

2013 Annual Report

Brighter Futures for All Generations

Since 1913, when Parker Browne Francis II first launched the Oxygen Gas Company in Kansas City, Missouri, the Francis family has continued to be an inspirational and influential force in the Kansas City metropolitan area. In 1951, as the company grew and developed into a major national manufacturer and supplier of industrial and medical gases, Parker B. Francis II established a foundation bearing his name to help promote education and research in the fields of anesthesiology and related pulmonary sciences. Parker B. Francis III also established a foundation to fund his interests in education, and arts and culture.

Since the two foundations merged in 1989 to become the Francis Family Foundation, the pattern of grantmaking made today still reflects the interests of the founding donors. For more information about the history of the Foundation, please visit www.francisfoundation.org.

Vision

The Francis Family Foundation envisions current and future generations of well-rounded individuals who are creative, lifelong learners, striving to achieve their fullest potential within their communities.

Today, thanks to the vision of Parker B. Francis and his son John B. Francis, the Francis Family Foundation celebrates 62 years of philanthropy, including the funding of the Parker B. Francis Pulmonary Fellowship Program and support of educational and arts programs located within the Kansas City metropolitan area.

It is in the context of this history that the 2013 Annual Report honors the accomplishments of more than 350 grants representing a social investment of \$6 million. While John B. Francis and his wife Mary Harris Francis are both deceased, stewardship of the Foundation was passed to their children – Ann F. Barhoum, David V. Francis, J. Scott Francis and Susan Neves – and six non-family Board members – Gregory Glore, Mary Lou Jaramillo, David Oliver, Charles Schellhorn, Susan Stanton and Katie Wendel. Susan Neves has since retired from the Board.

Strategic Framework

In 2013, the Foundation Board of Directors created a Strategic Framework for 2013-2017, which serves as a path to making this vision a reality. It is built upon strategies that target talented individuals and organizations that strive to provide excellent programs and services within their communities. Specifically, the Foundation focuses its strategies in the areas of pulmonary research, lifelong learning with a particular emphasis on early childhood development, and arts and culture. By focusing support in these areas, the Foundation is committed to making a difference in improving the quality of life through our grant making. The following stories from our grantees illustrate some of our grantmaking successes.

Pulmonary Research

Francis Family Foundation funding enables breakthrough solutions in pulmonary medicine leading to the development of enhanced treatments and cures for pulmonary diseases.

Desired Results: New scientists who serve patients with lung diseases through innovative research are supported at a key transition point in their career.

Measurement: Increase number of researchers entering and remaining in the pulmonary research field.

Overall Grantmaking Strategy 2013: Attract, develop and retain the best researchers in the field of pulmonary research through the Parker B. Francis (PBF) Pulmonary Research Fellows Program. The Foundation created the Parker B. Francis Fellowship Program, a national postdoctoral study in pulmonary research, in 1975. Since then, the Foundation has contributed \$62 million in support of more than 830 Fellows. For more information, visit www.francisfellowships.org.

Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Dr. Satish Madala and Dr. William Hardie are researching pulmonary fibrosis, an incurable lung disease due to cells that form scar tissue and impair lung function. They hope to identify cells involved in the formation of scar tissue in both the early and late stages of lung disease. The results could lead to new molecular targets for the development of new treatment of pulmonary fibrosis.



University of California at San Diego

Dr. Tatum Simonson and Dr. Peter Wagner have shown in previous studies that Tibetans have genetic adaptations to high-altitude associated with lower red blood cell levels, and physiological studies show that this loss is accompanied by enhanced exercise



capacity through increased cardiac output and oxygen transport in muscle. The goal of this research is to determine the physiological and genetic factors responsible for Tibetan adaptations. Considering decreased oxygen availability is important in various diseases (e.g., altitude illness, heart and lung disease, stroke, hypertension, and cancer), the results will have broad implications for disease treatment and prevention.

University of Vermont

Dr. Vikas Anathy and Dr. Yvonne Janssen-Heininger are identifying new drug targets and strategies for the treatment of the influenza virus since it appears to have developed resistance to the widely used anti-influenza drug, "Tamiflu." This research uses a new strategy to prevent the spread of influenza within the lung by inhibiting host cell proteins in a specialized structure of the lung cells that are used by the invading influenza virus.

We believe that this strategy will provide a powerful tool to inhibit influenza virus infection.

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Jo Rae Wright Award for Excellence in Science

In 2012, we lost a great researcher, mentor and friend. Dr. Jo Rae Wright was a creative and tireless educator who was a role model for researchers, educators, and women in science. She will be greatly missed. To honor her spirit, the Foundation established the Jo Rae Wright Award for Excellence in Science given to the top graduating fellow who best exemplifies the values of Dr. Jo Rae Wright. The award celebrates excellence in science and is given to the research home of the fellow for lab supplies to further support their research.



Dr. Laura Fredenburgh, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and an Associate Physician in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital was honored with this award. Dr. Fredenburgh's research focuses on identifying the molecular mechanisms and mediators of pulmonary vascular remodeling with the ultimate goal of identifying new therapeutic targets for pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Lifelong Learning

Francis Family Foundation funding encourages lifelong learning for people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds through innovative, diverse, creative and research-proven ways of learning.

Desired Results: Well-rounded children and youth who are creative, flexible, globally competitive, adaptive to a culture of innovation and diversity, passionate about learning, and able to problem solve, in groups and individually, so they can thrive in the 21st Century.

Measurements:

- children *entering kindergarten school ready*
- children prepared to *read on grade level in third grade*
- children and youth actively engaged in *achieving high academic standards*

Overall Grantmaking Strategy 2013: Invest in innovative organizations and attract, develop and retain the best teachers, leaders, staff and other people who provide and advocate for a continuum of (1) quality during a child's earliest learning experiences; (2) access to excellence in K-12th grade, especially in the urban core of Kansas City; and, (3) the family's role as first teachers in early literacy.

Alliance for Childhood Education

We have increased membership and awareness to support success in lifelong learning across Kansas and Missouri. Pushing lawmakers to keep quality P-20 education funded indefinitely tops our list of priorities. We know that ninety percent of brain development occurs before five. As a country, we only spend five percent of our budget on this age group. Business leaders understand the need to invest in areas that get the greatest return. Pushing for universal Pre-K and putting childhood education on top of the priority list for lawmakers and business leaders is our goal in the next three years.

