

Kansas PRIDE Program

2012-13 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





Dear PRIDE Members, Sponsors, and Friends;

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

In 2013, eight new communities joined the PRIDE program, bringing our total of communities to 65. Community volunteers invested 56,723 hours on various PRIDE initiatives, completing 902 projects.

Youth were involved in 311 projects, and more than \$901,200 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 motivated volunteers.

This past year we awarded Partners in PRIDE grants to seven communities that met the goal of planning for longer-term community sustainability. We also recognized four 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 the Kansas PRIDE program this past year. I hope that you will maintain or strengthen your commitment to our organization, whether through sponsorship or as a community partner or volunteer. I can say we are excited to continue our efforts to help you reach your goals for the future.

Doug Helmke
Chairperson

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Kansas PRIDE Inc Board of Directors

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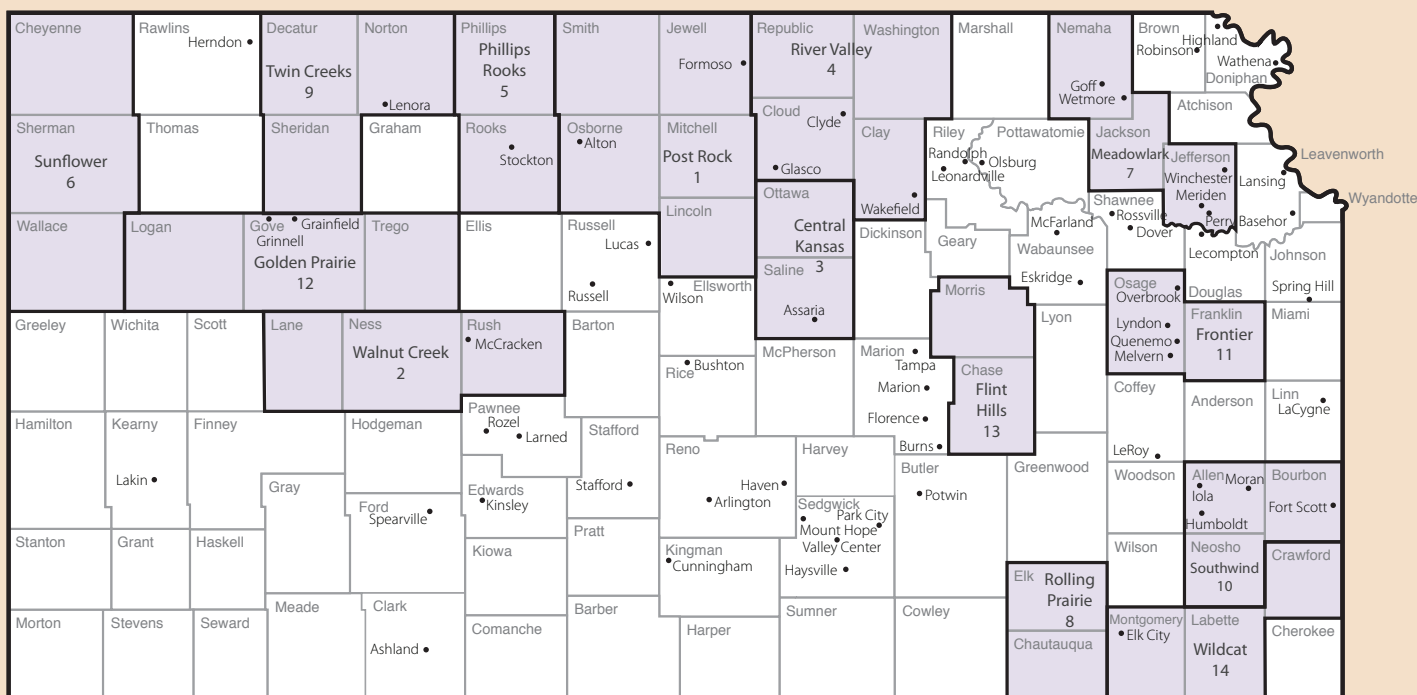
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2013 Kansas PRIDE Communities

It is often said, that if you want to go fast do it alone, but if you want to go far use a team! In 2013, the volunteers from the 65 Kansas PRIDE communities, working as a team, demonstrated fantastic effort and commitment to Kansas community improvement initiatives.

