



KANSAS
PRIDE

Kansas PRIDE 2011 Annual Review



KANSAS RURAL WATER
association



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Our Commitment



Our Profession

**Providing training,
technical assistance and
other support to Kansas
communities**



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Kansas PRIDE Program*

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www.krwa.net**

*The mission of the Kansas Rural Water Association is to provide education,
technical assistance and leadership to public water and wastewater utilities
to enhance the public health and to sustain Kansas communities.*



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December, 2011

Dear PRIDE Members, Sponsors and Friends:

This year was one of the most exciting years I've experienced as a board member of Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Although some rather significant changes have been implemented in programming and the grant award process and requirements, PRIDE volunteers have adapted to them and continued to work on projects or initiatives that will positively impact their communities.

And what a great year it was! In 2011, community volunteers invested 94,263 hours on various PRIDE initiatives. They completed 1,266 projects and participated in 637 collaborative partnerships. Youth were involved in 140 projects. Public and private funds invested in projects totaled \$728,221! These are outstanding statistics and I fully expect them to be matched or exceeded in 2012.

We awarded our first Partners in PRIDE (PIP) grants to five communities this year, whose projects met the goal of planning for longer-term community sustainability. And we recognized nine communities for their investments in community improvement that met one of the six aspects contributing to the well-being and sustainability of a community. The new format for the "Day of PRIDE" gathering was such a success that it will be replicated in 2012 in a different region of the state.

As a board member, I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn firsthand of the challenges Kansas PRIDE communities face and – more importantly – what they envision! It is obvious that the volunteers who donate their time and resources to projects or initiatives have a deep-seated love for their communities.

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Kansas PRIDE Board of Directors. The board takes seriously its responsibility to provide the resources needed to support the awards and recognition of PRIDE communities and I can assure you we will continue to seek opportunities to increase our financial support.

On behalf of PRIDE's Board of Directors, thank you for the time and commitment each and every one of you give to Kansas PRIDE and your communities. Because of your passion, your communities have a vision. Because of your commitment, the vision will be attained.

Sincerely,

2011 Board Chair
Kansas PRIDE, Inc.

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Kansas PRIDE Inc. Board of Directors

Members who served on the board during the 2011 PRIDE year include representatives of sponsoring corporations and organizations, PRIDE community representatives, and representatives of the two administering organizations of the PRIDE program: K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce. The Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors provides guidance and raises funds for the recognition of outstanding community achievement through the Kansas PRIDE program. It is with gratitude that we recognize the following board members:

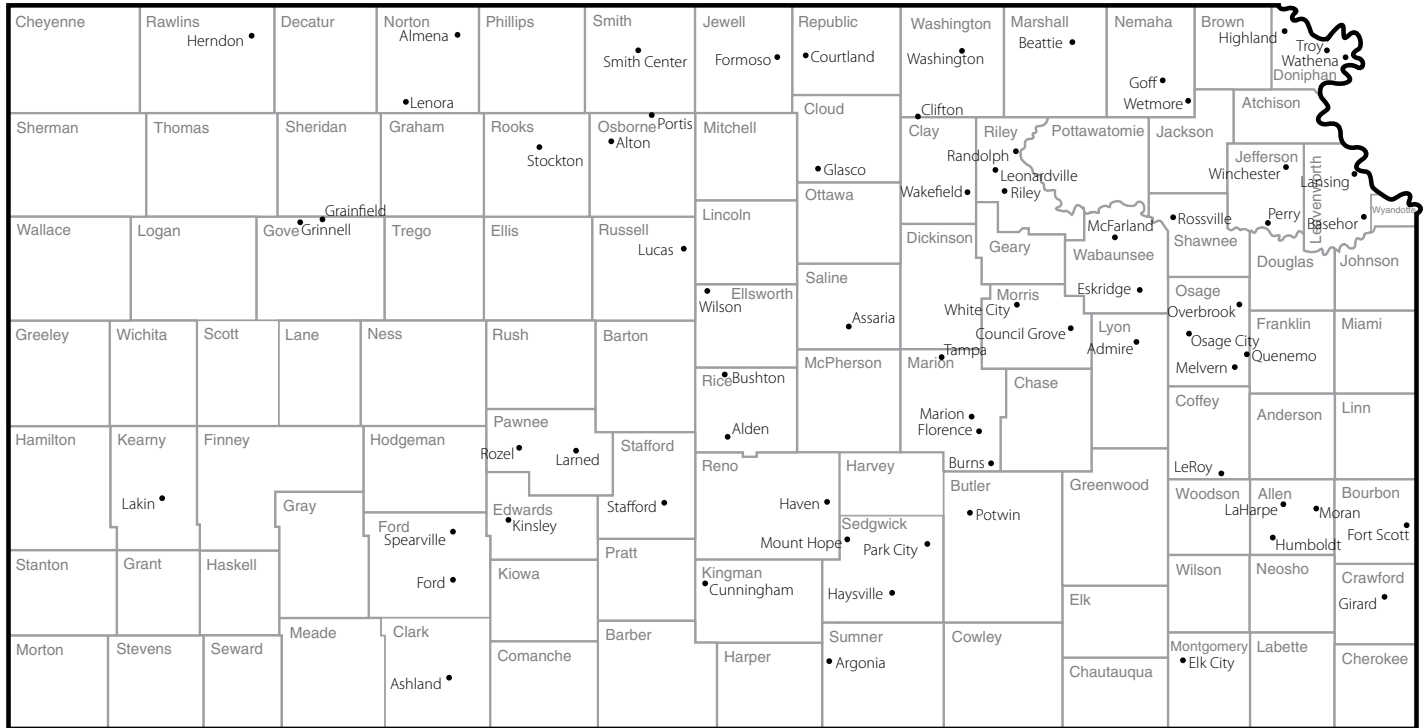
Larissa Long Black Hills Energy	Charles Wilderson Basehor PRIDE	Dean Schmidt Potwin PRIDE	Loree' Krier Stockgrowers State Bank
Pam Stone Kansas Gas Service Company	Jim Ireby Melvern PRIDE	Suzanne Lane Westar Energy	Nicole Godek Grainfield PRIDE
Kim Winn League of Kansas Municipalities	Betty Lewis Highland PRIDE	James Wright Midwest Energy	Dr. Daryl Buchholz K-State Research and Extension
Suzanne Coin Westar Energy	Becky Dunlap Beattie PRIDE	James Bartling Atmos Energy Corporation	Barbara Anderson Kansas Dept. of Commerce
	Tracey Taylor Rossville PRIDE	Doug Helmke Kansas Rural Water Association	Jaime Menon K-State Research and Extension

