

# Kansas PRIDE

## 2014-15 Program Recognition

*Vibrant communities with a positive future.*

*Promoting an enhanced quality of life for the citizens of Kansas communities through education, leadership development and recognition.*

[www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu](http://www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu)







Dear Kansas PRIDE Members, Sponsors, and Friends,

Serving as Chair of the Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors was one of the most incredible opportunities I have had. What a remarkable group of people! To say 2014 was an exciting year would be an understatement.

As a board, Kansas PRIDE listened to your suggestions, concerns, and opinions about Day of PRIDE. To provide a more cohesive event, Week of PRIDE was born. This change resulted in increased participation and an overwhelming number of projects completed. The board voted unanimously to continue the Week of PRIDE next year with only a few adjustments. We appreciate everyone's hard work to make this event a tremendous success!

In 2014, five new communities joined the Kansas PRIDE program, bringing the number of Kansas PRIDE communities to 65. A total of 713 projects were completed in these communities by local volunteers who contributed 65,329 hours! A total of \$383,584 in private and public funds were invested into these communities through the work of PRIDE and PRIDE volunteers.

These communities were able to recruit assistance from their youth. These young people donated their time to 275 projects! Never underestimate the power of asking someone to help and the force behind a group of motivated volunteers.

On behalf of the Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors, I want to thank you for giving your time, energy, and resources so freely to your community and to the Kansas PRIDE program. Because of your commitment and involvement, this program is a success. I encourage you to stay involved, whether through volunteerism, partnerships, or sponsorships. Together we are making a difference in Kansas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jada Ackerman".

Jada Ackerman  
Chairperson

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# Week of PRIDE

In spring of 2015, the Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors announced that Week of PRIDE would replace Day of PRIDE as the Kansas PRIDE volunteer event. Day of PRIDE was an educational and networking event. Week of PRIDE is a call to action for PRIDE communities to improve their towns during the last week of May. Nearly a third of the PRIDE communities took part in the event.

## **Communities and the projects they completed during Week of PRIDE**

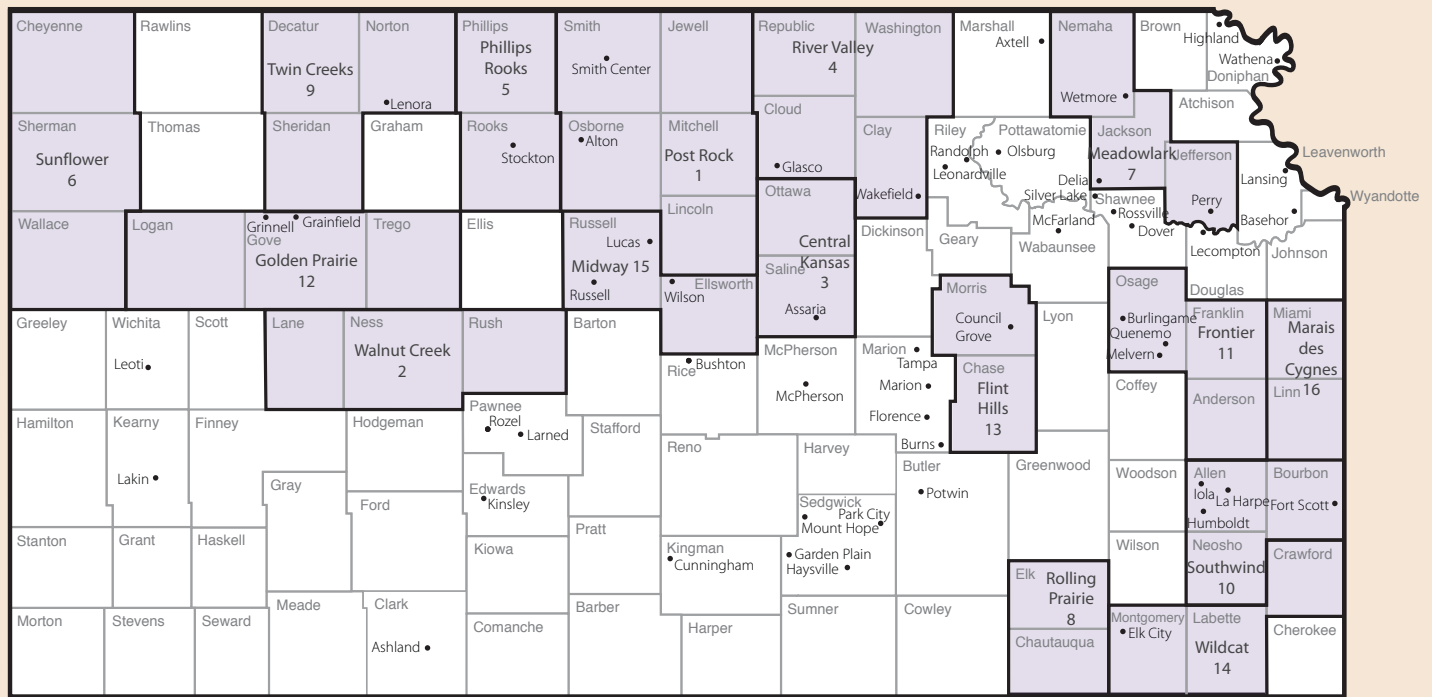
- **Alton:** Cleaned the three city parks, the community room, and the library. They also made space for their PRIDE signs along Highway 24.
- **Ashland:** Purchased a picnic table for the Friends of the Ashland Little House and an Oklahoma redbud tree for the city park with funds received in memory of Jim and Kathie Harper.
- **Delia:** Painted the community bandstand.
- **Dover:** Updated the outdoor facilities at the Dover Community Center.
- **Glasco:** Beautified main street and cleaned up the community.
- **Grainfield:** Cruise, Shoes, and BBQs.
- **Humboldt:** Built Rive Park by historic March Arch Bridge.
- **Iola:** Promoted the new disc golf course and the local CITF/PRIDE group at the local farmers market.