Providing support to the Kansas PRIDE communities is a partnership team including K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Department of Commerce, and Kansas PRIDE, Inc. To enroll, a group of interested volunteers

collaborate with local government to organize a PRIDE committee. Then, 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 including STAR Project awards, Community of Excellence, and Partners in PRIDE. In 2013, 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

2013 Spearville PRIDE Neighborhood Watch Block Party

Spearville PRIDE hosted its first Neighborhood Watch Block party in September 2013. They divided the town into workable block areas and invited people in each area to serve as block captains. Simultaneously, the entire community came together for an evening of fellowship. This event solved two issues that the PRIDE organization is actively involved in, welcoming newcomers and addressing the safety of residents through the Neighborhood Watch program. The evening was a success and plans are underway for 2014.



Spearville neighborhood watch block party.

2013 Lenora PRIDE Park Rehabilitation

The Lenora PRIDE organization is working to rehabilitate two community parks. In 2013 they were able to work with the City of Lenora to place a restroom facility at the school playground. In addition to the restrooms, Lenora PRIDE placed a structure for shade above the picnic tables and planted several trees. At Larrick Park, they added a sign showing the location of the park and painted the fencing, playground equipment, picnic tables, and refurbished the bleachers. All a great way to provide opportunities for people to gather!



Lenora residents replacing seats on the bleachers at the city park.

**In 2013, PRIDE
communities engaged
in 419 partnerships at
the local, regional, and
state levels.**



Human Capital

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

PRIDE STAR Capital Awards

2013 Lenora PRIDE Pet Clinic

More than 20 years ago, Lenora PRIDE identified a need in the community for a pet clinic as a way to ensure a community comprised of healthy pets and people. Today Lenora is located at least 20 miles from the closest veterinarian and has 68 registered pets. Each year Lenora PRIDE partners with a local veterinarian to operate this pet clinic. In 2013 they served more than 30 animals in Lenora eliminating the need for people to travel far or take off work for the annual pet examinations. Lenora is now a town of healthy pets and happy people.



Lenora Pet Clinic hosted at the Lenora Fire Department.

2013 Spearville Babysitting Clinic

The Spearville PRIDE Committee is always identifying needs to address in their community. It was recently identified that a list of babysitters would be beneficial to local families. As a first step, it was decided to conduct a babysitting clinic for area youth from 5th grade through seniors and offer basic instruction and education on the proper etiquette of a babysitter and basic first aid. They partnered with Ford County Extension and Ford County EMS on the event. They also collaborated with Spearville USD 381 for the usage of the school lunchroom. Twenty-six youth were trained in basic first aid, CPR, and other basic knowledge expected of a good babysitter. The list of participants was listed in the Spearville News and also posted at the library, local grocery store, and post office. This helped fill the need of having youth that were qualified to care for children.

**In 2013, PRIDE
communities reported
56,723 hour of
volunteer services to
their communities.**



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, 19 awards have been made totaling nearly \$35,500 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 \$70,000.

In 2013, the following communities received Partners in PRIDE grants to support a variety of projects. These projects included campground improvements, fall festivals, ballparks, and historical preservation.

- Iola
- Larned
- Lucas
- Potwin
- Ashland
- Humboldt
- Glasco

In addition to these communities, the following communities received funds through the Partners in PRIDE, Get It Do It program, which is intended to fund projects that engage youth in the community planning process. These youth work as partners with adults in the community to identify the need, plan, execute, evaluate, and celebrate the local improvement projects.

- Randolph
- Larned



Playground equipment installed in Lakin with the help of a Partners in PRIDE mini grant provided by the Kansas Mayors Association.

**Kansas PRIDE
communities reported
raising just under
one million dollars,
\$901,236.96 to be exact,
for reinvestments in
their communities
during 2013.**



Randolph's bridge project funded through a Get It Do It Grant.



Cultural Capital

Ethnicity, generations, stories, and traditions, spirituality, habits, and heritage.

PRIDE STAR Project Awards

2012 Alton PRIDE Library Enhancement

Before 2012, the Alton library consisted of a bookshelf and some secondhand books along the walls in the community room of the PRIDE community building. Community members indicated the need for a better inventory of books and resources as the nearest library was 14 miles away, and the book mobile only visited monthly. Alton PRIDE jumped into action to address the situation.

