

# Kansas PRIDE 2012

## Annual Review

Fundraising Walking Path Youth Common Issues Events Projects Hope  
**Optimistic** Enhance Impact Together  
Active Accomplish Playground Hope Projects Historic  
Hope Involved Active Main Street Recognition Hope  
Enjoy Projects Youth Together Attitude Planning  
**Ideas** Communities Direction Improvement Playground Direction  
Impact Historic **Impact** Ideas Unity Enjoy Attitude  
Beautify Encouragement Main Street Projects Events  
Youth Historic Events Involvement Attitude Playground  
Fundraising Enjoy Active Optimistic Hope Accomplish Optimistic  
**Volunteers** Ideas Beautify Recognition Hope Impact  
Playground Hope Events Enjoy Walking Path Youth **Volunteers**  
Projects Direction **Accomplish** Involvement  
Main Street Direction Historic Fundraising Common Issues  
**Enhance** Direction Common Issues



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association



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to enhance the public health and to sustain Kansas communities.*



December 2012

Dear PRIDE Members, Sponsors and Friends,

It has been a tremendous honor to serve as the PRIDE Board Chair this past year. I feel privileged to have met and worked with the dedicated individuals who serve on this board, and I am proud to be part of an organization that is committed to making our communities a better place to live and work.

In 2012, seven new communities joined the PRIDE program, bringing our total of communities to 66. Community volunteers invested 94,833 hours on various PRIDE initiatives, completing 1,178 projects. Youth were involved in 93 projects, and more than \$474,271.95 were invested in our projects through private and public funding. It is truly amazing what can be done with a small amount of money and volunteers.

This past year we awarded Partners in PRIDE grants to five communities that met the goal of planning for longer-term community sustainability. We also recognized nine communities for making improvement investments that contribute to their well-being and sustainability.

On behalf of PRIDE's Board of Directors, thank you for the time and commitment that you have given to the Kansas PRIDE program this past year. I hope that you will continue your commitment to our organization, whether through sponsorship or as a community partner or volunteer. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Pam Stone  
2012 Board Chair  
Kansas PRIDE, Inc.

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## Kansas PRIDE Inc. Board of Directors

Members who served on the board during the 2012 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:

|                                                                              |                                          |                                                      |                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pam Stone</b><br>Kansas Gas Service Company                               | <b>Jim Irey</b><br>Melvern PRIDE         | <b>Dean Schmidt</b><br>Potwin PRIDE                  | <b>Nicole Godek</b><br>Grainfield PRIDE                          |
| <b>Loree' Krier</b><br>Stockgrowers State Bank<br>Kansas Bankers Association | <b>Lynne Berry</b><br>Leonardville PRIDE | <b>Suzanne Lane</b><br>Westar Energy                 | <b>Jada Ackerman</b><br>Blue Valley Telecommunications           |
| <b>Larissa Long</b><br>Black Hills Energy                                    | <b>David Criswell</b><br>Wilson PRIDE    | <b>James Wright</b><br>Midwest Energy                | <b>Melissa Wangemann</b><br>Kansas Association of Counties       |
| <b>Jaime Menon</b><br>K-State Research and Extension                         | <b>Joan Nothern</b><br>Glasco PRIDE      | <b>James Bartling</b><br>Atmos Energy Corporation    | <b>Dr. Daryl Buchholz</b><br>K-State Research and Extension      |
| <b>Charles Wilderson</b><br>Basehor PRIDE                                    | <b>Tracey Taylor</b><br>Rossville PRIDE  | <b>Doug Helmke</b><br>Kansas Rural Water Association | <b>Susan NeuPoth Cadoret</b><br>Kansas Department of<br>Commerce |

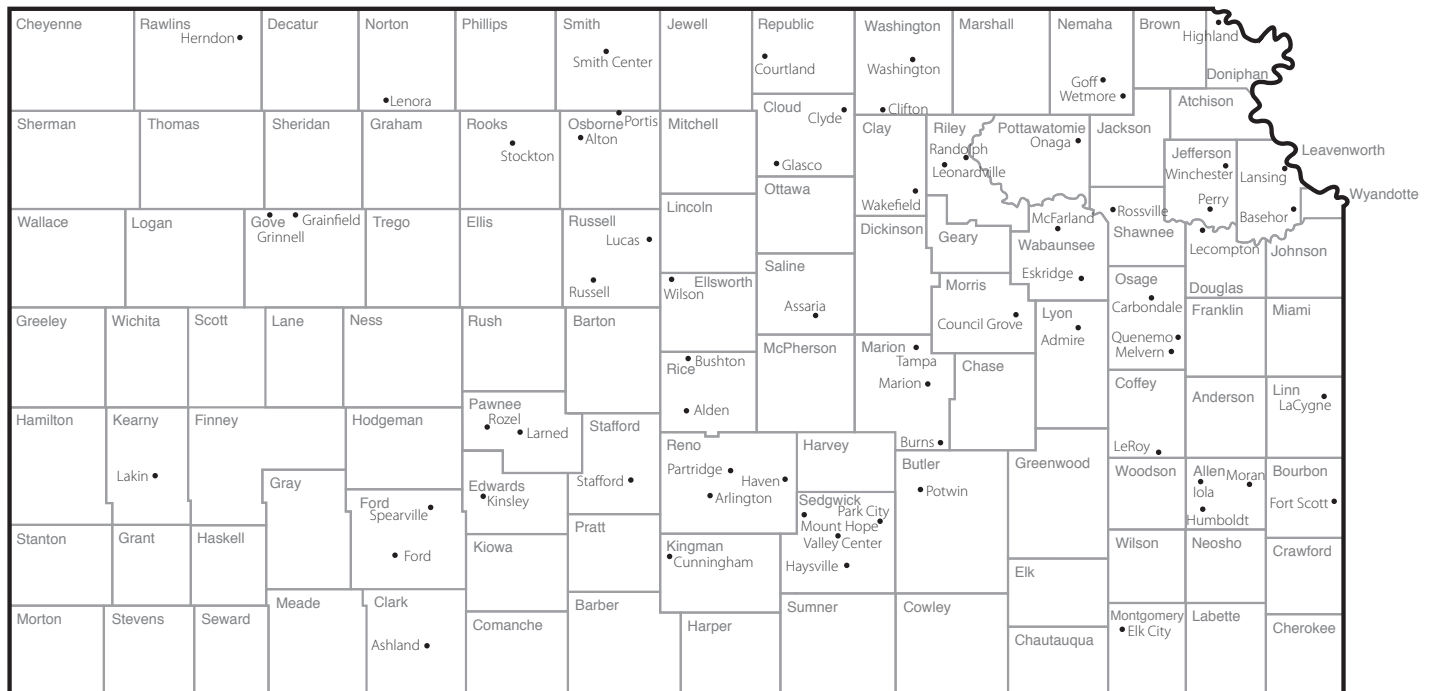
## Kansas PRIDE Staff

|                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                  |
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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



