

LAUNCHING YOUR LEGACY...



A “NEW DAY” FOR THE FOUNDATION

In the words of Board Chair Margaret Farley, the Legacy of Justice (LoJ) Foundation is on the verge of “becoming what it was always meant to be” — a nonprofit organization which raises and distributes funds to strengthen the civil justice system in Kansas and protect the rights of Kansans.

Here’s the Story...

When the Foundation Board meets the end of March, they will consider changes to the Bylaws which focus on the charitable mission. At this writing, it is anticipated the Foundation will work to build a moderate level of ongoing fund raising through its Annual Fund campaign, which was launched for FY 2011-12 last Thanksgiving.

This effort was recently given a huge boost by KsAJ’s Executive Committee, which voted in February to open the “Eagles split” to allow funds from premier members’ generous dues to be directed in part to the Foundation, at the discretion of the individual Eagle member (see related story on page 4).

In addition to the Annual Fund drive, the Foundation intends to develop planned giving mechanisms to help its donors include the cause of Justice in their estate plans, and hopes in time to establish an endowment. It is anticipated there may be a need for major fundraising drives from time to time. The current Board believes, however, that major fundraising drives will be the exception — not the rule.

All funds raised will be used to support the mission. The Foundation Board is developing a grant funding mechanism so that these monies can help fund activities of the Foundation itself (such as scholarships for law students in Kansas), activities proposed by KsAJ (perhaps including such efforts as public outreach and education, or bolstering the independence of the judiciary), or activities proposed by others in the nonprofit community which support parallel goals (including perhaps education or community programs for vulnerable populations to help insulate them against the possibility of catastrophic loss).

Distribution of funds will be determined each year

depending on the funds available and the grant applications received.

By clearly defining its fundraising activities and grant program goals, the Foundation Board believes it can avoid the pitfall of overpromising what will result from donors' gifts. The organization will raise the money first...retaining modest portions for administrative costs (it costs money to raise money) and building support.

The building is crucial to our mission in that it provides a venue for both Foundation and association programming, and discounted or complimentary event space is offered to our nonprofit coalition partners to further their aims as well. The vast majority of funds will then be offered in grants to our family of coalition and community partners.

Grants may be modest at first, but nonprofits manage to do tremendous things on a shoestring budget. Over time the Board believes that the Foundation's impact will expand considerably.

Here's the Challenge...

So when does the New Day begin? When does your Legacy Launch? Frankly folks, that's up to you. Steps taken over the past year have gotten us to the point where we're almost there. We have a paying tenant in Suite 100 through 2016, and we just re-signed the tenant in Suite 200 through 2014.

The building is now paying for itself as time goes on. But there is an operating deficit in FY 2011-12 because it took time to move staff upstairs and rent Suite 100. The Foundation Board hopes and believes that this deficit will be the "final chapter" for operating the building in the red. Between now and the end of June, the Foundation is working to raise \$28,000 to retire the deficit and launch a New Day for the Foundation!

Tom Warner, Eagle member from Wichita, jumped on the Foundation's year-end messages to say he thought we surely could come up with enough members and firms to give \$1,000 each in order to banish the \$28,000 deficit. He is pictured here writing his \$1,000 New Day Donation to the LoJ Foundation. Warner is challenging his fellow members to step up and match his gift, and Foundation Board members are making phone calls to encourage such gifts. Watch future issues of the Journal for the "New Day Donations" box to see who among you answers the call. Of course smaller gifts to the Foundation are always welcome as well. They will be credited to the Foundation's Annual Fund and will do worlds of good.

To create even greater incentive to give, Lynn Johnson, executor of the Shamberg bequest to the Foundation,

has said that if we can raise the \$28,000 by the end of the fiscal year to retire the debt, the Foundation can appropriate \$5,000 from the Shamberg funds to launch the New Day by instituting the grant program in FY 2012-13.

In appreciation for this generous gesture, Farley said she will ask the Foundation Board at its March meeting to designate its new program as the John Elliott Shamberg Grant Program. She anticipates Board approval and that the Legacy of Justice Foundation will be making Shamberg Grants for many years to come.

Don't Be Left Out

Whether or not you've received a call from a member of the Foundation Board, we hope you will want to make a New Day Donation to the Legacy of Justice Foundation. Please feel free to contact Dereka Pedersen at (785)232-7756 to charge your gift, or you can mail a check to headquarters.

Any thousand dollar donations will be credited to the New Day Challenge; smaller gifts are of course welcome and will benefit the Annual Fund. ▲



Sign on the Dotted Line. Tom Warner, Wichita, proudly displays his gift to the Legacy of Justice Foundation.