The PRIDE group identified five action steps needed, which included cleaning the existing reading resources area, adding shelving, and developing a system for organizing the library.

The generous donation of shelving from the Courtland Library provided the needed shelf space. PRIDE submitted a request through the Central Kansas Library System and received boxes of donated books. It took a great deal of volunteer time and effort, but through cleaning, organizing, and expanding the reading resources, Alton PRIDE has helped to establish an expanded library, and has expanded the cultural capital of their community.

2012 Lucas PRIDE 125th Birthday Celebration

2012 was the 125th birthday for the community of Lucas. The celebration was a great opportunity to bring



Lucas residents celebrating the community's 125th anniversary of the town's founding.

together historians and newcomers to the Lucas community while working on this big event.

To celebrate, the committee of local volunteers decided to replicate an early 1900s celebration. Planning began in October of 2011 with a contest to create an identifying brand and activities for the celebration. A 2009 Lucas graduate designed a logo that looked like two horseshoes with the theme "Looking Back, Moving Forward." This was used on T-shirts, fliers, and souvenirs.

Another 2009 Lucas graduate directed the "Mystery of the Fred Dinniny Murder" play, based on actual historical events from the community. The play was performed by Fort Hays State University students and hosted in the restored theater in Lucas.

This was a great way for Lucas to honor the past while purposefully planning for the future — a great community planning approach that will enhance this community's ability for success!

2012 Bushton PRIDE 125th Anniversary Celebration

2012 was the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the City of Bushton. Bushton PRIDE invited the community to gather for a meeting to discuss what should be done to celebrate the event. Jane Habiger agreed to become the overall coordinator of the event with one rule ... if you wanted an activity to take place, you would head up a subcommittee to make it happen! Twenty committees formed to plan the event. More than 650 volunteer hours went into planning and implementing an amazing 125th Anniversary Celebration.

2013 Lenora PRIDE Historical Calendar

The Lenora PRIDE organization identified a need in the community to showcase their unique history and cultural identity as well as celebrate dates for birthdays, anniversaries, and other occasions. By combining these needs into one project, PRIDE Historical Calendars, it has also turned into a great fundraiser. To date, more than

Cultural Capital continued on page 6



Natural Capital

The environment, natural beauty, lakes, rivers and streams, forests, wildlife, soil, and the local landscape.

Cultural Capital *continued from page 5*



Photo from the Lenora historical calendar.

\$700 worth of calendars have been sold. This project was built on partnerships between individuals and business members of the community.

2013 Lucas PRIDE – Millers Park Conservation and Relocation

In 2013, Lucas was fortunate to have the Kohler Foundation take on the preservation of Miller's Park. It was a cooperative effort between the Kohler Foundation, the Schwaller family, Lucas PRIDE, Friends of S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden, Lucas Historical Society, Russell County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the City of Lucas, and the Lucas Area Chamber of Commerce. The community of Lucas has had a cultural niche for grassroots art and folk art since the early 1900s. This niche is what keeps Lucas and its businesses viable.

For years, the park welcomed visitors to Lucas as they traveled across the country. Now the younger generation is enjoying what their grandparents played around when they were kids. Visitors to the Garden of Eden just can't resist walking over to the relocated Miller's Park to see the miniature buildings and cone shaped mountains.

Miller's Park is a great example of the level of collaboration required to preserve outdoor art environments. Miller's Park will have a permanent location adjacent to the Garden of Eden in Lucas. As of November 2013, Kohler Foundation passed stewardship of Miller's Park to the Friends of S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden.

PRIDE STAR Project Awards *Natural Capital*

2012 Iola PRIDE Park Improvements

Thrive Allen County conducted a survey to identify resident priorities for the community of Iola. Park improvements were at the top of the list. Iola's CITF/PRIDE group jumped to action. They began with cleaning, painting, and repair work on the Municipal Natatorium and Community Building in Riverside Park. The group then launched a full redevelopment at Elm Creek Park, a city park that was underused and in disrepair. The area was cleared of debris before flowers and trees were planted. Continued park improvement efforts include setting goals that include a handicap accessible fishing dock and a walking/biking bridge across Washington Avenue to connect the city parks. Citizens are now taking more pride in keeping the park free of trash and debris by patrolling the area. This is a great example of involving the public from the start to create community buy-in to ensure sustainability of the improvement efforts.