The Alliance endorses the Common Core Curriculum and is reaching out in Missouri, telling legislators that ... *the common core standards reflect the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that our young people need to be successful in an increasingly competitive global economy ... The standards were informed by the best minds in the country, including some Missourians, and they honor the diligent work that many Missouri legislators have invested in calling for their adoption. An independent review found the common core standards were found to be clearly superior to Missouri's existing math and English standards ... 45 states have already adopted the common core state standards. If Missouri does not join them in adopting the standards to the fullest extent possible, it will put our students at a considerable disadvantage in achieving high academic standards*, as well as the economic vitality of both urban and rural districts.

Kansas Action for Children

Kansas Action for Children (KAC) is working to broaden the conversation about improving reading scores in Kansas to include key early

While supporting nonprofits that provide direct services is important, the Foundation believes it is critical to further policy development that impacts the entire field of early education, both to increase effectiveness of programs and to reach the greatest number of children possible. To that end, the Foundation invests in local and state advocacy organizations that provide critical research and education to leaders in communities throughout Missouri and Kansas.

literacy experiences before a child reaches school age.

In 2013, KAC stepped into the policy discussion on early literacy and the Governor's "Kansas Reads to Succeed" initiative. While new financial resources are a step in the right direction to increase the percentage of children prepared to *read on grade level in third grade*, it is also important that evidence-based practices are used to accomplish this goal effectively and that existing programs for younger children are not impacted negatively. KAC and the Coalition raised concerns with the media about the detrimental impact of cutting the Early Childhood Block Grant to reallocate funding for the "Kansas Reads to Succeed" initiative.

Kansas City Freedom Schools Initiative

Many of us take for granted that our children know what their real names are. After the inaugural session of the *Kindergarten Readiness Boot Camp* for young

children with no pre-school experience, our staff will no longer make such an assumption.

In designing the program, staff prepared to help young children with early literacy skills and social/emotional behavior, such as following directions, walking orderly in a line, and working alone and in groups. However, some of the children's shortcomings took teachers by surprise, such as not responding to their given name.



"When we called the name of one of our young students, he completely ignored us, he actually did not know his given name and had

been called by a nickname since birth." The young boy also did not know his mother's or father's names when he first enrolled in the program.

"It took us 4-5 weeks to help him to recognize his proper name, as well as begin to write some of the letters and recite their sounds." By the end of the summer session, this young boy and other boot camp participants were more prepared to *enter kindergarten school ready* in the fall of 2013 and were more on the level of their fellow kindergartners who had previously attended pre-school.

Metropolitan Council on Early Learning (MCEL)

MCEL is implementing the Classroom Assessment Scoring System My Teaching Partner (CLASS MTP) model in preschool classrooms in area community based early learning programs. This model is a process using

a combination of onsite and online coaching. Preschool teachers record themselves for one half hour every two to three weeks. A certified coach meets with the teacher to review the recordings and discuss goals and teacher action plans.

Feedback received from the participating teachers has been overwhelming positive. Many teachers have commented how the experience has helped transform the way they teach young children. Some comments include:

"I was able to use the videos to examine how the room arrangement impacted the flow of learning activities in my classroom and make improvements, the videos helped to see what children were interested in the room."

"The videos and support helped me focus on extend children's vocabulary — more intentionally asking open ended questions to my students."

Recent research underscores the importance of quality teacher-child interactions as a key factor contributing to children *entering kindergarten school ready*. To this end, MCEL is implementing the CLASS MTP model, as a tool that measures the quality of teacher-student interactions.

Operation Breakthrough

Sandra is a single mother who first came to Operation Breakthrough in August of 2011. At the time she did not have stable housing, transportation, or a support system or circle of friends. Her oldest son was 2½. Her second son was 1½. Sandra was pregnant with her third child.

At one point Children's Division had been involved with the family, unsure if the children should remain with their mother. Through intensive intervention and support provided at

Operation Breakthrough, the family situation has stabilized although challenges remain.

Sandra was assigned a Family Advocate who provided her regular access to food and clothing for her children through our food pantry and our clothing closet and assisted her in securing stable housing. Sandra was a regular attendee in our parent education program which gave her new skills to assist in managing her children's behavior. Sandra is currently enrolled at a community college and has a part-time job on campus. Sandra has developed new friendships with other mothers at the Center, creating a small peer support group. The Children's Mercy Clinic at Operation Breakthrough serves as the medical home for Sandra's children and has become a source of ongoing support and encouragement for her.



Sandra and her children are representative of the many families at Operation Breakthrough. The direct support services, quality early childhood programming and care and concern provided daily by the staff have made a real difference to this family.

Partnership for Regional Educational Preparation-Kansas City (PREP-KC)

Ralph Teran, Superintendent, Grandview (Missouri) School District: "Teachers and students feel empowered by the successes resulting from the Math Benchmarking, and this curriculum work is

having a positive impact on the lives and futures of our students. Without the assistance of PREP-KC and their financial donors, we simply could not have supported and facilitated this work on such a large scale, in such a short amount of time."

Bob Bartman, Superintendent, Center (Missouri) School District: "Recently we were notified that Center High School has been nominated for the Secretary of Educations National Blue Ribbon School Award for achieving high academic standards. Although our staff has been working hard for the last several years to improve student performance, the partnership between PREP-KC and Center has been a major fuel injection, particularly in the math area, that has enabled our students to dramatically improve their math skills."

Reach Out and Read Kansas City

Jessica can't wait for bedtime every night. She climbs into bed, grasping the gently-used classic children's novel, *Pollyanna*, with the folded down corner on the page where her mom stopped reading the night before. She is ready to hear the next adventure of *Pollyanna* before she drifts off to sleep. The ritual of sharing a book before bedtime each night has been part of Jessica's routine since she was a very young child. She listens closely as her mother makes the words on each page come to life, paragraph by paragraph, chapter by chapter.

Jessica loves reading! She loves all kinds of books and has been placed in the highest reading group in her kindergarten class. On a recent trip to see her primary care physician Jessica proudly bragged that she has more than 100 books at home! Jessica's medical provider smiles and looks at mom and congratulates her on a job well done and states how Jessica has blossomed into an intelligent and charismatic young lady.



It was just a few years ago Jessica's mom entered the health care clinic as a young, scared, unprepared first-time parent struggling to make ends meet every

month for her infant child. Since that first well-baby checkup, Jessica's mom has worked hard to provide a safe and educational environment for her. Jessica's pediatrician is participating in the nationally recognized early literacy program, *Reach Out and Read*, which allows her to provide a new, culturally and developmentally appropriate children's book along with literacy guidance at routinely scheduled checkups starting at birth to help create that educational environment. Along with a social prescription to read daily, Jessica's mom has learned about the importance of reading, talking, and singing in order to help Jessica develop the cognitive and language skills necessary to *enter kindergarten school ready*. Now a proud kindergartner, Jessica is ready to begin the next chapter in her life. She is one of the lucky ones as she has grown up with books and reading since birth.