# 2012 Map of Communities Actively Enrolled in PRIDE

2012 was an important year for the Kansas PRIDE Program. In this 42nd year of Kansas PRIDE, 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 1,178 community-improvement projects this year!



|            |               |           |              |           |               |
|------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| Admire     | Clyde         | Grinnell  | Larned       | Onaga     | Smith Center  |
| Alden      | Council Grove | Haven     | Lecompton    | Park City | Spearville    |
| Alton      | Courtland     | Haysville | Lenora       | Partridge | Stafford      |
| Arlington  | Cunningham    | Herndon   | Leonardville | Perry     | Stockton      |
| Ashland    | Elk City      | Highland  | LeRoy        | Portis    | Tampa         |
| Assaria    | Eskridge      | Humboldt  | Lucas        | Potwin    | Valley Center |
| Basehor    | Ford          | Iola      | Marion       | Quenemo   | Wakefield     |
| Burns      | Fort Scott    | Kinsley   | McFarland    | Randolph  | Washington    |
| Bushton    | Glasco        | LaCygne   | Melvern      | Rossville | Wetmore       |
| Carbondale | Goff          | Lakin     | Moran        | Rozel     | Wilson        |
| Clifton    | Grainfield    | Lansing   | Mount Hope   | Russell   | Winchester    |

# PRIDE What does it mean to Kansas?

## **The Kansas PRIDE program: What does it mean for local communities and the state of Kansas?**

**Kansas PRIDE Mission:** To promote an enhanced quality of life for the citizens of Kansas communities through education, leadership development and recognition.

The Kansas PRIDE program is a volunteer-led effort to improve the quality of life in Kansas by working with communities as they honor their past while creating a vision for the future. This has been the goal of the Kansas PRIDE Program since 1970.

Benefits to the community include:

- Support to develop and implement community improvement plans
- Technical assistance
- Educational opportunities
- Facilitation for the sharing of ideas
- Identification of funding resources
- Statewide networking
- State recognition of community successes
- A more vital and active community

Kansas PRIDE supports community-development efforts by providing a structure to mobilize local organizations and governments as they address quality-of-life issues. Communities are encouraged to assess their needs, set goals, implement plans, evaluate the impact, and celebrate. This is an ongoing process throughout the years. The program is supported by the Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas State University Research and Extension, and Kansas PRIDE Inc, a nonprofit organization. **Last year PRIDE communities reported completing 1,178 community improvement projects**, all supporting the quality of life in Kansas communities. The PRIDE program has adopted the community capitals model as a framework for the current program. The community capitals framework reveals the interactions between different parts of a community. Communities are systems that have inflows and outflows, ups and downs, and progression and regression.

Communities looking to the future can use community capitals to measure current resources and identify the potential for improvements. Researchers have listed seven types of community capital that can be used as a gauge of how community resources are being used:

**1. Natural Capital:** *The environment, natural beauty, lakes, rivers and streams, forests, wildlife, soil, and the local landscape.* Five PRIDE communities completed the Healthy Communities Healthy Ecosystems program to improve the water quality within our state. Each community received technical assistance and a planning/project grant of \$5,000.

**2. Cultural Capital:** *Ethnicity, generations, stories and traditions, spirituality, habits, and heritage.* Many Kansas PRIDE communities host celebrations throughout the year to celebrate their heritage, provide opportunities for homecomings, and promote tourism. PRIDE communities along Highway 24 even work together to promote their region. In 2013, the Day of PRIDE will be hosted in two communities on the Post Rock scenic trail.

**3. Human Capital:** *All the skills and abilities of people, leadership, knowledge, and the ability to access resources.* In 2012, PRIDE communities **reported 94,833 hours of volunteerism**. This conservatively **calculates to a dollar value of more than \$2,066,411**.

**4. Social Capital:** *Groups, organizations, networks in the community, the sense of belonging, and bonds between people.* In 2012, **PRIDE communities engaged in 576 collaborative partnerships** at the local, regional, and state level. PRIDE communities reported that **93 of these collaborations engaged youth**.

**5. Political Capital:** *Connections to people in power, access to resources, leverage, and influence to achieve goals.* All Kansas PRIDE communities sign a resolution of support with the local city government. This encourages communication and leveraging of resources of time and money. Many times the PRIDE group raises the funds and completes the project then the city takes over the long-term maintenance of them.

**6. Built Capital:** *Buildings and infrastructure — schools, roads, water and sewer systems, and main streets — in a community.* Many of the community improvement projects through PRIDE involve some type of change to the built environment. The 66 communities enrolled in the program in 2012 worked on storefronts, built playgrounds, improved housing, built park facilities, and put in sidewalks and walking paths.

**7. Financial Capital:** *Money, charitable giving, grants, access to funding, and wealth.* **Kansas PRIDE communities reported raising \$474,271.95 for reinvestments in their communities during 2012.**

## Education and Outreach

### PRIDE in the Future-Making a Difference

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In 2012 the current Kansas PRIDE communities and supporters were surveyed to assess what is working and where there are opportunities for improvement. From this survey it is important to note that 62 percent of the respondents had been involved with the program for 10 or fewer years. This demonstrates that the leadership for PRIDE at the local level is evolving and new leaders are stepping up to the plate — a good thing for sustainability!