- **19 communities involved**
- **20 projects initiated**
- **500 people, including 224 youth, involved in planning and volunteering**
- **4,130 hours spent planning and implementing those plans**
- **More than \$34,000 raised**

- **Lakin:** Raised funds for a basketball court in city park.
- **Lecompton:** Picked up trash in the community.
- **Lenora:** Celebrated Memorial Day and beautified main street.
- **Lucas:** Hosted a hog roast fund-raiser with Lucas Area Community Theater and a retirement reception for Elmer and Karlene Svaty.
- **McFarland:** Painted picnic tables.
- **McPherson:** Worked with Central Kansas Conservancy to add benches along the Meadowlark Trail.
- **Olsburg:** Modernized the city park.
- **Potwin:** Worked on the Plant a Row for the Hungry garden.
- **Randolph:** Cleaned up the park for the Independence Day celebration.
- **Rozel:** Completed the community fitness center.
- **Silver Lake:** Cleaned up the community, planted flowers, and painted.



*Grainfield's Cruise, Shoes, and BBQs.*

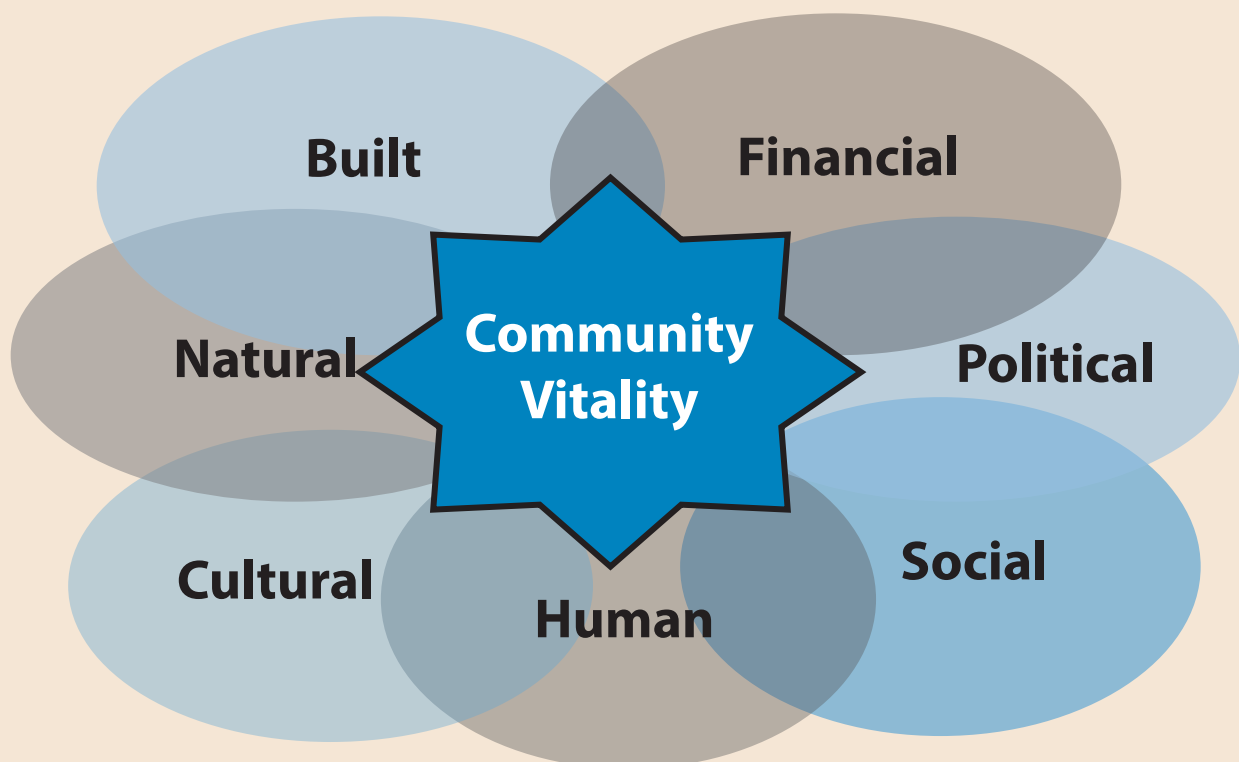


## 2015 Kansas PRIDE Communities

It is often said, many hands make light work! In 2014 and 2015, the volunteers from the 60 Kansas PRIDE communities demonstrated fantastic effort and commitment in community improvement initiatives.

A partnership team including K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Department of Commerce, and Kansas PRIDE, Inc. provides support to Kansas PRIDE communities. To enroll, interested volunteers collaborate

with local government officials to organize a PRIDE committee. With technical support from the partners, a research-based community planning process based on the Community Capitals is initiated. This includes assessment, goal setting, project implementation, evaluation, and celebration. Kansas PRIDE provides recognition through three major programs: STAR Project awards, Community of Excellence, and Partners in PRIDE. The communities on the following pages received statewide recognition for their work based on one of the seven community capitals.







# Social Capital

Groups, organizations, networks in the community, the sense of belonging, and bonds between people.

