

PRIDE
Review
1999



Building Better Communities

Message from the Chairman

June 30, 1999

UTILICORP UNITED
ENERGYONE

Dear PRIDE Members:

The 1999 PRIDE year was one that brought many changes to the Kansas PRIDE program. Although change can be difficult, it is necessary for the continued growth of a community development program such as PRIDE. I feel positive about the changes and look forward to seeing even stronger communities as a result.

The new and exciting PRIDE logo that was unveiled at the banquet is symbolic and representative of what PRIDE is about. The star has been a historical symbol of excellence and quality, and is also seen in our state seal. The "K" for Kansas, combined with the swooping star, creates an image of progressive action and commitment for Kansas communities. This logo is timeless and will retain a fresh image over many years.

I am also pleased with the two new PRIDE awards that were created. The "Community of Excellence" award designation for overall outstanding achievement and the "Star" award that recognizes an outstanding project. Of the 73 communities enrolling in the 1999 program year, 14 received the Community of Excellence designation and 11 were recognized with the STAR Award.

Another highlight of my time serving as board chair was working with both the sponsor representatives on the board and the community board members. These were hard-working and dedicated people. After serving for two terms on the PRIDE board, I am convinced that the program is a valuable tool in working toward a better quality of life for our Kansas communities. It has been very rewarding to observe communities, empowered through PRIDE, taking the initiative and making a difference at the local level. On behalf of my company, UtiliCorp United, it is a pleasure to be associated with this great community development program and pledge continuing PRIDE sponsorship into the next millennium.

Thank you for a great 1999 PRIDE year and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



Scott McGinley
1999 Board Chairman
Kansas PRIDE, Inc.

What is PRIDE?

The PRIDE program is a volunteer, grassroots effort to improve the quality of life in local communities. Each Kansas community is unique and shares a common bond: a rich heritage based on self-reliance and community pride. Since 1970, the Kansas PRIDE program has assisted and encouraged communities to prepare for the future by building on their heritage and forming a vision of the future. The goal of PRIDE is to help maximize community and economic development efforts by encouraging all groups to coordinate and work collaboratively for community betterment.

Over the past 29 years, the PRIDE program has grown and evolved, like our communities, to help meet the ever-changing needs. The constant challenge to remain viable and provide a high quality of life can be achieved through the comprehensive PRIDE approach. PRIDE projects cover a wide range of efforts directed to meet commonly identified community needs.

Seventy-three Kansas communities participated in the community development planning process in 1999. Some of the past year's PRIDE projects included: creating youth involvement in community betterment projects, developing a library, organizing and equipping a fire department, starting a community owned grocery store, and implementing a community Internet system.

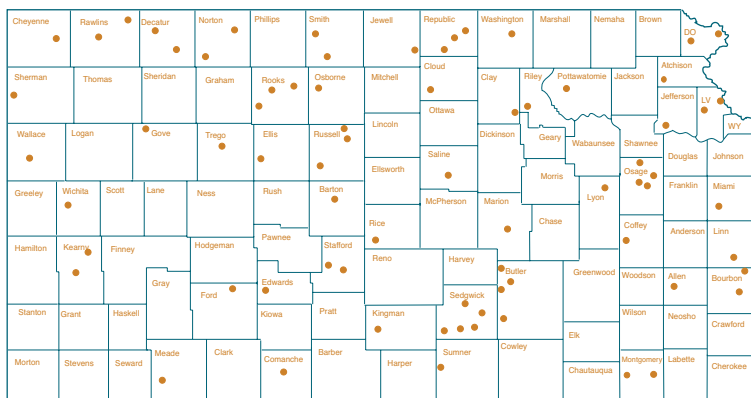
The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, K-State Research and Extension, and private-sector companies and associations partner together to make the PRIDE program successful.

What are the Benefits of Participating in PRIDE?

- Structure to organize and implement community development efforts.
- Technical assistance and training.
- A vision for the community's future.
- A plan to initiate goals and promote PRIDE to the public.
- Team approach to address community needs through an action plan.
- Self-assessment for better understanding of existing conditions and resources.
- Identification of regional, state, and national resources.
- Quantifiable measurements of successes.
- Evaluations on-site by community development professionals.
- Recognition of achievements.
- Sustainability of community improvement efforts.