Also, when asked what PRIDE has meant to their community, the following comments were shared:

- We are more optimistic about doing something about the lack of pride in our community. We have some direction from Kansas PRIDE and that helps a lot. There appears to be hope for improvement.
- PRIDE has provided the community with the opportunity to get the people to come together and accomplish great improvements.
- It has brought our community closer, because when we work on a project it takes several people.
- PRIDE has piqued our collective and individual “psyches” as to how we can best impact our community with various and sundry projects.
- Opened doors for funding opportunities, such as the grant we received for our new park.
- The community does not have a chamber of commerce, so PRIDE is the “go-to” organization to get things done in the community.
- Made people realize everyone can work together and change can make a difference.
- We became members of PRIDE shortly after moving to town. It really helped us to become community members instead of just residents. It helped us meet people and become active in the community.
- PRIDE has given our community a sense of direction. We have a common goal and know how to get to that goal.

When asked what educational opportunities would be most useful, the respondents shared that networking, fund raising, volunteer recruitment, marketing, and historic preservation would be helpful. The most effective way to deliver this would be through a combination of technology, statewide meetings, and region trainings.

### Day of PRIDE

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In 2012, the second annual Day of PRIDE was hosted in Osage County, home of six PRIDE communities and two federal reservoirs. The day was spent celebrating the natural capital of Osage County as we visited the communities of Melvern, Osage City, Lyndon, Overbrook, and Quenemo. More than 75 PRIDE supporters and volunteers from across the state participated in the educational opportunities.

Participants shared that as a result of their participation and new knowledge they plan to seek additional funding opportunities, host summer movies, increase the use of committees in their work, propose a new fund-raiser, look into liability insurance, build a fishing dock and children’s pond, and try to solicit more volunteers.

They enjoyed the opportunity to share ideas, the great food, the walk around the lake in Overbrook, and the informal learning on the motor coach. As one person stated, “Very informative and great to see what other communities have implemented. Inspired by small town accomplishing big things; enjoyed the places we stopped to walk and take pictures.”

In addition to having the hands-on opportunity to see and learn from these PRIDE communities participants had an opportunity to learn about the Partners in PRIDE grant and its impact in Basehor, celebrate the Community Capitals Star award communities and projects, recognize community partners, and network with PRIDE volunteers from across the state.

## Education and Outreach

In 2012 the Board Leadership Series was introduced and made available to PRIDE organizations across the state. This “high tech high touch” training is designed for community boards and commissions and addresses the following topics:

- Board member roles and responsibilities
- Effective meetings
- Understanding fellow board members
- Conflict management
- Fund-raising and fund management
- Ethical and legal issues
- Strategic planning

These were taught using technology to limit travel and hosted at several sites across the state where participants came together for interactive learning. As one individual stated, “it was money well spent and our board is operating much more efficiently now.”

## Community Partner Recognition

Each Kansas PRIDE community is invited to recognize a community partner that has been supportive of the PRIDE program in their local community. PRIDE organizations know successful community change requires the support of collaborators. Sometimes it is an outstanding volunteer, group, business, or organization—that without their support, the community improvement efforts would not be successful. Last year, the following PRIDE communities nominated a PRIDE Partner for recognition:

### *Basehor – VFW Post 11499*

The Basehor PRIDE program recognized Basehor VFW Post 11499 (pictured) for their outstanding support of Basehor PRIDE activities. The renovated VFW building has become the community center for Basehor PRIDE and the VFW hosts many Basehor civic groups and provides a location for Saturday pancake breakfasts, banquets, and fund-raisers. The VFW has shown an outstanding commitment to the interest of the entire community of Basehor, KS.

### *Larned – Jenny Manry, Community Volunteer and Nursing Faculty Member, Fort Hays State University*

Jenny Manry, founding member of Larned PRIDE, is an energetic person and she has devoted those energies to writing grants for Larned PRIDE projects during the previous few years. The outcome has been several thousand dollars in grant funds to help Larned PRIDE tackle new projects such as the Cam Pawnee project. In addition to this she is great at forming community partnerships to sustain PRIDE projects such as the partnerships necessary to start and sustain the community garden.

### *Lucas – Doug Brant, Brant’s Meat Market*

Doug Brant is the third generation owner of the Brant’s Meat Market in Lucas, Kansas. Doug is very important to the Lucas community as he volunteers his resources of time and money to keep the downtown area attractive to the local residents and the visitors to the community. Doug is a great ambassador for Lucas as he encourages visitors to enjoy the various main street projects and visit the Lucas attractions and businesses through the community.



*Dr. Daryl Buchholz Presents a Community Partner Award.*



### *Spearville – Joann Knight, Executive Director Dodge City/Ford County Economic Development Corporation*

The Spearville PRIDE has been working with Jan Knight and her staff with the Dodge City/Ford County Economic Development Corporation for the past 6 years. During this time they have collaborated on a brochure and website project, Safe Routes to Schools, business and housing development, and a recreation master plan. The partnership has provided the community of Spearville with essential resources that they did not have themselves.

### *Stafford – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge*

For the past 5 years, Stafford PRIDE has found a great partner with the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, particularly for the PRIDE sponsored “Bike and Hike with the Birds” event hosted at the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. The 2-, 16-, and 40-mile trails are enhanced that day by personnel from the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge providing details on conditions of the trails as well as interpretative education expertise to the participants riding throughout the refuge.

### *Wilson – City of Wilson*

The City of Wilson has been a critical community partner with Wilson PRIDE in the creation, maintenance, and ongoing improvement of the new city park. The city government has provided outstanding forward thinking and investment in the community of Wilson and without the cooperation and support of the City of Wilson, the new park would not have been built. The City’s ongoing maintenance and funding for the park is essential for its continued success.

## Community Capitals Star Project Awards

The Kansas PRIDE program recently adopted a framework referred to as the Community Capitals for their community planning and recognition model. Research around this model suggests that communities who evaluate and invest in all seven of the Community Capitals have a greater chance of future sustainability. This past year the following Kansas communities were recognized for their Star Projects related to one of the seven Community Capitals.