Natatorium and community building at Riverside Park in Iola.

Built Capital

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

PRIDE STAR Project Awards

2012 Lucas PRIDE Bowl Plaza Project

Lucas is the self-proclaimed Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas. The nearly 10,000 visitors exploring Lucas raised the need for public restrooms. A group of concerned volunteers including the Grassroots Art Center staff, landowners, artists, and other interested citizens met to address the need. The design goal for the restrooms was to be unique, handicap accessible, and enhance the grassroots art niche of Lucas.

An oversized sunken toilet was the solution — complete with Toto drinking from the bowl. The entrance to the building invites patrons to follow the toilet paper sidewalk across the toilet bowl and through the lid into the toilet tank. Once in the tank, one can explore thousands of embedded memorabilia from the past.

This is a great example of a community determining their identity and then building on that identity one step at a time. By identifying and marketing their community as a tourist destination, it has made it possible to support local businesses that not only attract visitors but also serve the needs of local residents.



Inside look at Bowl Plaza in Lucas.

2013 Lucas PRIDE Playground Equipment Installation

In the 2011 – 2012 school year, Luray-Lucas Elementary School and Lucas-Luray High School joined with Sylvan Unified School. A major change in Lucas included the elementary grades at the Lucas facility. It had been several years since elementary-aged students were located in Lucas, so the facility did not have any playground equipment for the students. The elementary students started fundraising at the end of the 2012 – 2013 school year, to acquire playground equipment for the school year.

A playground not only encourages exercise and healthy living, but also aids in developing important social skills. Before the playground equipment was installed, the students were walking or running laps around the school for exercise.

Area businesses and organizations stepped up and donated enough money to get the basic playground equipment and the rubber chunks that keep the students safe as they come down the slides. Volunteers worked to put the equipment together, digging holes for concrete stabilization, and applying the layer of rubber chunks around the equipment.

Even now, the students and teachers continue to raise funds for additional pieces of playground equipment for all ages at the Lucas Sylvan Elementary School. This goal will continue to keep Lucas looking ahead toward the future of its students and community.

In 2013 Kansas PRIDE communities reported 902 projects, 311 which included youth.

Political Capital

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

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 that successful community change requires the support of collaborators. Sometimes it is an outstanding volunteer, elected body, business, or organization – that without their support – the community efforts could not happen. These PRIDE community partner awards recognize those outstanding supporters of community improvement.

2013 PRIDE Community Partner Awards



David Mueller
Tampa PRIDE



Erika Nelson
Lucas PRIDE



Bill Smith
Lecompton PRIDE



Kara Godfrey
Iola PRIDE

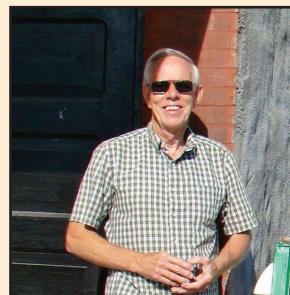
2012 PRIDE Community Partners Awards



Dorothy Mitchell
Alton PRIDE



Jane Habiger
Bushton PRIDE

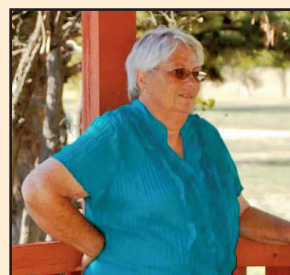


Jim Smith
Iola PRIDE



Lenora Chamber of Commerce
Lenora PRIDE (2012)

City of Lenora
Lenora PRIDE (2013)



Lois Cooper
Lucas PRIDE



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
Glasco	Humboldt
Goff	Iola

Lakin
Larned
Lenora
Lucas
Perry

Potwin
Rossville
Spearville
Wilson

Achieving Community of Excellence status provides these communities recognition for their planning efforts, opportunities to apply for Partners in PRIDE grants, and the opportunity to be pointed to as highly functioning PRIDE communities who honor their past while planning for their future.



Bridge over the Neosho River in Humboldt.



Doerr-Vernon Park in Larned.



Thank you to our sponsors, who make educational opportunities like Day of PRIDE possible



Partners in PRIDE



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Suzanne Lane
Pam Stone
Trudy Rice
Jaime Menon
Doug Helmke

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Jim Irey
Larissa Long
Joan Nothorn
Dean Schmidt

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 or email 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.

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