Swope Corridor Renaissance / Upper Room, Inc.

Raising A Reader (RAR) is based on the premise that when parents establish a reading routine with their children, family bonding time increases, as do children's vocabulary and preliteracy skills. Substantial research, as well as a growing amount of intervention evaluations,

demonstrate that family involvement can be strengthened with positive results for young children and their school readiness. Early childhood programs now recognize that they alone cannot prepare children for kindergarten — they need the support of families and communities. *Raising A Reader* makes a positive and lasting impact, significantly improving family reading behavior, parent-child bonding, and kindergarten readiness. *Raising A Reader* has been shown to increase the amount of time parents spend reading with their children, the number of visits parents and children take to the library, and increase in kindergarten readiness skills of book knowledge, story comprehension, and print knowledge. The program also shows that parent knowledge about the importance of literacy was increased with RAR usage.

These positive outcomes have been found true across diverse income, ethnic/racial, and language groups. Results were intensified among groups at educational risk (i.e. low-income and minority groups). Young children benefit most from their later school years if they *enter kindergarten ready to succeed*. Early childhood is a period in which children develop the basic skills that serve as a foundation for later learning. Developing these skills at a younger age will help ensure they can achieve reading at grade level by the third grade.

We can also influence a child's ability to *read at grade level by third grade* by increasing family involvement. It is important to build positive home-school relationships early in a child's education so that a strong trajectory is set for long-term meaningful family engagement.

Arts & Culture

Francis Family Foundation funding promotes the principle that arts and culture are fundamentally important for all people.

Desired Results: (1) An excellent **ecology of the arts** grows and is sustained regionally; (2) well rounded children, youth and adults who can thrive in the 21st Century.

Measurement:

- arts and culture organizations and artists using effective and *innovative strategies for audience development*
- schools with *meaningful Arts in Education experiences* integrated in school curricula and aligned with the common core standards
- *Establish local public funding streams* in the region to support arts and culture organizations and artists

Overall Grantmaking Strategy 2013: Support and advocate for development of the greater Kansas City area as a creative regional hub for excellence in arts and culture, rich with expression of diverse cultures and affording access to all levels of creative participation.

The Foundation continues to support the many arts and culture institutions that “anchor” a strong and vibrant quality of life in Kansas City. At the same time, through our small arts grants program, the Foundation seeds both new and emerging organizations, and expands access for children and underserved populations throughout the community.

Arts Tech

Excerpts from an article from the *Kansas City Star* July 8, 2014 that illustrates why ArtsTech exists and how they *integrate meaningful arts in education experiences* for youth.

There were many days when times were anything but good for Ja' Kevion McLeod-McCullough. By all rights the 17-year-old Kansas City student could have given up on life.

Just shy of his fifth birthday, someone murdered his father. By the time he became a teen, he had to work nearly full time and turn over every dime to

help pay the bills. As one of 14 children raised by a single mother, he struggled at home, and in school.

It would have been simple to turn to drugs, gangs or crime.

Instead, thanks to ArtsTech, he's going to college next year at the University of Nebraska to become an architect.

"ArtsTech has given me plenty of opportunities," Ja' Kevion says. "It's amazing. I love being here."

ArtsTech teaches urban youth marketable skills in visual arts, graphic design, photography, ceramics and computers.

But ArtsTech is much more than just a place to have fun. It has a dropout-recovery school and an arts program, and collaborates with police, courts, schools, the Full Employment Council and more.

Through ArtsTech, Ja' Kevion got back on track with his schoolwork, found an artistic outlet by painting and working with ceramics, and got into college. He benefited from programs like the My Arts program, where teens paint, draw, work with ceramics and more. The program is sponsored by the Jackson County COMBAT (anti-drug task force) and the prosecutor's office.



"It's easy when you know it's making a difference," says Executive Director Dave Sullivan. "We have kids who are graduating. We have kids who weren't going to school, and now they are. And now we have kids going to college. I think more than 90 percent of the kids in the My Arts program are going to college."

"What ArtsTech does is give them a foundation to help them build upon themselves. We look at them as our greatest piece of art."

“Fab Collab”

A unique collaboration among four of the larger performing arts organizations is *using innovative strategies for audience development* in the Kansas City region. The Kansas City Symphony, Ballet, Opera and Repertory Theatre have joined forces to share data and design new outreach efforts to grow audiences for the arts. Enriched use of social media is one of the key outcomes as these organizations implement shared software that links potential ticket purchasers through text messaging, Facebook, and related social media.

This work has been facilitated by staff of the Hallmark Corporate Foundation with financial support from the Francis Family Foundation.

Folly Theater

Contributions for unrestricted general operating support, like those the Folly receives from the Francis Family Foundation, are among our most important gifts. The theater is a 114 year old historic Kansas City icon. Without contributions to maintain and preserve our building, there would be no need and no place to hold the presentations, productions or rentals.

As with any older structure, the Folly has leaks, frayed dressing room carpet, outdated HVAC, worn out seats. In early 2014, we received a mandate to replace each of the theater's 973 incandescent light bulbs. The new bulbs will be more efficient LED bulbs; plus the incandescent bulbs will no longer be manufactured. The cost to purchase and install these light bulbs is approximately \$46,000, nearly equal to the investment the Folly makes in its annual 10-program Kids Series.

Happily once the light bulbs are purchased, we are eligible for a rebate from KCPL and perhaps TIF. But we are still required to invest in the replacement of all the light bulbs from general operating funds as we have no endowment. Thanks to general operating support, we are able to do this more comfortably than we might have had

we not
had your
general
operating
support.



Friends of Chamber Music (FCM)

In the weeks leading up to the Benjamin Grosvenor concert the FCM staff discovered that a young man celebrating his 21st birthday would be in attendance with his family. He has an extensive background in music, specifically as a pianist. He also happens to be blind. With an extra set of box seats available, the staff jumped into action to upgrade his tickets, and also organized an opportunity for the family to have a post-concert dinner with Mr. Grosvenor, who is also just 21 years old. Having the honor of making this young man's birthday a special one was a wonderful experience for the FCM staff. We celebrate being able to bring fine examples of young classical musicians like Benjamin Grosvenor to Kansas City, allowing young people to see that classical music isn't just an art form for their grandparents.