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2011 Map of Communities Actively Enrolled in PRIDE

2011 was an important year for the Kansas PRIDE Program. In this 41st year, the program shifted its schedule to correspond with a calendar year. This was done with the intent of simplifying the enrollment dates and reporting, and aligning our program year with the calendar on which many of our PRIDE communities operate. PRIDE communities responded well to the new reporting schedule, and we are pleased to report that the work of PRIDE volunteers remains an incredible force for change in Kansas. The communities listed below reported completing 1,266 community-improvement projects this year!



Admire
Alden
Almena
Alton
Argonia
Ashland
Assaria
Basehor
Beattie
Burns
Bushton
Clifton

Council Grove
Courtland
Cunningham
Delia
Elk City
Eskridge
Ford
Fort Scott
Girard
Glasco

Goff
Grainfield
Grinnell
Haven
Haysville
Herndon
Highland
Humboldt
Kinsley
La Harpe
Lakin
Lansing

Larned
Lenora
Leonardville
LeRoy
Lucas
Marion
McFarland
Melvern
Moran
Mount Hope
Osage City
Overbrook

Park City
Perry
Portis
Potwin
Quenemo
Randolph
Riley
Rossville
Rozel
Smith Center
Spearville
Stafford

Stockton
Tampa
Troy
Wakefield
Washington
Wathena
Wetmore
White City
Wilson
Winchester

PRIDE and Community Development

What is the PRIDE program?

The PRIDE program provides technical support and recognition for community volunteer groups organized for community betterment. The program is supported by the Kansas Department of Commerce, K-State Research and Extension, and Kansas PRIDE Inc., a non-profit organization.

Why would a community participate in the PRIDE program?

PRIDE can assist a municipality and community volunteers by providing structure for organizing community improvement work. Each PRIDE group is encouraged to develop articles of incorporation and bylaws, and to identify the most effective role a volunteer community improvement group might play for the community. PRIDE offers resources and guidance for getting organized. PRIDE also provides an avenue for community volunteers to network and exchange ideas with each other. The state PRIDE program also provides recognition of successful community improvement work through awards, publications, and news releases. PRIDE also records and reports the impact of community volunteerism through PRIDE and shares that information with the communities.

What does a community do in PRIDE?

Volunteers organized through PRIDE are encouraged to identify local priorities. Each PRIDE group is encouraged to survey community residents about community assets and needs, coordinate meaningful projects, involve others, and celebrate success. Kansas PRIDE helps local groups organize, network with other communities, connect with resources, and gain recognition for their efforts. Community enrollment in the state PRIDE program is voluntary and free.

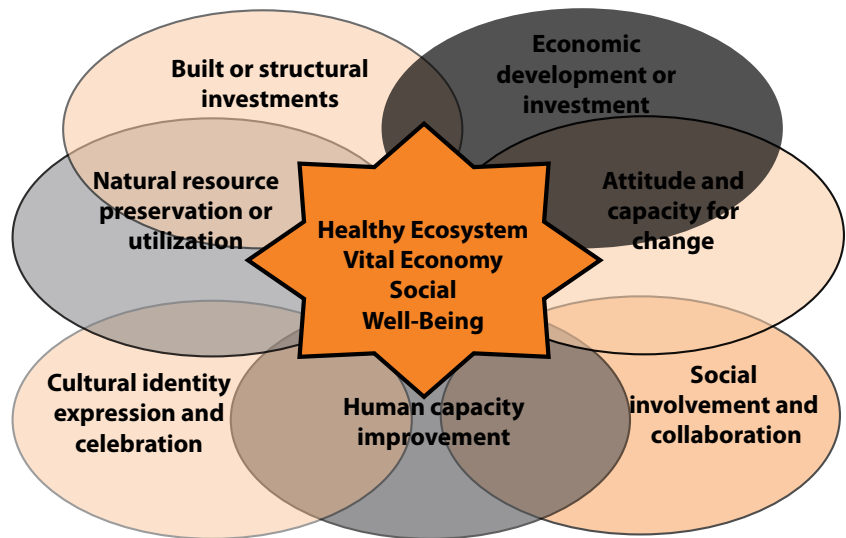
What framework does PRIDE use to understand community?

People working in community development may highlight the importance of improving the streets, homes, and services of a community of place. Others might define community as the sense of connection that people feel. Others define community development in economic terms. The truth of the matter is, they are all correct. These are all aspects of community development.

The PRIDE program adopted a framework of understanding community called the community capitals framework. This model effectively helps community teams think about the many aspects that strengthen and sustain community. Research around the community capitals model suggests that communities applying this broad, systems approach to development tend to meet the needs of their citizens better and generally demonstrate economic and environmental health.