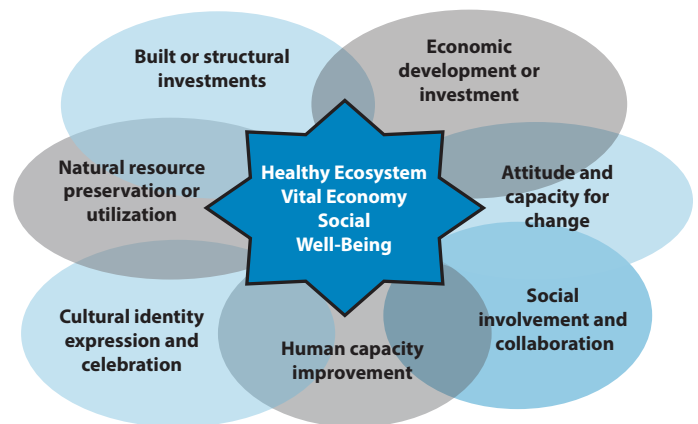
### Built Capital Star Projects

#### *Alton: Skate Board Park*

In the fall of 2010 several youth in the community were saying, “we need somewhere to use our skateboards.” To respond to the need, four elementary school students and their fathers approached Alton City Council with a proposal to create a skateboard park in the Lyman T. Earl City Park. The City Council gave them permission with the stipulation that they raise the necessary funds and “police” themselves. Two of the council members are also Alton PRIDE members, so it seemed only natural that Alton PRIDE would get involved.

With the help of Nadine Sigle, K-State Research and Extension Post Rock District Extension agent, and Elaine Johannes, K-State Research and Extension Youth Development Specialist, Alton secured a Get It-Do It project grant. The Get It-Do It program encourages youth-adult partnerships to improve community opportunities for all to lead an active lifestyle. Alton PRIDE worked with the youth to conduct a park assessment and develop a work plan that included a budget and timeline. In true cooperative spirit the group constructed six ramps, decks, and an equipment storage shed, all Built Capital, while the city council agreed to cover liability insurance.

For a grand opening, a skateboard company from Hays, White Chocolate, came to Alton to give a real skateboard demonstration as well as take orders for the safety equipment necessary for the youth participants. This demonstration was attended by residents of all ages. Alton’s investment in youth demonstrates their commitment to each other and the future sustainability of Alton, a city of fewer than 100!



*Alton Star Skate Skatepark.*

### ***Larned: Splash Park***

The Larned PRIDE committee has dedicated themselves to improving Built Capital through their park system. A 2010 Larned PRIDE community survey showed high support for a splash pad. The Doerr-Vernon Park was identified as the ideal location due to its proximity to the highway. Larned PRIDE collected more than 400 signatures in favor of the City of Larned contributing \$25,000 toward the splash pad project if a Small Communities Improvement Program (SCIP) grant was received. PRIDE members began soliciting contractors, clubs, churches, and schools to support the project by writing a letter of support and commitment for the number of volunteer hours they would provide. These hours would eventually include anything from manual labor to daycare or meals. They did receive the SCIP grant and the project was on its way to completion.



*Park Additions at Larned.*

Demo Day, Extreme Makeover Weekends, and a Final Touch-up Day were planned to improve Doerr-Vernon Park. On Demo Day, PRIDE leaders split volunteers into 17 groups and coordinated a complete day of work for each group. During the Extreme Makeover Weekends, churches provided meals to construction volunteers in the park. In addition to the splash pad, a major addition to the park was a large fort structure fabricated at the Vocational Training program at the Larned State Hospital through a philanthropy program. As the Fort was being constructed, other areas of the park, such as new play equipment, light posts, and refinishing the tennis courts were being completed. PRIDE worked with a number of contractors and city departments who graciously gave of their time throughout the project. PRIDE members were in shock to realize more than 6,000 hours were contributed to the project!

The finale of the comprehensive project was a “Flip the Switch” night held in early June where the community was treated to hot dogs and the splash pad was turned on for the first time. It was obvious that the community had pride in its accomplishment. The ongoing success of the project is shown by the number of cars around the park on any summer day. Driving around the park to count how many out-of-county license plates can prove to be amazing!

## **Cultural Capital Star Project**

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### ***Lucas – Czech Heritage Mural***

The Post Rock Scenic Byway Committee was exploring ways to educate area residents and visitors about the history of the native limestone when the idea of a mural was “hatched.” The byway committee and the Lucas PRIDE committee began to raise funds to paint a mural that would pay tribute to the Czech immigrant heritage of the Lucas area. Ultimately, funding sources included the Kansas Art Commission, the Russell County Convention and Visitors Bureau, a Fort Hays University political science professor, and several businesses and individuals.

Students from the Lucas/Luray High School art classes helped with scraping the wall along with several other community volunteers. Local artist, Erika Nelson, designed the mural concept on paper to illustrate the project to the school students, the historical society, Kansas Arts Commission, Russell County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Lucas Area Chamber of Commerce. The design illustrates the native land and the arrival of the Czech immigrant families with their tools to quarry the native limestone rock along the hillsides. As the mural progressed, it included buildings made of the natural limestone, and then historic attractions like the Garden of Eden. The painting also incorporates two major disasters, which occurred while the mural was in progress.



*Czech Heritage Mural in Lucas.*

On September 3, 2011, the Czech Heritage Downtown Mural was dedicated by Lucas PRIDE project coordinator, Lynn Schneider, and artist, Erika Nelson. The mural is a great beautification project as well as a Cultural Capital tribute to the Czech immigrants of the area.

## Financial Capital Star Project

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### *Highland - Snowflake Capital of Kansas*

In January, 2011, Highland PRIDE voted to raise \$7,000 to purchase lighted snowflakes for the downtown streetlights and become the self-proclaimed “Snowflake Capital of Kansas.” The city council agreed to pay for the decorations, with Highland PRIDE agreeing to reimburse the city. To gain support the project was introduced through the local newspaper including the need to raise financial capital to pay for it.



*Highland Snowflake Festival.*

The first PRIDE fund-raiser was a fried chicken dinner. A total of 40 volunteers helped by frying 300 pounds of chicken, donating homemade desserts and hot rolls, running the dishwasher, serving drinks and food, clearing tables, and cleaning up. Volunteers included PRIDE members, Doniphan West High School students, Highland Community College students, and Highland citizens. A crowd of 300 attended the freewill offering dinner. After expenses were paid, \$2,157.61 was dedicated to repayment. On July 4, Highland PRIDE sponsored a homemade ice-cream and homemade desserts social at the stadium. A freewill offering generated a profit of \$446.82. At this point the community had already raised more than one third of the money necessary. That is community Financial Capital!

Throughout the year, several businesses and many citizens saved aluminum cans, which generated \$624, to be added to the decoration funds. Former Highland residents mailed donations to PRIDE for total of \$526.25. The local library sponsored a book sale in September, and Highland PRIDE organized a bake sale. Homemade pastries, breads, noodles, and candy were donated, which generated a profit of \$723.40.