Kansas City Symphony

Youth Education & Community Engagement Programs

Diana Stocksdale attended the Kansas City Symphony's Family Series performance of "Beethoven Lives Upstairs" and shared this note:

"My name is Diana Stocksdale and I am 34 years old. I taught piano for 13 years. I was diagnosed with Mitochondrial Disease and I'm wheelchair-bound ... For me music was my life. But piano playing had to take a back seat in my life as I no longer have the ability to play."

It takes a great deal for me to get out of my home but when I received the program for the Kansas City Symphony, I found a concert I had to see. I asked my chauffeur, my Mom, if she would be willing to take me. She was game so the three of us: me, my Mom, and my service dog, Gibson, attended.

It was a magical day. I even enjoyed the symphony orchestra tuning to the right note. Suddenly, for that short amount of time, I was transported out of my wheelchair and back to that love of music I thought I had lost. We would like thank those that designed Helzberg Hall because it is one of the most handicapped accessible places we have been, even the parking garage and the elevators. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making that day so very memorable.

Nothing could top the feeling of being there that day."

Educator comments about kansas city symphony youth education programs:

"I've been taking my kids to your concerts for 19 years. You've kept the ticket prices down and provide detailed materials to prepare the kids. Tying the music in with the core curriculum and integrating meaningful arts in education experiences helps make this field trip viable to administrators."

"The differentiated learning opportunity is one of the greatest arguments I have to keep bringing my students. Less than five percent of my students had been to a live orchestra concert until I started taking them to Link Up, KinderKonzerts, and Young People's Concerts. You make a difference!"

"This was a really wonderful experience. I love how centered on education the program was. From the preparation materials to the performance itself, it was perfectly focused on the kids."

"Thank you so much for the wonderful educational experience for my students. I teach in a Title I building and most of my students will never experience anything like this outside this school experience. The curriculum is wonderful and makes it fun and interesting for my students and myself. I can't say enough wonderful things about the opportunity and your excellence in bringing it to the students at an affordable cost! Thank you!! See you next year!"

Mattie Rhodes Counseling & Art Center

We have an amazing past student that came almost every day to our After School Art Program as a young boy that grew up here at Mattie Rhodes. He attended Rotary Camp with Mattie Rhodes and even served as a Camp Leader he also volunteered at the Art Center and help out with community projects. He has always made a point to come by and visit through the years. We have been fortunate to watch him grow in so many ways.

Today he is a successful United States Marine he is married and has three children that all were able to attend our Summer Art Camps this summer. He talks about how important it is for his children to have wonderful people around them that support them and love them and *integrate meaningful arts in education experiences* to teach them about art, give them the tools to be creative and make art.

This story like so many others really touch the heart and tell exactly what we hope to always do and how much ART affects people's lives.

Missouri Alliance for Arts Education

Imagine the hard stone halls of the Missouri State Capitol. They are imposing, They echo every sound, especially the conversations of those trying to influence policy decisions. They are cold and impersonal.

Now imagine those same halls ringing with the sound of students' voices singing. Suddenly, those hard stones don't seem so formidable. The echoes are filled with beautiful music, not politics. This is what happens each spring when the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education mounts the annual *Fine Arts Education Day*.

More than 400 student performers and their teachers and parents filled the Rotunda and front steps with their performances. The day began with a choir including students from around the state performing the National Anthem in the chambers of the House of Representatives. Spoken word performances followed in the Rotunda. Special mention was given to Makenna Lockhart of Paseo who had won the Kansas City branch of the English Speaking Union's Shakespeare Performance Contest. She performed her monologue and sonnet that won her an all-expense paid trip to the National Finals in New York.

Recognitions of outstanding teachers and programs were interspersed among the performances as well. Dr. Velicia Daniels, theatre instructor at Paseo Academy, was



recognized for her work with students. Other teachers who received awards from arts education organizations in the Alliance were also recognized. Once again, the hope was that such recognitions would increase the profile of our member organizations and strengthen their ability to have an impact on teachers and students throughout the state. One special recognition of the day was Keelly Jones of Sedalia, who became the first Show-Me Arts Student Delegate to Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.

As the performances went forward staff members, representatives, and senators came into the Rotunda to listen and meet the students. We also dispatched the students and parents to meet with every legislator to talk about why *integrating meaningful arts in education experiences* means so much to them.

Synergy Services

Synergy Services provided 128 runaway, homeless youth free arts-related workshops,

Small Arts Grant Awards

Recognizing that the arts are more accessible when located within venues where people live and work, the Francis Family Foundation created the Small Arts Grant Fund. A wide range of grassroots programs are supported throughout the region.

The Arts Asylum

The mission of The Arts Asylum is to help visual and performing artists of all types and genres to generate and produce their arts and expose it to Kansas City in new and unique ways.

classes and performances. Program success was measured from input provided by youth through a voluntary program feedback survey. One of the participants relayed the following message,

"I'm in an alternative program at school, so I don't get to do art stuff there anymore and it's really about the only subject I liked at school. I am glad I can do it here!" – Emily, age 17.

Unicorn Theatre

This year, Unicorn Theatre instituted a new sort of attendance opportunity in addition to our student, "under 35" and senior discounts. For every production, we offer Pay What You Can nights, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week. *Using innovative strategies for audience development* opens all of our productions to members of the community that would otherwise not be able to afford tickets.

We are the only all-inclusive performing and visual arts center of its size to open its doors to all art, from dance to sculpture, theatre to photography. The Arts Asylum has twenty-three rental studio spaces, four live/work artist apartments, three performance/gallery spaces, and plays host to art events which showcase our tenants' talents and foster collaboration.

Our youth art education programs provide series of visual and performing arts classes for underserved children ages 3 - 17, including those from the neighboring reStart organization for the homeless. The adult art education program offers single- and multiple-session classes which are geared toward adults in the Kansas City community at-large who are new to making art and/or who just need an affordable creative outlet.

Furthering our mission, The Arts Asylum will continue to offer a safe place to create for all artists and those interested in the arts.

Bach Aria Soloists (BAS)

The *Community Concert / Bach Reach Series* provides more than 3,000 people with the opportunity to experience world class chamber music in creative and stimulating multi-genre collaborations, presented in convenient urban locations, for free or for very affordable ticket prices, reaching a very diverse group of audience members.