1999 PRIDE Communities

(Populations shown in parenthesis)



Alden (173)

Almena (418)

Alton (111)

Argonia (523)

Assaria (388)

Atwood (1,346)

Basehor (2,132)

Belleville (2,394)

Bentley (390)

Bird City (464)

Burns (216)

Clearwater (1,996)

Coffeyville (12,242)

Coldwater (844)

Courtland (322)

Cuba (238)

Cunningham (530)

Deerfield (709)

Effingham (546)

Elk City (326)

Ellis (1,740)

Elwood (1,057)

Formoso (121)

Ft. Scott (8,324)

Fulton (193)

Garden Plain (769)

Gaylord (160)

Glasco (512)

Grinnell (341)

Herndon (161)

Highland (873)

Hoisington (2,992)

Iola (6,241)

Jennings (158)

Kanorado (270)

Kensington (511)

Kinsley (1,634)

Lakin (2,172)

Lansing (7,996)

Lebo (911)

Lenora (297)

Leonardville (338)

Leoti (1,731)

Lucas (458)

Luray (246)

Lyndon (1,033)

Maize (1,774)

Melvern (440)

Meriden (676)

Morrowville (169)

Mound City (840)

Oberlin (1,898)

Osage City (2,940)

Osawatomie (4,514)

Overbrook (999)

Palco (280)

Park City (5,426)

Plains (988)

Potwin (427)

Reading (272)

Spearville (753)

St. John (1,244)

Stafford (1,224)

Stockton (1,438)

Sylvan Grove (283)

Towanda (1,409)

Trego Co. (3,440)

Wakefield (941)

Wallace Co. (1,812)

Walton (230)

Westmoreland (612)

Whitewater (720)

Woodston (118)

PRIDE Impacts Communities

The outstanding achievements, as noted by the 1999 PRIDE judges in both the Community of Excellence and the Star Award categories, are indicative of the high quality of local PRIDE programs throughout the state this year.

1999 Community of Excellence Award Winners

Fourteen PRIDE communities received the “Community of Excellence” designation and were recognized at the 28th PRIDE Day awards ceremony in Wichita on July 17, 1999. Each community received a trophy and \$500. The communities were selected based upon an on-site evaluation by a three-member professional community development team. Some of the areas examined in this non-competitive evaluation process included organization, citizen involvement, goal setting, and progress toward reaching goals.

The award-winning communities and some evaluators’ comments are listed below:

ARGONIA (population - 523) The Argonia PRIDE program is highly acclaimed for its depth of projects and their ability to successfully coordinate projects with local organizations and the city government. The evaluators noted the diversity of their projects and success in getting good community involvement, including the youth.

ATWOOD (population - 1,346) The working relationship between PRIDE, the school system, and city and county governments was seen as a major strength of the Atwood PRIDE program. There is good visible progress on projects. The program utilizes volunteers well and they have a great sense of direction.

BASEHOR (population - 2,132) The word to describe the Basehor PRIDE program was WOW! The youth involvement is wonderful. The Youth PRIDE and Gold PRIDE programs are great. Basehor PRIDE exhibits excellent use of available community resources. Basehor is a great example for other PRIDE communities to learn from.

CLEARWATER (population - 1,996) “Outstanding economic development activities,” was the phrase used by evaluators to describe the results of the Clearwater PRIDE program. Several of their long-term projects involve partnerships between city officials, the school board, and the Chamber of Commerce. The program has motivated leaders that look at the “big picture.”

COURTLAND (population - 322) Some of the words and phrases used by the evaluators of the Courtland PRIDE program included: “great projects, good follow through, and innovative and creative.” There was strong involvement of young people as well as other community groups and organizations.

GAYLORD (population - 160) “It is very impressive to see how the Gaylord PRIDE members pull together to support the community’s needs,” said one evaluator. They also do a good job of networking with other communities. The evaluators praised their dedication toward maintaining their local cafe, the continuation of their park improvements, and a successful community newsletter.