## PRIDE STAR Capital Awards

### 2014 Alton PRIDE Chocolate Festival

For 14 years, Alton has hosted the Chocolate Festival in December. The festival honors the late Russell Stover, who was born just south of Alton, and encourages economic activity in the community. After much planning, PRIDE decided to hold the event in the Community Room, which used to be a part of the grocery store until it was claimed by PRIDE.

The PRIDE group meets in January to decide on a date in December and to organize advertising. Though PRIDE has a small budget and a donation from only one business, they put in the planning hours to create a family-friendly event to remember year after year.

The Chocolate Festival and Alton PRIDE go hand in hand. Businesses here and people from other communities join with the Alton residents for a special event before the Christmas rush begins. The festival allows people from the area to showcase their baking skills, take part in fellowship as they enjoy dinner at the local café, and shop at the local Craft Basket. It has grown to include more categories of baked goods and activities such as an ugly sweater contest. The day is a reminder of how small communities can succeed with a venture by all giving of themselves.



*Cakewalk at the Alton Chocolate Festival.*

### 2014 Randolph PRIDE Park Bridge to Bridge Generations

The deteriorating bridge in Randolph City Park needed to be replaced. The park is a major draw for our community and visitors. The bridge provides access from one shelter to the other over a large ravine in the park. Randolph PRIDE made a plan and, with help from the community, rebuilt the bridge. It is now a safe passage for wheelchairs, strollers, and patrons. A fund-raiser, a grant, and a group of hard-working youth and adults restored the old bridge. More importantly, friendships and relationships were built in the process.



*Randolph Park Bridge.*

**In 2014, PRIDE communities reported 550 ongoing projects and 163 completed projects; 275 of these projects included youth.**





# Human Capital

All the skills and abilities of people, leadership, knowledge, and the ability to access resources.