We expanded the type of educational programs we offer to include orchestral and sectional clinics. BAS saw this as an unmet need in the community since the not-for-profit that previously offered these clinics no longer did so. One of the most interesting new relationships that has formed is with Alta Vista Academy. Elizabeth Suh Lane has provided two clinics for the school's mariachi band. They have asked BAS to return next year for a series of clinics. The students are so appreciative and impressed by Elizabeth's instruction. She is crowded with enthusiastic young people after each clinic asking questions and wanting to share their stories with her.

DeLaSalle Education Center

The Arts and Culture Program at DeLaSalle Charter High School and the after-school Drama and Film clubs have served as vehicles to expose students to various careers in the arts, while allowing them to apply their talents in specific areas of interest.

Three of last year's drama club students have decided to pursue that field as a career after writing scripts and performing in several productions after participating in the drama club for the past three years. They had expressed interest in drama and the class confirmed their career path choice. All three students graduated in May 2014 and have plans to further their education at local community colleges.

The Don Bosco Centers

Bloomerang is a collaborative art experience that builds connections between community partners: Don Bosco seniors and Newhouse Shelter residents who are women and children. The creative process provides intergenerational mentorship, expresses pride, celebrates unity and benefits their communities while building awareness of Northeast Kansas City's rich diversity.

At the beginning of the project, the participants were hesitant and shy with one another. But in the warm, nurturing environment of the Don Bosco Senior Center, once the participants began to create their artwork, and inspire one another with ideas and encouragement, the ice began to break and the atmosphere in the room changed to one of collaboration and inspiration.

By the end of the sessions, the participants were hugging one another. Friendships were made. Barriers were crossed. Boundaries came down. Beautiful, lasting artwork was created. The finished banners proudly hang in the Senior

Center dining room and in the Newhouse shelter and reflect the colorful, positive energy of the Don Bosco mission as a whole.

The Kansas Alliance for the Arts in Education (KSAAE)

Over the past two-and-a-half years we have worked diligently to develop an organization that, despite limited funds, advocates and supports quality arts education programs throughout the state. Prior to our establishment, there were few professional development opportunities in this sector of education in Kansas. Upon KSAAE's inception, educators requested opportunities for arts professional development. KSAAE sponsors high quality arts educational conferences and has worked to advocate for arts education at both the national and state levels.

KSAAE has participated in Arts Advocacy Day at our nation's capitol in each of the past two years, and has visited and distributed brochures demonstrating the value of arts education to every state Representative and Senator during Arts Day at the Kansas Capitol. To acknowledge the need for arts educators to be better prepared for advocating for the arts, we sponsored an advocacy webinar for KSAAE members to learn how to advocate to legislators.

Finally, KSAAE members worked to develop a video contest in which students were encouraged to also have a voice in telling how the arts impact their lives. A resounding success, a second contest is being planned for later this year. The first year's winning entry was shown at the Lawrence Arts Fair earlier this month. The video contest was presented at the Kennedy Center network meeting, and other states are interested in replicating this model of increasing arts awareness.

Kansas City Jazz Orchestra

"The [Education Outreach Programs](#) are designed to create special music experiences to educate and inspire young musicians.

Although I can't put a dollar value on this, I wanted to try and express the joy and excitement I witnessed at our Youth Jazz Performance before our 'Tribute to Ellington' concert at Helzberg Hall which featured 25 students in Clarence Smith's — one of the truly great music instructors in the country — Metropolitan Jazz Workshop Ensemble. I walked backstage at Helzberg Hall and I didn't see any activity in the hallway, so I went to the warm-up room. When I walked in, all the students had arrived and Clarence was giving them instructions and encouragement. I wouldn't have been surprised if the 25 students had been 'horsing around' a bit, as kids sometimes do, but there was none of that! Once Clarence ended his comments, the young men and women were working on getting in-tune, practicing tough parts of their big band arrangements, and getting mentally prepared. No 'monkey business.'



By the time they were to 'hit the stage' Helzberg Hall probably had a few hundred patrons who had come early to hear the young jazz artists perform! The students sensed it was more than just family and friends in the audience. When Clarence led them onto stage for their performance, I could see the pride and excitement they had on their faces — like the Yankees taking the field in Yankee Stadium.

They treated the audience to 35 minutes of great music and the audience responded in kind. They were great crowd-pleasers. After their encore (and a standing ovation) I felt very proud to be part of the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra, an organization that took the initiative, time and energy to organize this Youth Jazz Performance.

Thanks again for your support. It's greatly appreciated."

Kansas City Volunteer Lawyers & Accountants for the Arts

The Kansas City Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (KCVLAA) provides free legal and accounting services in Western Missouri and Kansas for qualifying artists and arts organizations, from all creative disciplines.

KCVLAA handles more than 20 individual artist cases through our pro bono referral services and more than 400 artists through its ongoing art law workshops, annually.

Some praise for KCVLAA's work:

"KCVLAA is an invaluable asset to any person or group interested in starting an arts based notforprofit. The information and help that we received from KCVLAA was imperative to our becoming a successful 501(c)(3). Thanks to all of the lawyers and accountants who participate in this endeavor!"

"I am deeply thankful for my volunteer attorney's time and expertise in these matters. Notably, the service that KCVLAA offers is critical to the art-making process and I will not hesitate in the future to utilize this resource. To those who make this service possible, I also offer a sincere, 'thank you.' I look forward to participating in future educational opportunities with KCVLAA."

Just as the Foundation supports advocacy organizations and the crucial role they play in raising public awareness, the Foundation seeks out opportunities to invest in capacity building organizations. The unsung heroes of the nonprofit community are often the capacity building intermediaries who strengthen organizations' impact and enhance program outcomes by increasing skills such as governance, finance, or evaluation. Strong nonprofit organizations lead to strong programs and ultimately, greater impact in the community.

Latino Writers Collective

Since our inception as a collective we have strived to make a national presence for the group. The goodwill that our efforts have generated and the quality of the work that we do is evident in the conferences where we have been selected to present. This year our work touched many people who wanted to meet us and engage in dialogue about best practices for a collective and how to start one. We presented such a panel at AWP in Seattle.

Michael Nava, a nationally recognized writer, heard of our efforts on behalf of migrant youth and asked if we would welcome his participation in the annual academy of hope workshop we hold at KU, at his own expense. He was visibly moved by the narratives that the youth shared and the common thread that ran through all the stories.

Sometimes we are not aware of the importance of the work we do until we see its affect on others. His encouragement and wish to return again next year is a great vindication of the work the group does.

