a 4 and 2-year-old, (Miles and Winry) who keep them on their toes! She enjoys being outside with her family, reading, and lifting weights. She is excited to join the team and help more people know about WFACF and all we offer!



So far in 2025 we:

- Closed the WFACF Scholarship Application Cycle
- Opened the VFD Grant Cycle
- Welcomed three new board members and a new full-time staff member

Up Next:

- Scholarship committees will evaluate applications
- BLF Grant Cycle: 3/1 - 3/31
- VFD Grant Cycle deadline: 3/31
- Kinder Grant Cycle: 4/1 - 5/31
- New Fund Advisor Portal: April
- Scholarships awarded: May
- WFACF Grants awarded: May



425
students applied



150
scholarships to be
awarded



NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Laura Ward – Board Member



Laura Ward is an accountant and philanthropic consultant with 20 years experience in philanthropy, including almost a decade with a community foundation. Laura is married to Chuck Ward and has twin boys who keep her busy with sports, church, and volunteering in the community. With a background and education in classical music, Laura also enjoys sharing her love of music. Serving the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation combines Laura's passion for community with her expertise in grantmaking.

Mollie Lerew – Board Member

Mollie was born and raised in Wichita Falls and is raising her 6 and 7-year-old (Ava and James) with her husband, Joel Hartmangruber. As an attorney, she works with local governments in many of the surrounding counties, and she serves on the WFISD Foundation board.

Mollie will start her role with WFACF on the Scholarship Committee this Spring. She loves to spend time with her family, cook, read, and play with their collection of animals on the homestead (chickens, goats, dogs and a new kitten)!



Pat Jones – Board Member



Pat Jones, CPA was raised in Wichita Falls, but she took her passion for nonprofits and her CPA skills to various stops in the US and abroad as the spouse of an oil and gas executive. Through her career and life as an expat, Pat's had the chance to get involved with many nonprofits in distinct ways. When she's not crunching numbers for the family business, Pat enjoys yoga, cooking, and reading. She volunteers with Impact100, Wichita Falls Area Food Bank, and her church Finance Team. Pat is thrilled to join the WFACF team and is eager to help with its continued success.



"To enhance the quality of life in the Wichita Falls Area through the promotion and support of charitable giving."

GRANT INFORMATION:



WFACF Volunteer Fire Department Grant Cycle: 02/01 – 03/31

If you know someone involved in a local VFD, please encourage them to apply by March 31st!

APPLY AT WFACF.ORG

Eligible Counties:

- **Texas Counties:** Archer, Baylor, Childress, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Haskell, Hardeman, Jack, King, Knox, Montague, Stonewall, Throckmorton, Young, Wilbarger, Wise, Wichita.
- **Oklahoma Counties:** Comanche, Cotton, Jackson, Jefferson, Stephens, Tillman.

Royal B. Kinder Grant Cycle: 04/01 – 05/31

Who is this grant cycle for?

Nonprofits in Archer County, TX

APPLY AT WFACF.ORG



An Affiliate Fund of the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation

Burkburnett Legacy Foundation Grant Cycle: 03/01 – 03/31

Who is this grant cycle for?

Nonprofits in Burkburnett, TX

APPLY AT WFACF.ORG