## PRIDE STAR Capital Awards

### 2014 Lenora PRIDE "Live Well Lenora"

Our community has not had a health and wellness program recently. When we visited with others, some remembered a program but had trouble recalling details. It was time to act. We made a positive community impact in many ways by offering individuals a way to work with others and form support systems for wellness and by being a resource for overall health and well-being. Even though our original program and grant funding has come to an end, we have continued to hold weekly sessions where

anyone in the community can come for group exercise and/or learning. "Live Well Lenora" started in an effort to raise awareness for community and individual health and well-being by providing a way for people to move into action. With the help of several organizations, including Kansas PRIDE, we have been able to offer sessions ranging from chair exercises to Zumba and from yoga to stress management and nutrition education. Not only was the program a success initially, but we also continue to offer weekly and biweekly sessions.



*"Live Well Lenora" participants.*





# Financial Capital

Money, charitable giving, grants, access to funding, and wealth.

## Partners in PRIDE Grants

Partners in PRIDE grants are mini grants of up to \$2,000 from Kansas PRIDE, Inc. They are intended to be used by local PRIDE communities to address a need that has been identified through a community planning process and will move the community closer to their long-term goals.

To date, 24 awards have been made totaling nearly \$43,100 that is matched dollar for dollar at the local level through cash or in-kind donations — for a total investment in community improvement of more than \$86,000.

In 2014 and 2015, the following communities received Partners in PRIDE grants to support a variety of projects. These projects included basketball court renovations, directional signage, and park expansions. A total of \$7,677 was awarded.

- Rossville, Fall 2014: Awarded \$2,000 for the installation of a Frisbee golf course to expand outdoor activities for all age groups.
- Lenora, Spring 2015: Awarded \$1,917.83 for Welcome to Lenora banners.
- Dover, Spring 2015: Awarded \$509 for improvements to their existing basketball courts.
- Grainfield, Spring 2015: Awarded \$1,250 for the purchase of Christmas lighting for their main street.
- Iola, Spring 2015: Awarded \$2,000 for directional signage, building on an existing wayfinding project.
- Lakin, Spring 2015: Awarded \$2,000 for basketball court renovations.



*Lenora welcome banner.*

## Dane G. Hansen Partnership

2015 ushered in a new partnership with K-State Research and Extension and the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to provide a community vitality specialist to focus on the specific issues and needs that affect northwest Kansas.

Nadine Sigle, extension associate for community vitality with K-State Research and Extension, serves 29 counties in northwest Kansas, bound by Highway 81 and Interstate 70. Nadine is hard at work addressing needs, assisting communities, providing resources, and much more.

During this time, Nadine's work is specific to northwest Kansas, although in the future all PRIDE

communities will benefit from her pilot programs.

A current program, First Impressions, is in the works specifically for northwest Kansas communities. First impressions are important as the community works to improve the overall quality of life and develop its sense of place.



*Nadine Sigle*





# Built Capital

Buildings and infrastructure-schools, roads, water and sewer systems, and main streets-in a community.

## PRIDE STAR Project Awards

### 2014 Bushton PRIDE Welcome Sign

Bushton PRIDE is happy to be associated with creating the new "Welcome to Bushton" sign. Many individuals worked together to create the sign.

Two years ago, the city celebrated its 125th anniversary. Some of the profit from that event contributed to new Christmas decorations, and the remaining funds were set back for a welcome sign. A committee formed to pass around ideas and created a design with additional input from the art class at Central Plains High School. Bushton PRIDE took on the role of completing the project.

The new sign features a star and swish, a symbol featured on the Kansas PRIDE logo. The sign is shaped like the state of Kansas, and the star is located at the center of the sign to represent that Bushton is the geographic center of Kansas. The new sign features oil pumping units, symbolizing the importance of the oil industry to both Rice County and Bushton.

The sign met the goals created by the sign committee and was created at a cost far below our original estimates!



*The new Bushton sign.*

We had enough funding to add lighting, which we assumed would have to be completed in a second phase. We experienced good cooperation among the different groups and saw some new volunteers who had not been involved in past projects. We hear nothing but praise for the new design!