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
Arts & Culture		
<i>Contributing to an arts ecology</i>		
Folly Theater (Performing Arts Foundation Of Kansas City) general operating support	\$10,000	\$10,000
Friends of Chamber Music Concert(s) Underwriting	10,000	10,000
Harriman-Jewell Series at William Jewell College (Trustees of William Jewell College) general operating support	10,000	10,000
Heartland Men's Chorus general operating support	10,000	10,000
Mid-America Arts Alliance Kansas City Programming and Audience Development	10,000	10,000
The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures (Toy And Miniature Museum Of Kansas City) general operating support	33,750	33,750
Unicorn Theatre general operating support	10,000	10,000
<i>Establishing local public funding streams</i>		
Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City general operating support	75,000	75,000
<i>Integrating meaningful arts in education experiences</i>		
Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art general operating support	10,000	10,000
American Jazz Museum general operating support	10,000	10,000
Arts Tech general operating support	10,000	10,000
Coterie Theatre general operating support	20,000	20,000
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival general operating support	10,000	10,000
Kansas City Ballet Association general operating support	15,000	15,000

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
Kansas City Chapter Of Young Audiences Inc general operating support (\$30,000) and toward training for teaching artists to better align their school programs with new Common Core Standards (\$5,000)	\$35,000	\$35,000
Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey KCFAA Education Programs	15,000	15,000
Kansas City Repertory Theatre Inc general operating support	25,000	25,000
Kansas City Symphony Youth Education and Community Engagement Programs	25,000	25,000
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art (Kemper Museum Operating Foundation) general support of education programs	10,000	10,000
Lyric Opera Of Kansas City Inc Education Program	10,000	10,000
Mattie Rhodes Counseling & Art Center (Mattie Rhodes Center) Latino Cultural Arts	20,000	20,000
Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre general operating support	15,000	15,000
Missouri Alliance for Arts Education MAAE Arts Education Support Program	\$30,000	\$30,000
Paul Mesner Puppets Inc general operating support	10,000	10,000
Performing Arts Series at Johnson County Community College (Johnson County Community College) general operating support	10,000	10,000
UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance (The Conservatory of Music of Kansas City) Musical Bridges	20,000	20,000
<i>Using innovative strategies for audience development</i>		
Charlotte Street Foundation general operating support	30,000	30,000
Fab Collab Initiative (Metropolitan Arts Council of Greater Kansas City) Social Media Project (to find and develop younger audiences for the Kansas City Symphony, Ballet, Repertory Theatre, and Lyric Opera; facilitator Hallmark Corp Foundation; fiscal sponsor ArtsKC Regional Council)	25,000	25,000

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
Kansas City Art Institute general operating support (\$25,000) and new post-baccalaureate Art Education Certificate program (\$10,000)	\$35,000	\$35,000
KCPT - Public Television 19, Inc. Arts & Culture Coverage on KCPT	40,000	40,000
<i>Small Arts Grant Fund Awards to non-arts organizations for their arts programs</i>		
Associated Youth Services, Inc. Art on 8th	2,500	2,500
Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City (Boys Club Of Greater Kansas City) The Arts Project at Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City	7,500	7,500
Community Housing of Wyandotte County (CHWC Inc.) CHWC Arts Programs	6,000	6,000
Crossroads Academy Fine Arts Program	5,000	5,000
DeLaSalle Education Center Arts and Culture Program	7,500	7,500
Donnelly College Community Arts Initiative	5,000	5,000
Genesis School, Inc. African Centered Music Program - Music Classes and Ensemble	5,000	5,000
Guadalupe Centers, Inc. Kansas City Mariachi Camp	5,775	5,775
Swope Corridor Renaissance / Upper Room, Inc. Eddie Baker School of Music	7,500	7,500
Synergy Services, Inc. YRC (Youth Resiliency Center) Arts Program	5,000	5,000
The Don Bosco Centers Bloomerang at Don Bosco and Newhouse Shelter: Workshops and Banner Design Program	2,500	2,500
The Whole Person Inc Express the Whole Person	3,000	3,000

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
<i>Small Arts Grant Fund Awards to Small arts & culture organizations for their programs</i>		
Bach Aria Soloists 2013-2014 Community Concert Series / BachReach Educational Programs	\$4,500	\$4,500
City In Motion Dance Theater, Inc. Children's Dance Theater	3,000	3,000
Clay County African American Legacy Inc Bringing Art to the People (BA2P)	2,000	2,000
Fishtank Performance Studio (Fractured Atlas Productions, Inc.) Development of new projects and physical improvements to the studio	5,250	5,250
Gem Theater Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Inc. Support for programs at the old fire house at 2033 Vine Street	7,000	7,000
Kansas City Jazz Orchestra Jazz Education Outreach Program including: Summer Jazz Camp; Kerry Strayer Master Class; and Youth Jazz Performance at Helzberg Hall (prior to KCJO concerts)	3,000	3,000
KC Clay Guild Low fire glazing	5,017	5,017
Musical Theater Heritage Inc general operating support	1,875	1,875
Pakistani Cargo Truck Initiative (Atelier CMS INC) To outfit the back of the truck with necessary equipment to provide workshops at schools and colleges	7,500	7,500
Plug Projects (Fractured Atlas Productions, Inc.) Programming Budget 2014	6,000	6,000
StoneLion Puppet Theatre Puppets for the Planet Festival Series	7,500	7,500
Traditional Music Society African Dance Youth Ensemble	5,865	5,865
Watkins Mill Association Inc Education & Arts Programs	3,000	3,000
Writers Place (Midwest Center For The Literary Arts Inc) In Our Own Words: Writing Workshops for At-Risk Middle and High School Students	7,500	7,500

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
<i>Small Arts Grant Fund Awards to small arts & culture organizations for general operating support</i>		
Arts Council of Johnson County	\$3,750	\$3,750
Chameleon Theatre Company (Community Childrens Theatre Of Kansas City Mo Inc)	2,000	2,000
Emily A Silverman Memorial Fund (Em's Spotlight)	5,250	5,250
Kacico Dance	7,500	7,500
Kansas City Actors Theatre Inc	3,750	3,750
Kansas City Artists Coalition	7,500	7,500
Kansas City Chalk And Walk Festival, Inc	3,750	3,750
Kansas City Filmmakers Jubilee, Inc.	7,500	7,500
Kansas City Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts	7,500	7,500
KC Fringe Festival	7,500	7,500
Latino Writers Collective	3,000	3,000
Owen/Cox Dance Group	7,500	7,500
The Storytellers Inc. (ArtsTech)	7,125	7,125
The Arts Asylum	7,500	7,500
The Kansas Alliance for the Arts in Education	3,018	3,018
The Kansas City Boys Choir (The Kansas City Boys Choir A Not- For-Profit Corporation)	7,500	7,500
Theatre Atchison, Inc.	4,875	4,875
Theatre for Young America	7,500	7,500
Westport Center For The Arts	7,500	7,500
Wylliams/Henry Danse Theatre	7,200	7,200
<i>Special Programs & Initiatives</i>		
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation transfer of funds for future Arts & Culture grantmaking	94,000	94,000