GLASCO (population - 512) The Glasco PRIDE program is very organized with long-term experience and dedication. One evaluator remarked, “This organization is not afraid to think big outside the box.” The Glasco PRIDE group has a history of partnering with area communities on several positive community and economic development efforts.

HIGHLAND (population - 873) “They are not afraid to take on any tasks,” one evaluator said of the Highland PRIDE program. The group has a solid relationship with city officials and impressive total community involvement. They have made an aggressive effort to create partnerships and use the contacts to assist in local community projects.

KINSLEY (population - 1,634) Kinsley does an outstanding job of fund-raising for their community improvement projects. The evaluators indicated that Kinsley’s capacity to access resources and their effective use of local and outside resources “couldn’t be better.” Kinsley has developed strong relationships with volunteers and a clear understanding of volunteerism.

LAKIN (population - 2,172) The evaluators were impressed with Lakin’s professionalism. They are well organized and have undertaken quality projects. The group is highly respected at City Hall and has been successful in prioritizing projects and obtaining commitments. Many positive things have happened in Lakin this past year.

LENORA (population - 297) The evaluators awarded the Lenora PRIDE efforts with a perfect score. Some of their comments included: “Excellent job of recruiting new members and leaders.” Matching volunteers with their personal interests and strengths was mentioned as well. Lenora has good support from both city and county officials.

LUCAS (population - 458) The Lucas PRIDE program is fortunate to have capable people matched with the talents and resources required for success. Their positive “can do” attitudes and the early results of the comprehensive development program is tangible evidence of a strong, well-organized, and directed effort.

PALCO (population - 280) The evaluators noted that the Palco PRIDE program is very focused and well managed. They received tremendous community support for their new fire station and truck as well as the new downtown park and shelter. These projects have had a direct and positive impact upon the community.

POTWIN (population - 427) “Strong group dynamics” was the phrase used by the evaluators to describe the Potwin PRIDE program. They work well with other organizations and are willing to tackle large projects. The community has diversity in their volunteers, working together in setting goals and implementing projects. The community was also commended for its creative ways to recognize volunteers.

1999 Star Award Winners

A “Star” award trophy and \$300 was presented to 11 PRIDE communities during the July 17, 1999 PRIDE Day celebration in Wichita. The award recognizes communities for accomplishing a project that showed a high degree of community support, citizen involvement, and major impact and/or benefit to local residents. Star Project entries were self-nominated and evaluated in Topeka by a three-member team composed of PRIDE program sponsor representatives, and supporters. The communities receiving the Star Project award follow:

ALTON (population - 111) Parks often serve as gathering places for community events. After taking a look at their city park, the Alton PRIDE group identified a need for new restrooms. Two memorials and a park improvement fund-raiser dinner generated interest and funding for the project along the way. Working with the City Council, the Alton PRIDE group was able to secure a grant, cash, and supplies in order to build the new restroom facilities.

ATWOOD (population - 1,346) The Atwood PRIDE group beautified the historic Atwood courthouse building and grounds during last year’s holiday season by adding lighted Christmas trees, a lighted wreath above the entrance, and electric candles in the windows. The lighted Christmas trees were cut from plywood and children decorated them. With the encouragement of the art teacher, each child painted an ornament of their choice and initialed it. Now, the children and their families will be able to enjoy their special decorations each Christmas season.

COURTLAND (population - 322) The use of the Internet has grown by leaps and bounds in the past few years. The Courtland PRIDE club determined that their community, which sits near the geographical center of the U.S., was underserved in a very important area of technology—the Internet. Internet services were already available in the area. However, they were not affordable to a majority of residents and schools. After conducting a survey of potential subscribers, the Courtland PRIDE committee developed it’s own Internet service and web page—solving the affordability problem.

GLASCO (population - 512) The Glasco PRIDE group responded to community concerns of inadequate activities for youth by developing a youth activities program for young people, grades 1-12. To address the challenge, a youth advocacy committee surveyed youth interests, designed the program format, and solicited volunteers. The City Council refurbished the Community Youth Center to accommodate some of the youth activities provided by the program. A variety of activities were offered through the youth activities program including: after-school workshops for grade school students and a five-month art program that introduced Glasco youth to eight different art forms. The project culminated with a youth arts festival on May 15, 1999, featuring demonstrations, exhibits, and a workshop.