December 17, 2011 was the official dedication of the new snowflake decorations. Trudy Rice, KSU PRIDE Extension Associate, presented a Partners In PRIDE grant of \$1,000 to PRIDE President Marian Thompson. By year's end, fund raising totaled \$5,478.08. With such efforts, it is no doubt that Highland will continue to raise support toward becoming the Snowflake Capital of Kansas!

## Human Capital Star Project

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### *Washington: Christmas Compassion Project*

December 2011 was the culmination of all the work that went into the City of Washington Christmas Compassion Project. A total of 323 Angel Tree gifts were distributed, 155 PRIDE food boxes were delivered, and 550 Christmas dinners prepared. This project represented \$20,000 in donations, more than 2,000 volunteer hours, and hundreds of personal vehicle delivery miles.

Two hundred and eighty-three area businesses were sent letters specifically asking for help with the Christmas Compassion projects. PRIDE sent news releases to the county's weekly papers, and the project began to gain momentum. The Washington PRIDE Committee and the Washington Ministerial Association accomplished a successful Washington County Christmas Compassion Project. This speaks to the Human Capital of a community and their ability to increase the quality of life for all.



*Christmas Compassion Project Preparation.*

## Political Capital Star Project

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### *Stafford: Community Visioning*

The City of Stafford organized and initiated a comprehensive approach to engage the community in a visioning and planning process. Stafford PRIDE is a large group of dedicated, caring volunteers that work in the community of Stafford as a catalyst for improvement that makes a difference in the lives of the residents of Stafford.

The community vision initiative was planned to gain community participation to define a vision for the future and identify goals that will move the community in the direction of success. Glenn Newdigger, K-State Research and Extension Stafford County agent, facilitated the community planning meeting. The participants took time to create a timeline from the past, brainstorm strengths and weaknesses of Stafford, describe the community as they see it today, and finally to draw a picture





*Stafford Community Visioning.*

of Stafford as they see it in 2020. This work will now be used to inform decisions on appropriate improvement projects that are undertaken by the city of Stafford elected officials and volunteers. A technique that was used to involve the broad community of this initiative was to publish the meeting notes and outcomes in the local newspaper.

By promoting community cooperation, Stafford PRIDE encourages all community organizations and people of all ages to do something positive to influence the future success of their community, a great example of Political Capital!

## **Social Capital Star Project**

### ***Spearville: Neighborhood Watch Program***

Spearville PRIDE was recognized for their outstanding work in developing a Neighborhood Watch program in conjunction with the local law enforcement, county communications department, schools and EMS. Sometimes we do not appreciate what we have until we no longer have it! This is what Spearville realized as their original neighborhood watch program was neglected. Spearville PRIDE decided it was time to resurrect the Neighborhood Watch program that was started several years ago. After starting a community conversation with key leaders it was determined that a community-wide meeting should be called to inform residents of safety measures they can each be responsible for such as reporting suspicious behavior, marking “safe houses” in the neighborhood that youth could go to if they felt threatened, and ensuring your personal safety at home and away. This was a volunteer led initiative that involved more than 30 people and more than 500 hours of time. The elementary school youth were involved in designing the “Helping Hands” posters that will mark the safe houses.

The community reports that their diversified city is now more of a “united community” as a result of addressing a safety need and informing the residents of the community services available to ensure the safety of all.

## **Natural Capital Star Projects Honorable Mention**

### ***Alden: Flower Garden***

Alden PRIDE received honorable mention for their effort to create a flower garden in an ignored empty space by the post office as a project to increase the Natural Capital of the community. After planning and fund-raising, the real work began. The lot was tilled and leveled, and volunteers framed the pathways. Walkways were cemented, and ornamentals were planted. The project was completed with a total of 30 volunteer hours put into it. Additional resources were contributed to the project through a community wide ice cream social, donation of cash from Alden PRIDE, and the donation of flowers and benches from Alma Fair and the Council on Aging.

An Alden resident shared: “It is a beautiful sight to look at in the blooming season; it has made the main road in town look so much better. It feels like there is so much life in the community. It has been such a blessing to have all the wonderful help in the community.”



*Alden Flower Garden.*

### ***Potwin: Community Garden***



*Potwin Youth Working in the Community Garden.*

Potwin PRIDE received honorable mention for a Natural Capital project started in 2000 which continues to grow every year. The Plant a Row for the Hungry Garden is now named after Ken Whittington who helped start the project that would use the community’s natural resources as well as exist as a project where youth and adults could participate together. Last year, they harvested 929 pounds of tomatoes from 129 plants for which volunteers laid the irrigation and helped put black plastic, tomato cages and straw down as mulch. In addition to this volunteers of all ages dug 314 pounds of sweet potatoes and harvested 697 pounds of turnips. The vegetables went to the Salvation Army in Wichita, an El Dorado church for the homeless, and to the Food 4 Kids pickup at the community food bank. Not only that, there were still potatoes and sweet potatoes to put in the Thanksgiving boxes that are distributed to those in need. This is a garden that “keeps on giving!”

# Community of Excellence

## Kansas PRIDE Program 2012 Community of Excellence Designation

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The Kansas PRIDE program Community of Excellence designation is reserved to recognize those local PRIDE communities operating at a high level of community engagement in their comprehensive community improvement process. Each year, communities with an interest in their community being recognized as a Community of Excellence engage in a multistep community improvement plan which they submit the outcomes of in an application to the Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board. The application outlines how they have created their shared community vision and mission, how they are working in an inclusive, collaborative manner on projects of high importance to the community, and how they will know when they have been successful. These are reviewed by a designated committee who in turn recommends which of the communities will receive this 3-year designation. The following Kansas PRIDE communities applied for and received Community of Excellence recognition for 2012-2014.

### Glasco PRIDE

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Glasco PRIDE engaged in an in-depth series of community meetings to establish a consensus on their long-term needs and goals. The three priorities that emerged were first, preserve the downtown, second provide essential services that meet the needs of young families, and third, support local businesses and employment opportunities within the community.

As a first project Glasco established the Glasco Community Foundation, a new approach to local preservation and renewal that they learned about at an annual PRIDE Day. As one of the first collaborative projects they established a community preschool to address one of their original priorities to meet the needs of young families. They have also used one of the newly available Partners in PRIDE grants to address the goal established to reserve the downtown infrastructure. And, finally by strengthening leadership in the community they were able to begin a museum downtown.