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
Capital Campaigns — Arts & Culture Organizations		
Friends Of The Zoo Inc Of Kansas City Mo Make Your Mark	\$100,000	\$1,000,000
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Capital Campaign Endowment	200,000	1,000,000
The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures (Toy And Miniature Museum Of Kansas City) Endowment in honor of Mary Harris Francis	750,000	3,000,000
The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures (Toy And Miniature Museum Of Kansas City) 30th Anniversary Capital Campaign	170,000	1,000,000
Discretionary Grants	604,000	604,000
Lifelong Learning		
<i>Achieving high academic standards</i>		
Partnership for Regional Educational Preparation-Kansas City (PREP-KC) general operating support	150,000	150,000
<i>Entering kindergarten school ready</i>		
Alliance for Childhood Education general operating support	25,000	25,000
DeLaSalle Education Center Parent and Child Education Support Program (PACES)	10,000	10,000
Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development (Foundation Of The Metropolitan Colleges) Francis Resource Center and FICYD Director	250,000	250,000
Kansas Action for Children, Inc. general operating support including Kansas Coalition for School Readiness	50,000	50,000
Kansas City Area Parents as Teachers Consortium (Olathe Unified School District #233) general operating support	20,000	20,000
KCPT - Public Television 19, Inc. KCPT Kids Initiative	15,000	15,000
Metropolitan Council on Early Learning (Mid-America Regional Council Community Services Corporation) MCEL - general operating support	140,000	140,000
Operation Breakthrough OB Collaborative & Early Learning Program	65,000	65,000

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
Reach Out and Read Kansas City (Kansas University Endowment Assoc) general operating support	\$50,000	\$50,000
The Family Conservancy general operating support	50,000	50,000
<i>Special Programs & Initiatives</i>		
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation transfer of funds for future Lifelong Learning grantmaking	141,000	141,000
Kansas City Freedom Schools Initiative (Mt. Pleasant Education and Development Corporation) Kindergarten Readiness Boot Camp	30,000	30,000
Metropolitan Community Colleges Foundation Scholarship in honor of Jerry Kitzi's contributions to the field	5,000	5,000
Metropolitan Council on Early Learning (Mid-America Regional Council Community Services Corporation) Implementing Early Learning Assessment Tool	70,000	70,000
Swope Corridor Renaissance / Upper Room, Inc. Raising A Reader KC	30,000	30,000
<i>Pulmonary Research</i>		
<i>PBF Fellowships</i>		
Brigham and Women's Hospital Dr. Edwin K. Silverman, Mentor Dr. Emily S. Wan, Fellow	50,000	156,000
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Dr. William Hardie, Mentor Dr. Satish K. Madala, Fellow	50,000	156,000
Columbia University Medical Center (The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York) Dr. Alice Prince, Mentor Dr. Taylor S. Cohen, Fellow	54,000	156,000
Columbia University Medical Center (The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York) Dr. Damian Turner, Fellow Dr. Donna Farber, Mentor	52,000	156,000
Columbia University Medical Center (The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York) Dr. Jahan Bhattacharya, Mentor Dr. Mohammad N. Islam, Fellow	50,000	156,000

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
Dartmouth Medical School (Trustees Of Dartmouth College) Dr. Andrea Corcoran, Fellow Dr. Eugene Nattie, Mentor	\$52,000	\$156,000
Duke University Dr. Tereza Martinu, Fellow Dr. Scott Palmer, Mentor	52,000	156,000
Harvard College (President and Fellows of Harvard College) Dr. Megan B. Murray, Mentor Dr. Molly F. Franke, Fellow	54,000	156,000
Harvard College (President and Fellows of Harvard College) Dr. Jeffrey Fredberg, Mentor Dr. Jin-Ah Park, Fellow	50,000	156,000
Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University (Cornell University) Dr. Ronald G. Crystal, Mentor Dr. Renat Shaykhiev, Fellow	54,000	156,000
Johns Hopkins University Dr. Marsha Wills-Karp, Mentor Dr. Stephane Lajoie, Fellow	50,000	156,000
Mayo Clinic Rochester Dr. Richard Oeckler, Fellow Dr. Rolf Hubmayr, Mentor	52,000	156,000
Northwestern University Dr. Jacob I. Sznajder, Mentor Dr. Curtis H. Weiss, Fellow	54,000	156,000
Northwestern University Dr. Jacob I. Sznajder, Mentor Dr. Kathryn A. Radigan, Fellow	50,000	156,000
Stanford University (Stanford University Board Of Trustees Of The Leland Stanford Ju) Dr. Mark A. Krasnow, Mentor Dr. Christin S. Kuo, Fellow	46,481	156,000
Stanford University (Stanford University Board Of Trustees Of The Leland Stanford Ju) Dr. Michael Matthay, Mentor Dr. Angela J. Rogers, Fellow	27,000	54,000
University of Alabama at Birmingham Dr. Victor J. Thannickal, Mentor Dr. Jessy S. Deshane, Fellow	50,000	156,000