HERNDON (population - 161) The Herndon PRIDE group developed a park at the main intersection of Herndon and named it "PRIDE Park." After PRIDE purchased a vacant, run-down lot, they planted a 20-foot pine tree that serves as the main focal point in the community during the holiday season. PRIDE members and community members installed wood fencing around the park and moved stone park benches and a table that were built in the early 1930's. The group continued to improve the park with the addition of a merry-go-round, flagpole, landscaping, additional park benches, and a limestone post with PRIDE Park inscribed upon it.

HIGHLAND (population - 873) The old saying "Charity begins at home" comes to life as a result of Highland's "Help Your Neighbor West Food Pantry." Thanks to the efforts of the Highland PRIDE group, the basic necessities of life are being provided to those in need. Highland PRIDE sponsors a crisis hotline, which gives area residents direct access to a variety of assistance. The Highland PRIDE group pinpointed the need in their area and through the labor of many volunteers, they have successfully addressed this need.

KINSLEY (population - 1,634) Kinsley PRIDE and the Tired Iron Antique Tractor Club joined forces to beautify the Edwards County Fairgrounds in the fall of 1998 and spring of 1999. The group's goal was to improve this highly used area and to create a park-like setting with large shade trees. Kinsley PRIDE donated \$5,000 and labor to the project. With the help of the Antique Tractor Club and 15 other community groups, 22 large trees were planted on the five-acre Edwards County Fairgrounds. The addition of the shade trees will benefit numerous groups who use the fairgrounds and buildings throughout the year.

LAKIN (population - 2,172) Beautifying the highway was a major goal of Lakin's PRIDE group. In the past year, the group took action on a unique opportunity—obtaining and moving a 100-plus year-old windmill that once belonged to a founding father of Lakin. The PRIDE group successfully relocated the century-old windmill to the highly visible, well-traveled intersection of Highways

25 and 50. Since the move, the community has planted flowers, decorated the windmill with seasonal decorations, and maintained the grounds.

MELVERN (population - 440) During a community meeting, members of the PRIDE committee were encouraged to clean up the town. Taking this directive literally, the committee, city council members, many city employees, the American Legion Auxiliary, and other volunteers held a citywide cleanup day on April 10, 1999. The success of this project was quite clear to PRIDE members as they witnessed trash being hauled away from homes all over town. After the cleanup effort was complete, it was clear that the Main Street's appearance was improved and the citywide activity brought residents together to beautify their town.

PALCO (population - 280) For many years, Palco was without an organized fire department and only an old water truck to put out fires. But, a newcomer to the town, Omen Knoll, volunteered to get a fire department together. He and the mayor obtained a \$5,250 matching grant that started them on their way to purchase a fire truck. The Palco PRIDE committee rose to the challenge and organized a series of fund-raising activities. After a ham dinner in the spring, a turkey dinner in the fall, a benefit auction, cookbook sales, bake sales, concession stand sales, and various donations from citizens, the PRIDE committee finally reached the magic number.

PARK CITY (population - 5,426) The Park City PRIDE group discovered the need for a public library through a 1995 community survey and decided to pursue the opportunity. A mail-in ballot election for the establishment of a library was narrowly defeated in 1997. So, they took another approach and started a reading room in the PRIDE Center. The reading room quickly grew into a 3,500-book collection, with PRIDE members volunteering their time to keep it open. The library issue was once again placed on the April ballot this year. This time, the PRIDE group increased their advertising efforts by producing outdoor signs, promoting the issue door to door, distributing fliers, and holding public forums. After the votes were tallied, the public library was approved by nearly two to one.

Board of Directors

Members of the 1999 Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors include representatives of sponsoring corporations and organizations; the five first-place Community Achievement Award-winning communities of the 1997/1998 PRIDE year; and the directors of the two administering organizations of PRIDE, K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing.

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