The community capitals framework provides an encompassing way of understanding areas of community improvement investment. For this reason, PRIDE recognizes project investments related to the area of community capital the project best supports.

PRIDE integrates best practices and information gathered through research. Based on findings of community improvement work from around the United States and internationally, the PRIDE program brings applicable community development tools and processes to participating communities. *The Get It! – Do It!* project is a great example of how PRIDE can merge current evidence-based research information and resources with local community development activities.



2011 Professional Development Programs

What's on the Radar?

In the spring of 2011, PRIDE staff from K-State Research and Extension and the Department of Commerce provided a series of workshops around the state. *What's on the Radar?* workshops were hosted in Melvern, Goff, Marion, Grainfield, Lucas, and Stafford and reached 19 communities and 88 participants. *What's on the Radar?* focused on the changing demographics of Kansas communities and provided insights on how to approach and engage different generations for community volunteerism. Participant evaluation comments included: "I didn't realize the generation you were from affected how you volunteer" and, "After listening to the presentation, I realize we need to change our plan and try to involve more young adults and youth." Another participant reflected, "I now understand why when we asked kids to sign up to work at the theater they always come in groups. It's not just a social thing; it's the way they work."

Community Development Academy

Two Community Development Academy experiences were offered in 2011. The first, in February and March in Manhattan, engaged representatives from the communities of Dwight, Florence, Marion, and Council Grove in a four-day guided process for developing a community engagement plan.

The second Community Development Academy was in Garden City in September and October and involved the community teams from Goodland, Hugoton, Leoti, Garden City, and Lakin.

Each Community Development Academy invited the community to send a team of participants who represented education, health care or social services, business, government, and civic organizations. The participating teams then developed a strategy for reaching out to the citizens and organizations of their community to engage them in active community improvement. A follow-up evaluation asked communities: "*What projects or plans have resulted in your community from your team's participation in the Community Development Academy?*" Responses included:

- Community clean up and working toward a housing project. Also completing a strategic plan for the community.
- The newly revived PRIDE program is going well and they have started a farm and art market and are working with other communities in the area to benefit all.
- The city of Lakin and PRIDE are looking at improving another city park with a potential funding opportunity found as a result of some information handed out at the academy.
- The plan is to make the community development efforts coordinated and part of a planned effort.
- The Community Action Planning was an excellent road map. Excellent material about community development resources and agencies.



Community representatives take advantage of a community coaching opportunity.

Healthfest

Get It – Do It! communities met in the spring of 2011 at Rock Springs 4-H Camp to learn new ideas for improving community health. Youth and adults gathered for two days of health education. Highlights included learning new games, trying out new games and fitness ideas, and participating in a "healthy park" assessment. Community teams had a great time at the camp while they started putting together plans for improving health opportunities for their communities.

*An investment of human capital:
In 2011, PRIDE communities reported 94,263
hours of volunteerism. Using the most recent value
of volunteer time for Kansas from the Independent
Sector, this calculates to an investment valued at
more than \$1,677,800 in volunteer time.*

Community Partners Awards

Beginning in 2011, Kansas PRIDE Inc. created an award to help PRIDE communities build better relationships with important community partners. The *Community Partner Award* is given to an individual, organization, or group that has made an outstanding contribution to a local PRIDE program within the last year. This award provides broad recognition for outstanding support of community PRIDE efforts. The following PRIDE communities recognized the listed individuals or organizations for their support of local improvement efforts.

PRIDE Community	Partner Recipient
Basehor	Fred Box
Grinnell	Adeline Bechard
Larned	Angie Murray
Lenora	Lenora FCE
Leonardville	Bayer Construction
Lucas	Connie Dougherty
Park City	John Leeker



Larissa Long and Daryl Buchholz presenting Angie Murray a PRIDE Community Partner award.

Excellence in PRIDE Community Capital Awards

The *Community Capitals Project Awards* were new to PRIDE in 2011. These competitive awards were created to celebrate successful community improvement projects of PRIDE communities. The awards are categorized in areas of community investment that contribute to the well-being and sustainability of a community. The Community Capitals Framework highlights investment in seven areas that are important to the overall success and longevity of communities. These areas of investment (known as capitals) include: Human, Social, Cultural, Political, Economic, Natural, and Built aspects of community. A resource or asset becomes a community capital when it is created by or shared with the public. The Kansas PRIDE Program sought nominations in each of these capital areas to recognize unique projects that furthered those aspects of community development. Nine communities were recognized through the Kansas PRIDE Program for their investment in community improvement. The community stories below represent nominations submitted and awarded in 2011.

Cultural Capital Awards

Glasco

Glasco PRIDE was honored with an Excellence in PRIDE award for their investment in cultural capital. Citizens of Glasco wanted to capture and retell the story of their community. Realizing the importance of the community history, both as a sense of identity and for tourism, Glasco youth and PRIDE volunteers began researching local history. Using local donations and in-kind research service, they matched funding from the Kansas Humanities Council. As information was collected and sorted, the group also developed plans for retelling the story of Glasco. Exhibits highlighting historical events were created to be shared at community festivals and for display in the community center. Historical tours were solicited through the Kansas Visitors Guide. Festivals were coordinated by community volunteer committees, student projects, local businesses and organizations, and alumni. Four articles were published in the Solomon Valley Anthology. Glasco PRIDE writes, "The impact on Glasco in creating a positive environment that celebrates the community's heritage and traditions has been tangible. We have experienced a growing willingness to explore the past and to share it. We have gained a sense of appreciation, both within the community and from visitors drawn here as a destination."



Glasco PRIDE historical exhibit.