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
University of Arizona Dr. Joe G.N. Garcia, Mentor Dr. Ting Wang, Fellow	\$26,000	\$80,000
University of British Columbia Dr. Tillie-Louise Hackett, Fellow Dr. James Hogg, Mentor	52,000	156,000
University of California, San Diego (Regents of University of California) Dr. Peter Wagner, Mentor Dr. Tatum Simonson, Fellow	50,000	156,000
University of California, San Francisco Dr. James A. Frank, Mentor Dr. Michael J. LaFemina, Fellow	54,000	156,000
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center Dr. Rubin Tudor, Mentor Dr. Brian Graham, Fellow	26,000	156,000
University of Florida (University Of Florida Foundation Inc) Dr. Mai ElMallah, Fellow Dr. David Fuller, Mentor	52,000	156,000
University of Illinois at Chicago Dr. Asrar B. Malik, Mentor Dr. Anke Di, Fellow	3,083	143,897
University of Illinois at Chicago Dr. Asrar B. Malik, Mentor Dr. Sophie Toya, Fellow	54,000	156,000
University of Illinois at Chicago Dr. Ting Wang, Fellow Dr. Joe Garcia, Mentor	26,000	76,000
University of Michigan Dr. Megan Ballinger, Fellow Dr. Theodore Standiford, Mentor	52,000	102,000
University of Pittsburgh Dr. Steven D. Shapiro, Mentor Dr. Annerose Berndt, Fellow	54,000	156,000
University of Rochester Dr. Patricia J. Smine, Mentor Dr. R. Matthew Kottmann, Fellow	50,000	156,000
University of South Alabama Dr. Sarah Sayner, Fellow Dr. Troy Stevens, Mentor	52,000	156,000

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
University of Toronto Dr. Richard L. Horner, Mentor Dr. Gaspard Montandon, Fellow	\$54,000	\$156,000
University of Vermont (University of Vermont and State Agricultural College) Dr. Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Mentor Dr. Vikas Anathy, Fellow	50,000	156,000
University of Washington Dr. Mark M. Wufel, Mentor Dr. Carmen R. Mikacenic, Fellow	50,000	156,000
University of Wisconsin at Madison (Regents of the University of Wisconsin System at Madison) Dr. Gordon S. Mitchell, Mentor Dr. Nicole L. Nichols, Fellow	54,000	156,000
University of Wisconsin at Madison (Regents of the University of Wisconsin System at Madison) Dr. Gordon S. Mitchell, Mentor Dr. Adrienne G. Huxtable, Fellow	50,000	156,000
Vanderbilt University (Vanderbilt University Medical Center) Dr. James D. West, Mentor Dr. Joshua P. Fessel, Fellow	50,000	156,000
Wake Forest University Dr. Daniel Files, Fellow Dr. Osvaldo Delbono, Mentor	52,000	156,000
<i>Special Programs & Initiatives</i>		
American Thoracic Society general operating support	10,000	50,000
Brigham and Women's Hospital Jo Rae Wright Award for Excellence in Science To provide an award given to the top graduating fellow who best exemplifies the values of Dr. Jo Rae Wright. The award celebrates excellence in science and is given to the research home of the fellow for lab supplies to further support their research.	5,000	25,000
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation transfer of funds for future Health Research funding	235,000	235,000
Thomas L. Petty Aspen Lung Conference (Aspen Lung Conference) To continue the Parker B. Francis Lectureship in 2012, 2013, and 2014.	3,500	10,500

Grantee and Purpose	2013 Amount	Total Award
University of Alberta Governors of the University of Alberta Parker B. Francis Research Opportunity to support the work of Dr. Meghan B. Azad in recognition of excellence in pulmonary research.	\$5,000	\$5,000
University of Washington Parker B. Francis Research Opportunity to support the work of Dr. Ajai Dandekar in recognition of excellence in pulmonary research.	5,000	5,000

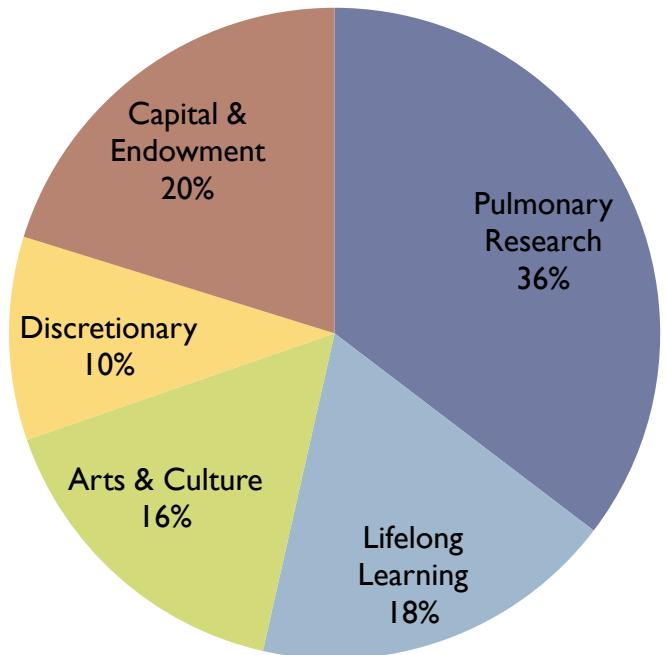
Brighter futures for all generations

2013 Grants

361 grants

211 organizations

\$6 million



Largest grant (non-capital)

Francis Institute for Child & Youth Development

\$250,000 to support the Francis Resource Center whose mission is to create a professional workforce for the care and education of children and youth.

Smallest grant

Clay County African American Legacy

\$2,000 to support Bringing Art to the People, an art with a purpose program to bring art programming, drama, historical reenactments, musical concerts, and historical archiving events to an underserved minority adolescent population of the Greater Kansas City, Missouri Northland area.

Mission

The Francis Family Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals, families & communities with particular commitment to the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

By modeling & reflecting our family's vision, history, interests & values, we will accomplish this mission through effective & innovative grant making by:

- *implementing the best research & best practices;*
- *focusing on community-based initiatives & collaborations;*
- *supporting programs that address unmet community needs; &*
- *focused, proactive grant making.*

Values

Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusiveness

All members of our communities should have the opportunity to participate fully in educational, cultural & social activities. We should seek ways to improve access to these activities to individuals & families of all ages, religions, races, ethnicities, financial abilities & physical & mental abilities. We believe in the rich diversity of the greater Kansas City area, & promote inclusiveness in the way we work & in our grant making activities. We seek to celebrate our common experiences & concerns through our grants.

Collaboration

We encourage & model collaboration among funders & community organizations.

Community

We embrace & promote a strong sense of community & seek opportunities with great potential for strengthening community life & the urban fabric.

Excellence

We are committed to standards of excellence in the results of our grant making.

Innovation & Creativity

We value the creative process among people of all ages & backgrounds. We encourage excellence & innovation in our grant making activities.

Integrity & Sustainability

We maintain & promote fiscal & program integrity in our operations & grant making activities to ensure the sustainability of organizations that enrich community life.

Passion for Learning

We promote a lifelong passion for learning as a key factor in developing active, well-rounded & contributing individuals in our communities.

Planning & Evaluation

We believe in planning & evaluation as critical methods to assess the effectiveness of our grant making so we can make a difference.