### 2014 Potwin PRIDE Baseball Outfield Fence

Potwin PRIDE, Inc. received a Partners in PRIDE grant of \$2,000, which was matched with money from PRIDE, the recreation committee, and in-kind volunteer hours, to put up a chain link fence at the ball field. The Lions Club paid for the rest of the \$9,000 project. Starting in April of 2014, 16 volunteers from organizations and the community spent 188 hours during 11 work sessions to put up the fence. It was ready for the recreation committee softball tournament in August. The new Remington High School softball team used the field this spring.



*Installing the Potwin baseball field fence.*



# Political Capital

Connections to people in power, access to resources, leverage, and influence to achieve goals.

Kansas PRIDE communities sign a resolution of support with a local unit of government, such as the city council or county commission. This encourages communication and leveraging of resources of time and money. Every PRIDE volunteer organization knows successful community change requires collaboration. Sometimes

there is an outstanding volunteer, elected body, business, or organization without whom the community efforts could not happen. The PRIDE Community Partner Award recognizes outstanding supporters of community improvement.

## 2014 PRIDE Community Partner Awards



**Deanna Roach**  
Alton PRIDE



**Jerry Huff**  
Bushton PRIDE



**Loren Korte**  
Humboldt PRIDE



**Donna Houser**  
Iola CITF/PRIDE



**Janie Dunstan**  
Randolph PRIDE



**Lenora Public Library**  
Lenora PRIDE





## PRIDE STAR Project Awards

### 2014 Lenora PRIDE Lenora Jubilee

The Lenora Jubilee has been a huge success for our small, rural community. Not only does it now achieve a higher attendance than years past, but it has become a regional event. Lenora PRIDE partners with the Lenora Jubilee committee to make our community's annual festival, the Lenora Jubilee, a success. Through this collaboration and the help of many volunteers, PRIDE assists in bringing attendees to our event by providing entertainment where families can gather and interact. This allows our community a chance to showcase Lenora and our unique heritage. Though we may be a small, rural community, we're able to work together to create a successful event.

**In 2014, PRIDE communities raised \$87,139 in public dollars and \$296,445 in private dollars for a combined total of \$383,584.**



*Pictures from the 2014 Lenora Jubilee*



Promoting an enhanced quality of life for the citizens of Kansas communities through education, leadership development and recognition.



Delivering the highest level of business development, workforce and marketing services that build a healthy and expanding Kansas economy.



Providing education you can trust to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.



Welcome to  
Our Small Town

# Community of Excellence



## Community of Excellence

Kansas PRIDE recognizes communities who have initiated and continue to follow a comprehensive community planning process including assessment, goal setting, identified projects, evaluation, recognition, and celebration. These communities have provided evidence of following the process and are currently designated as Kansas PRIDE Communities of Excellence:

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| Alton   | Grainfield |
| Ashland | Highland   |
| Dover   | Iola       |
| Glasco  | Lakin      |
| Goff    | Larned     |

Lecompton  
Lenora  
Lucas  
McFarland  
Perry

Potwin  
Randolph  
Rossville  
Spearville

Achieving Community of Excellence status recognizes these communities for their planning efforts, provides opportunities to apply for Partners in PRIDE grants, and points to them as highly functioning PRIDE communities who honor their past while planning for their future.



*McFarland PRIDE Community of Excellence*



*Perry PRIDE Community of Excellence*

In 2014, PRIDE  
community members  
volunteered a total of  
65,329 hours.





**Thank you to our sponsors, who make educational  
and funding opportunities possible**

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### Partners in PRIDE



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### Sponsors in PRIDE



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### Supporters of PRIDE



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### Friends of PRIDE

Suzanne Lane  
Pam Stone  
Trudy Rice  
Jaime Menon  
Doug Helmke



Daryl Buchholz  
Jim Irey  
Susan NeuPoth Cadoret  
Joan Nothern  
Dean Schmidt

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### Collaborative Partners

The League of Kansas Municipalities

The Kansas Association of Counties

For sponsorship opportunities and to learn more about the Kansas PRIDE Program: [kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu](http://kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu)  
or email [PRIDE@ksu.edu](mailto:PRIDE@ksu.edu)

All sponsorship funds raised by Kansas PRIDE, Inc., a 501(c) 3 organization, go directly to Kansas communities through project grants, educational opportunities and recognition. Overhead and staff expenses are provided by Kansas State University Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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