Highland

Highland PRIDE earned an Excellence in PRIDE award for their investment in cultural capital. Highland celebrated its sesquicentennial with a four-day celebration in 2007. Planning for the celebration took the dedication of many people to research, collect artifacts and stories, confirm the accuracy of details, and organize for the celebration. As time passed, it became clear that the 150th celebration itself was a historic part of the community's culture. The historical artifacts collected for the celebration, however, were left unorganized. The information that had been gathered and the breadth of involvement in this successful event also needed to be captured and documented. Nancy Lucas, a former citizen of Highland, applied her scrapbooking talent to capture the celebration for perpetuity. She devoted several weeks of time and delivered a labor of love to the PRIDE committee. The book she created is her gift to the community — a lasting legacy for generations to come. The historical compilation is now on display at the District 1 Branch Library.



Highland sesquicentennial celebration.

Human Capital Award



Grinnell Healthfest display.

Grinnell

Grinnell PRIDE was awarded an Excellence in PRIDE award for their investment in human capital. An established priority from a community-planning meeting was to increase the physical activity of community members. Grinnell PRIDE worked with the city to purchase and install exercise fitness stations along a walking trail in the park. The group chose stations accessible to all ages. PRIDE volunteers received a *Get It – Do It!* grant, which engaged youth and adults in designing and implementing healthy events and activities. In addition, they sponsored fund-raisers and received contributions from community members. PRIDE collaborated with Grinnell Middle School, Gove County Extension and the multi-county Specialists for Foods, Nutrition, Health and Safety, the Gove County Sheriff's Department, Grinnell Fire Department, and Gove County Health Department to host health education events including

a HealthFest Celebration and demonstrations of how to use the trail and fitness stations. In 2009 and 2010, volunteers invested 1,850 hours of time and more than \$6,500 in this project. Grinnell community PRIDE writes, "This was a great community project for Grinnell PRIDE that will benefit all ages and is a wonderful addition to the city park for many years to come. There is now an awareness of health and fitness and the means to achieve this through the park renovations, which include a walking trail and outdoor exercise stations."

An investment in social and political capital:

Research and practice tells us that communities that work together are stronger and more resilient. Strengthening the social community starts with inviting others to participate in community planning and events.

Citizens working together to identify important projects and actively engaging in community betterment strengthens political and social capital. Building inclusive, welcoming social networks also contributes to community sustainability. In 2011, PRIDE committees engaged in 637 collaborative partnerships for community betterment. Partnerships with civic groups, local governments, church groups, and professional organizations improve results, and strengthen the sustainability of projects.

Social Capital Awards

Lenora

Lenora PRIDE set a goal to improve communication and establish methods for getting information to all citizens. The small community had difficulty getting information to the public about upcoming programs and events. The City of Lenora, Lenora Rural Telephone, PRIDE, and the Lenora Family and Community Education organization all contributed to the purchase and installation of an electronic sign for the front of the community building. The sign announces all official meetings in the community, as well as public information, events, and birthday or anniversary announcements. Lenora notes that this is a big step forward from the small message board that was rolled out into the street. Because of their investment in social networks, communications, and collaborative efforts, Lenora PRIDE received an Excellence in PRIDE award for social capital.



Lenora community sign.



Stafford summer youth program.

Stafford

Efforts to connect youth, school, business, and families secured Stafford PRIDE's Excellence in PRIDE award for social capital. The project, *AmeriCorps & Workforce: Youth Summer Workers & Power of the Park* successfully connected a *Get It – Do It!* project grant and an AmeriCorps scholarship to provide healthy activities to children in the community. The effort supported the afterschool program and a summer program for teaching young people about healthy choices. Many of the children involved not only received fellowship, exercise, lessons on nutrition, games, fun, and healthy snacks, but they also received a free lunch five days a week. Students were also involved in work projects that focused

on developing leadership and networks with other young people. While the community improved the human capital aspects of providing fitness and nutrition education, the focus on shared leadership development and youth networking made this project a strong investment in community social capital. A report from Stafford states, "This was a great partnership: Stafford Pride, K-State Research and Extension *Get It – Do It!* Grant, AmeriCorps, and Workforce. The children had fun activities, healthy snacks, and fun toys to take home and use. Community members appreciated the PRIDE program creating these opportunities and partnerships.

Engaging the youth of the community is important to gain fresh perspectives and for creating long-term commitment in the community. PRIDE communities reported 140 of the 2011 projects engaged youth in the identification, planning, and implementation.

Built Capital

Alton

Alton PRIDE set its sights on improving the Health and Safety of everyone in the community in 2010. Activities included health assessments and checkups for the community including blood pressure screenings. Community efforts included supporting Walk Kansas activities, Heart Healthy festivals, and Healthy Lifestyles meetings. Alton also needed to change its physical environment. The PRIDE group started by providing and installing street signs and house numbers throughout the city limits. The investment in the built infrastructure of the community won Alton PRIDE the Excellence in PRIDE built capital award. When the cost of the 66 street signs came in under budget, Alton PRIDE voted to install 5-inch tall numbers on all the houses in the community that did not already have a house number. By purchasing the house numbers from a local hardware store, PRIDE also supported a small, independent local business. Partners in this project included Sarver Trust, McFadden Charitable Trust, the Osborne County Road Supervisor, the Osborne City Superintendent, and the Kansas Correctional Industries. A significant organizational and mobilization effort, the project was completed in October of 2010. Not only did this investment change the physical appearance of the built community, but it also made Alton much better prepared in the case of health or safety emergencies.



Alton street signs.