Glasco PRIDE and the evolving PRIDE derivative organizations are poised to strengthen all of the community capitals. The cross-currents of impact — cultural, educational, human, political, social, and financial — can be traced from each of their projects and activities. Glasco is different as a result of the PRIDE investments of time and effort as is evidenced by ten years of a preschool, the Get It Do It initiative to encourage intergenerational activity, being named a Downtown Historic District, a weekly farmers market, a free university, and being part of the Highway 24 heritage alliance. These activities are samples of successes in addressing the three original goals.

To ensure long-term sustainability, Glasco has developed several strategies including community conversations, panel discussions, strong sense of mutual support among community organizations, and a growing respect for emerging roles. Continuing this cooperative approach, Glasco will work to sustain a community that is vital, fearless, and confident!

### Humboldt PRIDE

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The Humboldt PRIDE committee developed their purpose to build on the faith and heritage that has sustained Humboldt through more than 150 years. Humboldt was built on family values, town pride, and hard work. These, along with community involvement, are important to their mission: “To develop a sense of pride, place, and community life in Humboldt.”

All of their projects whether led specifically by the PRIDE committee or by a committee member in their interaction with other community organizations, are guided by this vision to develop:

#### *A Sense of Pride*

The community sense of pride is exhibited through annual events and monthly celebrations for all age groups including the Biblesta Parade and monthly *singspirations*. In addition to this they recognize their historical resources and community services as value-added assets. These include the Humboldt Historic Museum, furniture making and Civil War museums, as well as their well-balanced medical care system.

### *A Sense of Place*

The Humboldt Community Fieldhouse, updated swimming pool, sand volleyball pit and softball diamonds, and the river-front park are recent projects. These are places and facilities that define and support who and what the community values including recreational facilities for all, opportunities for social interaction, and safe places to gather and exercise. To assist with this initiative, several community groups participated in the PRIDE-sponsored Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities project to improve water quality and natural resources in the community. This helped identify new goals and projects to provide leadership opportunities and ways to integrate these new goals with existing goals to have a greater impact to the “place” of Humboldt.

### *A Sense of Community Life*

Further supporting the mission, events, work, and accomplishments are published and supported by the local media to keep everyone in the community informed and up-to-date on what is happening in Humboldt.

Humboldt’s leadership is being strengthened through partnerships with other community groups with specific interests including youth and senior citizens. These offer opportunities to teach young people the importance of the people in our city, both young and old, and offer opportunities for the youth to learn valuable leadership skills for the future.

Humboldt PRIDE was actively engaged in an initiative to pass a quarter-cent sales tax for continued financial support for important infrastructure in their community including a swimming pool, park improvements, and field house. These all increase the quality of life for people who live in, work in, and visit Humboldt.

The PRIDE committee members strategies to strengthen the sustainability of their community is reflected in their participation in the annual Kansas Sampler Festival, as well as the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, which brings many tourists to the community as they travel following the rich Civil War history in their part of the state.

## **Larned PRIDE**

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PRIDE has brought Larned leaders, contractors, community organizations, families, individuals, and city and county governments to work together in a cooperative effort to make Larned a better place to live for current and future residents. Through the projects PRIDE has initiated, other areas of the state are viewing Larned as a forward-looking community with a vision for the future.

The projects of Larned PRIDE have united the community to work toward goals from which the entire community will benefit, and have been identified through a community assessment.

Larned PRIDE has worked on the Doerr-Vernon Park project to rejuvenate the park and create a splash pad for youth to enjoy. During the project community leaders both adult and youth stepped forward, taking on responsibility for different pieces of the project. Teachers were heard saying, “students that do not normally show leadership qualities came forward to lead the group in physical tasks to completion and it is good to see students give of their time and talents to a community project.” Larned PRIDE has started a community garden. The garden has provided fresh produce to the food bank, an outdoor classroom for elementary youth, and has become the core of a farmers market that PRIDE started to give local growers a venue to sell their produce and residents another opportunity to purchase. Larned PRIDE responded to the identified need for a roller skate program by purchasing roller skating equipment for Larned Recreation and now manage the program for the community. Finally, Larned PRIDE is improving Camp Pawnee including an outdoor recreation area and a pumpkin patch to be used for class field trips.

As a result of the community assessment the core group envisions and is working toward, a place that residents and visitors want to come for family time, fun, and relaxation. This is being made possible through a collaborative effort of several local entities. This collaboration has brought many to the table to work to create a vibrant and growing community into the next century.

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In 2013, we will be welcoming the communities of Ashland, Alton, Iola, Lakin, Lenora, Lucas, Potwin, Rossville, Spearville, and Wilson as Communities of Excellence for 2013-2015. The Community of Excellence designation is a noteworthy accomplishment for a community PRIDE group and is reserved for those communities who are using a comprehensive community planning process to impact the future sustainability of their communities.



# Partners in PRIDE

The Kansas PRIDE Partners in PRIDE (PIP) fund was established in 2010 to support local PRIDE communities in their efforts to address documented community needs through defined projects related to one of the seven Community Capitals. The funded projects assist the community in meeting one of their identified goals that were established through a community-wide planning effort.

To date just less than \$20,000 from Kansas PRIDE, Inc. has been awarded to 10 Kansas PRIDE communities to assist them in their community improvement efforts. These dollars have been matched at the local level at least dollar for dollar of cash or in-kind local resources making the total impact of this program more than \$40,000 since its inception.

In 2011 awards were made to the following communities who have completed their projects during 2012.

## Basehor — Community Garden /Natural Capital

The mission of Basehor PRIDE is to provide opportunities for civic organizations, businesses, and concerned citizens to work together to plan, develop, and build a better community. That is just what happened with their PIP grant award to establish a community garden in the park. The PIP money allowed them to start this project, in cooperation with the city of Basehor, which provides the land and water to the site, and many other community organizations. They were able to establish the plots, build an attractive entrance, and renovate an outdoor education area to get started. As a result of this work Basehor in turn received a much larger grant through the Kansas Health Foundation and K-State Research and Extension known as the Kansas Community Garden Grant that provided them an opportunity to expand the initial project including adding a storage shed and purchasing a tiller. This fits great with the initial purpose of the PIP funding — to increase the skills of PRIDE communities in accessing grant dollars.