Potwin

Following a planning session in June of 2009, Potwin PRIDE decided to improve its parks and recreation areas using playground equipment donated to the city by the local school district. With the approval of the city council, volunteers agreed to install the equipment at the baseball field. The volunteers transported the equipment, replaced bolts and welded or replaced broken and missing pieces. The group then cemented the equipment into place and power washed and painted it to look new again. More than 50 hours of volunteer labor and hundreds of dollars were donated. When photos were posted on Potwin PRIDE's Facebook page, the comments included: "What a great thing to do!" Another woman posted, "Thank you to all the people who were involved in the project — makes you proud of our town." And finally, "The kids will really enjoy this during the events this weekend at the park." This investment in built capital earned Potwin the PRIDE Excellence in Built Capital award.

Financial Capital Award

Lucas

The changing face of the movie industry was felt in the community-owned theater in downtown Lucas. The theater, which had been drawing customers from a 45-mile radius, suddenly found itself losing patrons. As new movies such as "Avatar" brought to the forefront the need for 3-D and high-definition formats, the managers of the Lucas Theater knew it needed equipment upgrades. By August of 2009, it was becoming difficult to obtain 35 mm film movies until 3 to 4 weeks after the new film had opened. Lucas patrons started going elsewhere to attend the new-release movies. The theater needed to raise \$86,000 to update equipment to digital and 3-D. Volunteers set to work to raise awareness and funds. Within 18 months the money was raised and a new system installed. The equipment is as important to the theatre, as the theatre is to the community — the theatre is a destination business that brings customers to Lucas, not only to enjoy the entertainment, but also to patronize other local businesses. Improving the projection equipment in Lucas is a great example of investment in the financial capital of the community, and was a recipient for Excellence in PRIDE Financial Capital award!



Potwin playground equipment.



Lucas entrance sign.

*An investment in financial capital:
One of the most common and easy ways to track investment
in a community is through financial investment. PRIDE
treasurers reported collecting \$728,220.87 for reinvestment
in their communities during the last calendar year.*

Natural Capital

Stafford

Stafford has long been known as the “Gateway to Quivira,” but the community has not always capitalized on its proximity to the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. In an effort to improve health, enhance community visibility, and to educate citizens about the natural resources and wildlife of Quivira, Stafford PRIDE put together a biking event from Stafford to the refuge. The ride brings citizens and visitors together to enjoy either a 14- or 40-mile ride. The group has partnered with the Stafford Lions Club, local businesses, and staff from the refuge. They also use the event as a fund-raising opportunity to support the Stafford County Hospital. This event has increased citizens’ and visitors’ knowledge about Quivira. It also showcases the fun-loving, good people of Stafford. Stafford has made a unique connection to the “natural world” and found ways to use it to help sustain the community while increasing healthy activity of their citizens. “Hike and Bike to Quivira” is now an annual community event. By focusing on the area natural capital assets, Stafford receives an Excellence in PRIDE Natural Capital award.



Enjoying nature near Stafford.

Partners in PRIDE

The Kansas PRIDE Inc. Board of Director established the Partners in PRIDE (PIP) fund in October 2010 to support local PRIDE programs and efforts to address community improvement initiatives. The PRIDE program recognizes that significant challenges face Kansas PRIDE communities. The PIP funds are intended to encourage community PRIDE teams to identify these challenges and develop strategies to address them. PIP funding is available to PRIDE communities that have achieved recognition as a PRIDE Community of Excellence. Community of Excellence is a designation through PRIDE to recognize communities that have implemented a community planning process to identify long-range goals and determine strategies to reach those goals.

Funded PIP initiatives must demonstrate the potential of bringing long-term effects to the quality of life of local residents and must address issues related to one or more of the seven community capitals. Funded projects address an established goal that was identified and supported by the community, and is supported by identified indicators of success. Awarded PIP funds are matched 1:1 with local resources.

In 2011 Kansas PRIDE Inc. approved the PIP proposals from the communities of Stafford and Grinnell in the first round of funding, and proposals from the communities of Highland, Basehor, and Wilson in the second half of the year. Kansas PRIDE Inc. is pleased to contribute to the success of these communities through the Partners in PRIDE program.

Partners in PRIDE Spring 2011 Projects

Grinnell

In 2001, Grinnell PRIDE held a community-visioning meeting to establish goals and set priorities for their community. One of the three top priorities from the visioning meeting was to create a variety of fitness opportunities available to all community members. For the past six years, PRIDE volunteers in Grinnell have worked together with the city government and school to generate public outdoor fitness facilities. Their efforts include the development of an outdoor walking trail, fitness stations, softball field, basketball court, and a Frisbee golf course. These facilities are designed to be open year-round; however, the winter winds blow cold in northwest Kansas, and the closest opportunity for organized exercise in inclement weather was 15 miles away.

Through a cooperative effort between the Grinnell Middle School and Grinnell PRIDE, community members of all ages now have a place to exercise all year



Principal of Grinnell Middle School, Grinnell PRIDE members, and member of Kansas PRIDE Inc. in future fitness center.

round. Using a vacant building at the Grinnell Middle School, the Partners in PRIDE funds helped to purchase indoor exercise equipment and enhance the weight and exercise room. This facility will be continuously available to all people of Grinnell through a key lock system and training guidelines. The fitness center is promoted through community events and regular exercise classes. As one Grinnell PRIDE member said “purchasing state-of-the-art equipment and having year-round accessibility to indoor exercise equipment will help promote our programs. Training, group exercise sessions, and wellness education will help ensure the success of our 10-year community goal.” By successfully completing this project, Grinnell PRIDE has satisfied their mission to expand the overall health and wellness of community members. Community members set goals, developed a long-range plan of work with short- and medium-term indicators, and are now taking time to celebrate and plan for the next 10 years.

Stafford

Stafford is a community in central Kansas invested in promoting good health. Three years ago, a community assessment identified strong interest in creating a fitness facility in the community. After much discussion and research, the decision was made to establish an outdoor fitness center in the community park located one block from the school. It was believed that an outdoor center would be more easily accessible and affordable to all members of the community, and ultimately less costly for the community to maintain.

Stafford PRIDE indicates that this is an important project that fits with their vision to increase the pride and community spirit of the people of Stafford by making a positive difference in their lives. Developing the park is expected to invest in the community human capital by increasing opportunities for more physical activity.



Stafford PRIDE plans for their park's future.

The Stafford city government has been a great collaborator to the success of this effort and they have committed to the long-term sustainability of the project through continued maintenance. This project has required more investment of dollars and time than any other Stafford PRIDE project during the last 15 years. As one member of the local PRIDE group said, “we have been successful in raising funds, even with a tight economy. When we complete this project, it will show our supporters and other members that Stafford can make things better. We can look forward to planning other big projects in the future, when this one is finished.”

Due to weather delays, Stafford PRIDE will begin installing the outdoor fitness center stations in their city park in the spring of 2012. Kansas PRIDE Inc., through the Partners in PRIDE grant fund is pleased to have assisted Stafford with their mission to initiate, plan, implement, and support programs for the community.

Partners in PRIDE Fall 2011 Projects

Highland

Highland PRIDE is taking steps to enhance their cultural capital through a Partners in PRIDE project. Highland established goals to expand tourism during the holiday season. Beginning with a snowflake theme started years earlier when snowflake decorations were donated to the main street park by the industrial arts students from Highland High School, the community decided to build on the theme with holiday decorations. The Highland city council agreed to work with the community PRIDE group to purchase additional snowflake decorations with the understanding that Highland PRIDE would raise the funds to reimburse the expenses. Through fund-raisers and grant support, the local PRIDE group was able to deliver on this promise.

On the second Saturday in December, Highland organized its first snowflake celebration. Local businesses were open for the evening festivities. The celebration included the crowning of young snowflake princesses and princes in the snowflake park, who were then given a carriage ride around town. Homes were decorated for the holidays, and several homes were opened for tours. More than 100 people participated in the tour. The Senior Center hosted the Ole' Sweet Shoppe, which was stocked with baked donations from area residents for sale. Proceeds were donated to the local food bank.



Trudy Rice presents Highland PRIDE a Partners in PRIDE award.

Highland set a goal to be recognized as the snowflake capital of Kansas and they are well on their way. In addition, they have demonstrated their ability to effectively raise funds (financial capital), increase tourism (financial and cultural capital), and create fun cultural events to support the community. Through the years, Highland PRIDE intends to create memories, increase business patronage during the holidays, highlight historic homes, and attract former residents to visit during the holidays.

Wilson and Basehor PRIDE

Wilson and Basehor PRIDE programs were also recipients of Kansas PRIDE Inc. Partners in PRIDE grants in the fall of 2011. Basehor PRIDE has plans to establish a community garden project to address a variety of community needs. The PRIDE group will use the garden to educate citizens on the health benefits of fresh produce, become a focal point of beauty to the park, and contribute to local food banks.

Wilson PRIDE is pursuing goals that address capturing and highlighting their cultural history. Documenting and celebrating the cultural history of Wilson was identified as one of their primary goals during a community planning process three years ago. Watch for their stories in next year's annual review.

PRIDE Get It – Do It!

For the past four years, *Get It – Do It!* has worked in partnership with local PRIDE groups to help youth and adult mentors lead projects that promote health. An important result of these projects is strengthened social capital amongst the youth leaders, their adult mentors, and their communities.

Each *Get It – Do It!* community project:

- Fosters youth-adult partnerships
- Engages youth in meaningful roles
- Enhances social capital, which is bonding to those we know and bridging to those we don't
- Supports community development in small towns, and
- Promotes health through increases physical activity and healthful eating.

In 2011, the five communities that completed *Get It – Do It!* projects participated in an expanded evaluation of the program. Along with regular PRIDE reports, each group of youth and adults completed surveys tracking community belonging and involvement and participated in an impact mapping activity during a Speak Out forum held in each community at the end of the grant year. The 2011 evaluation of *Get It – Do It!* showed that:

- Youth increased their feelings of loyalty, and belonging (i.e., bonding) to their community.
- Youth perceived more involvement and engagement in communities.
- Youth enjoyed their involvement in the projects.
- Youth worked with community members they had not previously known (i.e., bridging).
- Youth grew to understand the value of their projects to their communities.

The PRIDE groups undertook the following projects in 2011:

Alton

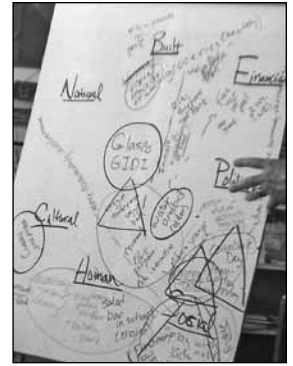
Alton PRIDE involved young boys, ages 8 to 10 and parents in the planning, and building of a skate park located in the Alton city park. The skate park was inaugurated with a public demonstration by the White Chocolate skate company of Hays and the installation of a large sign on Highway 24 announcing the *Star Skate Skatepark*. Carolyn Williams of Alton PRIDE states that, "As we work outside here in Alton getting the fall gardens cleaned up, it's nice to hear the sound of the young one's music and their shouts of joy ringing through the air after school while they learn new techniques on their skateboards. We no longer have to worry about them skateboarding on the picnic tables and benches downtown because now they have their own place."