*Basehor Youth Pose at Completed Pergola.*

## Glasco — Downtown Storefront Restoration/Built Capital



*Glasco Storefront Restoration.*

It happened on the corner of Fisher and Main in Glasco, Kansas! Exterior work on the Biggs Building was initiated by Glasco PRIDE when they received a PIP grant dedicated to give the historic Biggs building a “face lift.” The goals for the project were to restore the cast stone wall and to brighten the shabby façade facing Main Street. An experienced stone mason completed the stonework and volunteer painters did the front renewal. It was “topped” off with a “stained glass” finish to honor the history of the building, which housed a stained glass business in Glasco in the early 1980s. This project involved \$1,040 of in-kind labor—a true community benefit!

## Grinnell — Indoor Fitness Center/Human Capital

Grinnell PRIDE identified the need to create a variety of fitness opportunities available to all residents during a community visioning session several years ago. They started with developing an outdoor fitness course in the park. The PIP funds allowed them to partner with the school district to establish an indoor fitness center available to all residents of the community. Now all residents have a place and opportunity to exercise year round.



*Grinnell Outdoor Fitness Equipment.*

## Highland — Snowflake Capital of Kansas/Financial Capital

If you want to increase your skills in community fund raising, Highland PRIDE has some ideas. They determined that they would like to build on some snowflake decorations that had been in the park for several years and market themselves as the “Snowflake Capital of Kansas.” The first step was to purchase some snowflakes for Main Street. The city provided the initial funds knowing that Highland PRIDE had the ability to raise the funds and reimburse them for the cost. This culminated into the first snowflake festival in December of 2011 including a holiday homes tour to raise funds for future projects and promote tourism.

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## Larned — Crop Maze/Social Capital

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Larned PRIDE had great plans to use their PIP award to establish an educational crop maze to complement their pumpkin patch at Camp Pawnee. This venue is used for school field trips and local residents. Through the PIP funds they planned to broaden activities to increase tourism to the area in the fall. This project involved many partnerships including the community foundation, schools, and Fort Hays State University. One interesting twist was the incorporation of GIS in the project.

However, typical of the climate in Kansas, drought took its toll on the original plans and plan “B” was brought into place. Capitalizing on the creativity of community volunteers, the original plans were put on hold for 2012 and the project was dedicated to making sure there were pumpkins in the pumpkin patch for school children to pick as they had anticipated! In addition to this, opportunities were provided for the youth to use their creative skills to decorate pumpkins during a fall festival. Larned demonstrated true resilience and sustainability comes to those who are flexible during unplanned turns of events.



*Larned Youth Decorate Pumpkins.*

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## Stafford — Outdoor Fitness Station/Human Capital

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Stafford is devoted to promoting good health for all residents. In order to ensure this happens, the community identified the need for a fitness facility in the community. After a great deal of research they determined that the best way to accomplish this would be through an outdoor fitness station in the park. Through a combination of grants and the cooperation of the city council they have completed the initial piece of this project celebrating with a community demonstration on Memorial Day. Reports are that the physical therapists in the community are recommending this option for exercise to their patients.

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In 2012, awards were made to the following communities in the process of completing projects:

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## Humboldt — Picnic in the Park/Social Capital

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One of the original intents of the PIP funding was to enhance the opportunities for communities to get outside resources. The community of Humboldt had a Kansas PRIDE-supported Healthy Communities-Healthy Ecosystems (HEHC) grant with the primary purpose of improving water quality. This grant provided a great deal of technical assistance related to long range community planning for several of the community capitals with the primary one being natural capital.

Humboldt’s PIP funding will build on what they accomplished through the HEHC project related to the Neosho River project. The community is developing this area as an outdoor recreation area and a community gathering place for social and educational purposes.

Humboldt PRIDE will use PIP dollars to purchase picnic tables and accessories that will not only encourage more individuals to linger in the park but also will provide the features to allow them to use this area as an outdoor educational venue. With the addition of picnic tables and electricity, they will be able to host functions that serve not only as a means of bringing people who live in the area together to socialize, to create a tighter-knit community, but also gives them opportunities to introduce people to the Neosho River watershed and the importance of protecting this ecosystem — for basic survival and community sustainability.

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## Lakin — Thornbrough Park Playground/Social Capital

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Lakin PRIDE is working in partnership with the City of Lakin to improve Thornbrough Park by updating the playground equipment at this park located on the west side of Lakin. A needs assessment instrument was delivered at a community event July 19, 2012. The instrument was designed for citizens aged 8 to more than 70. The survey revealed that 61 percent of the survey participants see the Thornbrough Park improvements as being a worthy project to work on. Lakin’s Partners in PRIDE Project was the first to be matched by a corporation, Kansas Mayor’s Association, which specifically provided funds to Kansas PRIDE Inc for the benefit of a Partners in PRIDE grant for a PRIDE community that was an existing member of the Kansas Mayor’s Association.

Currently the park needs involve equipment at the park that is dated and consists of a swing set, merry-go-round, and some spring horses. In addition, the current location of the playground equipment does not have optimal accessibility.

Lakin PRIDE’s community partner will be the City of Lakin. The City of Lakin will use city funds and other funding sources to help purchase equipment and will use the city’s heavy equipment to install the playground equipment.

Lakin PRIDE's shared responsibilities include member skills, talents, and time to assist with preparing the physical site's soil movement, spreading border and mulch materials, assisting with pouring the concrete, putting together the pieces of the playground equipment, and clean up.

Increased accessibility and safety will improve the park. This meets Lakin PRIDE's mission, "to make a difference in our community by accomplishing projects that help others and ourselves," and vision: "Our vision for Lakin will be a safe, friendly, caring, community that will prosper in education, recreation and business opportunities for all citizens; a place that fosters community togetherness and strong family values."

## **Spearville — Park Master Plan/Political Capital**

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The community planning process should be the foundation of long-term community development for all Kansas communities. Spearville PRIDE recognizes the importance of long-range community planning and the success that it brings in the long run. They recognize that using this type of planning since PRIDE was established in 1975 has shaped the community to what it is today. As the community continues to grow, a need for improvements such as upgrades to the schools, housing, and recreational facilities are being addressed.