Alton Star Skate Skatepark.

Glasco

Glasco PRIDE enhanced Walk Kansas teams, provided health activities during the Glasco summer park program, installed community exercise equipment, and worked with local school personnel to offer healthy choices at school lunch. Youth leaders, who conducted an audit of the Glasco city park, presented their results to the Glasco city council so that equipment could be selected and placed in the park that would be available for all ages and abilities. PRIDE leader Joan Nothern said that *Get It – Do It!* brought attention to the dynamics of Glasco. The relationships that are often ignored were made visible and strengthened through the Glasco Speak Out held to bring the project to its official close. The photo journalism element of the 2011 *Get It – Do It!* program allowed the youth to document and share their activities.



Glasco PRIDE assessing the community impact of their project.



Grainfield volleyball court construction.

Grainfield

Grainfield PRIDE undertook the demanding project of constructing an enclosed sand volleyball court in the Grainfield city park during the summer's extreme heat and humidity. The construction of a sand volleyball court was selected by youth leaders as a way to improve activity levels, increase recreational and competitive team events, and encourage use of the Grainfield park. "Through the *Get It – Do It!* program, the Grainfield PRIDE group was able to bridge the gap between the young members of our community and the older generation and join forces to make Grainfield a healthier community," said Nicole Godek of Grainfield PRIDE. "I have never been more impressed with our youth that took initiative in planning and building the fenced-in sand volleyball court. The project has made Grainfield a healthier and more vibrant place to live."

Grinnell

Grinnell PRIDE worked with the Grinnell Middle School Student Council to plan and conduct a community-wide health festival, install and market a basketball fitness station at city park, and provide educational health programs for residents of all ages. Grinnell PRIDE's Sandy Moore said that by working with *Get It – Do It!* Grinnell was able to furnish the city park with outdoor exercise equipment that can be used by residents. Students organized the annual HealthFest for an afternoon of fun in the city park. Grinnell PRIDE members especially liked the Shutterfly photo site because it was a great way to show how other communities were coming along with their projects and to share ideas that Grinnell could use in the future.



K-State Research and Extension health display in Grinnell.



Mount Hope activities in the park.

Mount Hope

Mount Hope PRIDE launched its 2011 *Get It – Do It!* project in the midst of a school closing, youth acclimating to new schools, and families transitioning to different transportation and school schedules. Still, Mount Hope had a successful *Get It – Do It!* program. Youth were involved in summer health education programs, a community garden was established, and the community's fitness center was promoted. Mount Hope PRIDE's Kathryn Gardner said, "Endless hours of brainstorming and planning resulted in several events that put Mount Hope on the map. Our health and fitness awareness steadily increased as the weeks went by. New youth leaders emerged with a new found energy that was contagious and kept our momentum going. At a time when our school was on the chopping block and frustration and indecision was in the air, *Get It – Do It!* proved to be a great adhesive for our community."

Healthy Ecosystems — Healthy Communities



The Healthy Ecosystems – Healthy Communities (HEHC) program is supported by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Water, and is coordinated by the Kansas PRIDE program. HEHC involves a planning process that explores the natural assets of a community and works with citizens to create community improvement strategies that protect water quality and enhance quality of life. In 2011, four communities were involved in the HEHC planning and assessment process.

Admire

Citizens of Admire convened a series of community meetings to begin their planning process. Working together, community members identified aspects of the community they value, crafted a vision for the community, and organized teams to implement natural resource and community assessments. This process is providing an important opportunity for citizens to participate in actions that will determine the future of the community. Admire is currently at a report-out stage of the planning process and will select and complete a community improvement project in 2012.



Humboldt

Citizens participated in a public meeting November 19, 2011 to prioritize projects for the water quality grant awarded to the community through their PRIDE program. Barbara Anderson, from the Chanute Office of Rural Opportunity, co-facilitated the meeting with Sherry Davis, the PRIDE Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities project coordinator. Community members provided short presentations summarizing important information they learned about Humboldt's natural capital, built capital, and cultural/historic resources through their assessment process. The information was used in planning and prioritization of project ideas. The top ideas for a water project were: 1) create a nature trail along the river 2) clean up the river in the community area, and 3) clean up the city's storm ditches. As part of the HEHC program, communities are encouraged to further explore each of their top ideas to identify ways each of these projects could be used to create additional benefits to the citizens of their community. The community of Humboldt is steaming ahead to complete their project in 2012.

Larned

When the community of Larned came together to craft a vision for their community, they identified a future with a healthy environment. They envisioned "broad community participation in beautification projects, educational activities, and practices that promote citizen value of Camp Pawnee and other community resources." Camp Pawnee and restoration of the Pawnee River were the primary focus areas for the community's work in the Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities program. Citizen groups worked on six assessments to evaluate the needs and potential opportunities associated with the many assets of the Larned community and the camp. Community members also explored ways project ideas could be expanded to benefit the community. Canoe trips, a corn maze, outdoor classrooms, and refurbishing the camp building and restrooms were a few of the ideas citizens identified to enhance the area. Goals of their Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities work are to create a more appealing resource with a variety of uses for the community and to increase tourism and economic impacts for Larned businesses.



Larned Camp Pawnee.

Washington

A public meeting of citizens in Washington indicated that clean-up of Mill Creek is a high priority for the community. The community PRIDE group, with the support of city government representatives and David Coltrain, River Valley Extension Agent, worked with Sherry Davis of the K-State Research and Extension Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities program to host the planning process and public meetings. Through the process, citizens were asked to identify project ideas that were important to the future of Washington over the next seven years. Surprisingly, the top five ideas revolved around the Mill Creek water resource and campground improvements. Ideas to build and tie together walking trails from City Park to Rotary Park, expand campground capacity and update its amenities, and develop a winter outdoor ice rink further supported citizen's recognition of the opportunities Mill Creek offers to their community. Having devised their strategies, the community members of Washington will work to complete initial HEHC projects in 2012.

Washington PRIDE
Public Meeting

You are invited!

Washington's PRIDE Team will host a meeting for
Citizen Input and Selection of a

Community Water Quality Project
and to
Identify Goals and Plans to Enhance
our Community's Natural Resources

Saturday, Sept. 10 at the
Itty Bitty Deli, 223 C Street
9 a.m. -- 12 noon

There is no cost to attend, but you are encouraged to pre-register
by calling 785-325-2121 by September 6 to ensure a meal.

*An investment in built and natural capital:
Many of the community improvement projects through
PRIDE involve some type of change to the built or
natural environment in communities. It is difficult to
summarize the wonderful work of PRIDE volunteers.
In the 70 communities enrolled in PRIDE, projects
included movie theaters, food pantries, farmers markets,
and community gardens. Community clean-up efforts,
community trails, and fitness equipment and exercise
centers were also popular. Four communities worked with
the Healthy Ecosystems/Healthy Communities project to
improve their natural surroundings. In all these cases, the
commitment to making our communities healthy, pleasant
places is a constant hallmark of PRIDE communities.*

PRIDE Sponsors

PRIDE is a great partnership of state agency, university, private, and corporate support. This partnership continues to build strong relationships and networks for community development in Kansas. It is only through this strong partnership that PRIDE can account for the success we have had. The Kansas PRIDE program gratefully acknowledges the contributions of our current partners and sponsors whose generosity supports the efforts to build better communities.

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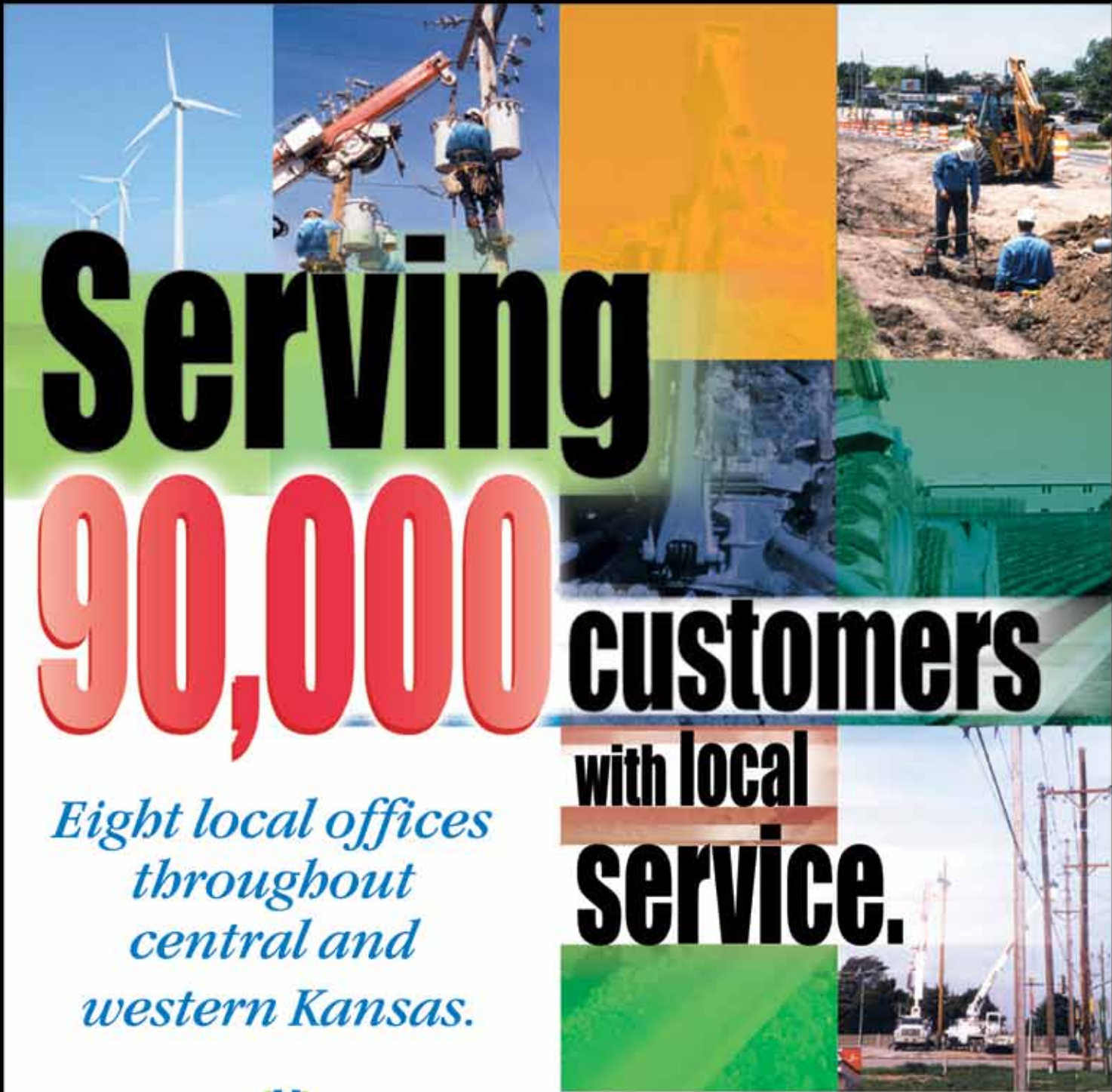
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