The schools are being upgraded through a bond issue, and infrastructure improvements are encouraging people to build new homes. Recreational needs is the next issue to address. Spearville PRIDE's goal is to offer safe, quality facilities to provide healthy entertainment and recreation opportunities to residents of all ages. They felt that the next step is to have a professional assist the community in designing a master plan for recreation throughout Spearville.

The PIP funds are being used as part of a collaborative effort with other local entities including the Recreation Commission, city, USD 391, and other community groups to support this effort. The plans are that the future improvements include activities important to the residents of Spearville and be located in places convenient for all to use. Not only is Spearville PRIDE supporting this effort financially through the PIP and matching funds, but they also are providing their resources of volunteer time to facilitate the public input into the planning process.

## **Wilson — Cultural Heritage Promotion/Cultural Capital**

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Wilson PRIDE received the PIP award to preserve and share the history of the downtown buildings and other designated sights in their community. This project will develop marketing tools to increase tourism in their community. A 24/7 kiosk has been established, brochures designed and printed, a website updated, and a Facebook page maintained. These tools work together to invite visitors to Wilson and to encourage support of local businesses recognized on the walking tour brochure.

# **Healthy Ecosystems - Healthy Communities**

This year witnessed the conclusion of funding support for this collaborative program supported by the Kansas PRIDE Program and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The program ended with great success.

Alden HEHC identified a priority project and installed a retention pond in their park. With the addition of landscaping and the development of an environmental interpretive center in their community building, the pond captures and settles rainwater run-off, and provides an ascetically pleasing location to teach environmental education.

Humboldt HEHC developed an amphitheater along the Neosho River; installed walking trails, fishing areas, and river access; and improved the park rest rooms. The Humboldt HEHC/PRIDE improved water quality and educated citizens on water quality protection. Humboldt more than doubled their grant match for community improvements.

In Larned, the HEHC project cleaned up the river area and installed a dock at Camp Pawnee, making it more accessible for fishing, canoeing, and camping. The initial \$5,000 grant project was matched with more than \$130,000 in additional grant and gift dollars to transform the camp ground into a wonderful place for families and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors. The entire community now enjoys the new playground equipment, walking trail, basketball court, tether ball, horse shoe pits, camping hookups, and many games available for use.

In recognition of the effective processes used by the HEHC program, PRIDE was awarded an "Innovative Program Award" in 2012 from the Community Development Society, a national association of community development professionals.



# 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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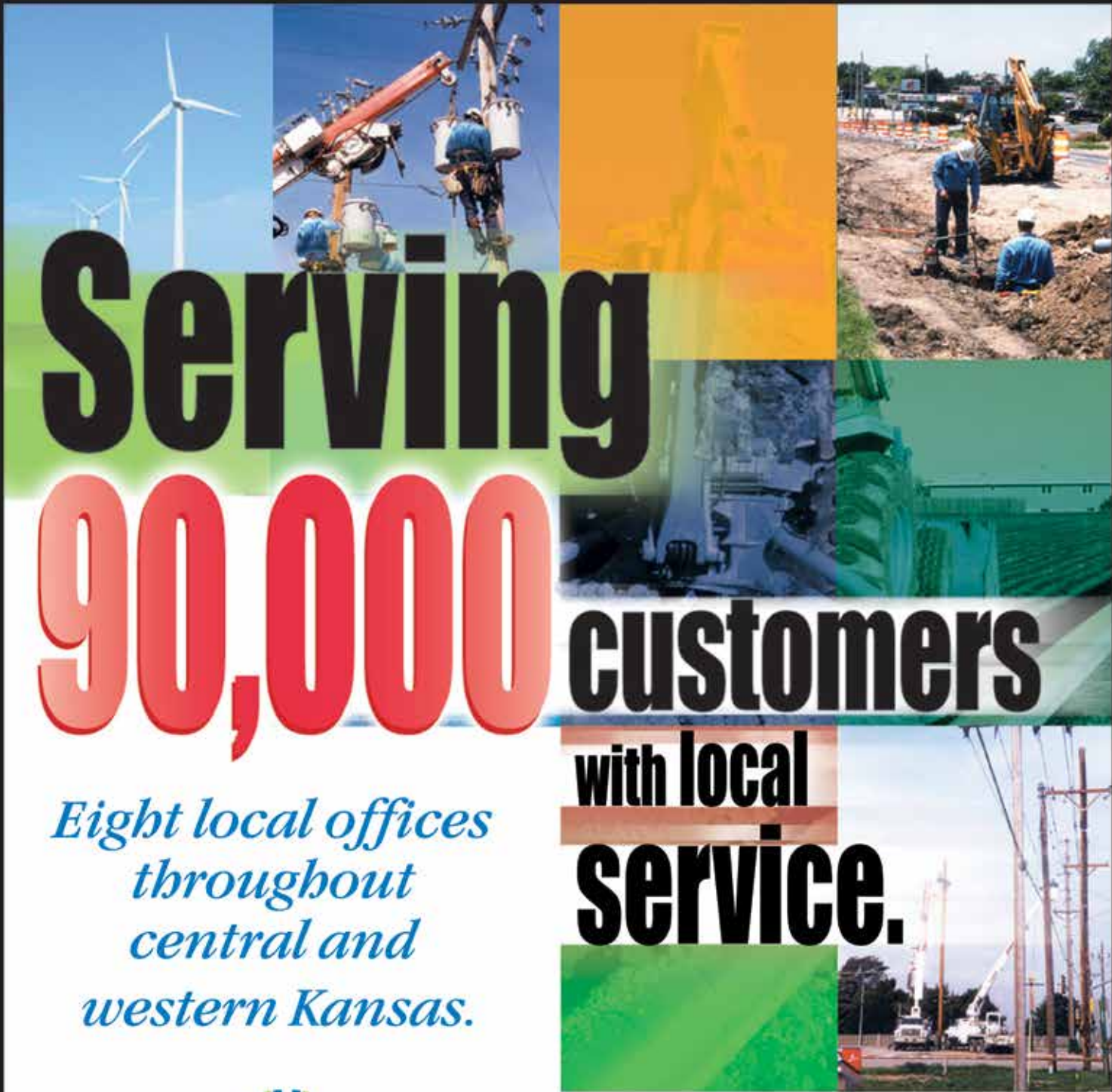
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