



**SOUTH CENTRAL
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

2022

**SUMMER
LISTENING REPORT**

BARBER - COMANCHE – KINGMAN - KIOWA – PRATT – RICE - STAFFORD

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SCCF HISTORY:

The beginning of South Central Community Foundation can best be described by the words of Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

In 1994 a group of committed, future-focused citizens met to discuss how they could retain resources in the area for the benefit of charitable work. Through their vision, South Central Community Foundation was incorporated September 26, 1994, as a nonprofit corporation for charitable purposes and began to work toward the mission of “Assuring a Bright Future for South Central Kansas.”

This mission could be reached through:

- Providing a vehicle and service for donors with varied interests and levels of giving.
- Serving as a leader in assessing and responding to emerging and changing community needs.
- Acting as a resource and catalyst for charitable activities.
- Soliciting and managing funds to build permanent and flexible endowments.
- They began by gathering endowment funds to benefit charities in six counties including: Barber, Comanche, Kingman, Kiowa, Pratt, and Stafford. In 1998, Rice County joined the organization.

The first major endowment contribution came from Jud and Bobbe Stanion. The donation consisted of appreciated real estate in Junction City, Kansas which was sold in July of 1995. Embracing the multi-county concept, the Stanion Family designated that

some of the proceeds be used as seed money to establish county endowment funds in each of the six counties. The county funds clearly illustrated the power of collaboration and have grown to be important grant sources in these counties.

A second major early contribution came from Claudine Riney and was also in the form of real estate. It consisted of land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Mrs. Riney directed the gift to the SCCF undesignated fund so that the annual disbursements could be used for what is now the SCCF grant cycle. This fund became the Community Impact Fund, and it is an important part of SCCF's gifting each year.

Founders '95, a group of citizens and businesses, agreed to commit resources over a three-year period to establish the Founders Endowment Fund that helps support the Foundation's administrative expenses. Partnering with the Kansas Health Foundation resulted in matching grants for administrative and leadership endowments as well as technology grants.

Over the many years of SCCF's history, generous donors have established endowment funds which have grown the Community Foundation's assets to more than 20 million dollars and provided beneficial grants for communities in the SCCF service area. SCCF offers a free estate planning consultant to assist individuals in planning their charitable gifts.

In 2008, 2014, and 2020, SCCF has met National Standards and received certification from the Council on Foundations. Developed in the spirit of accountability, transparency and continuous self-improvement, the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations are philanthropy's most rigorous standards. They provide evidence that a community foundation seeks excellence for their communities and donors. These standards serve as both a blueprint for internal organizational development and a tangible set of benchmarks for external demonstration of operational excellence in six key areas:

- Mission, structure, and governance
- Resource development
- Stewardship and accountability
- Grant making and community leadership
- Donor relations
- Communications

All aspects of SCCF: assisting donors; managing charitable dollars; giving grants; providing estate planning services; working with youth on leadership and philanthropy; and collaborating on community solutions create an organization that IS "Assuring a Bright Future for South Central Kansas."

PURPOSE OF THE LISTENING TOUR

South Central Community Foundation created a Strategic Plan for 2019-2022. With the final year approaching quickly, the SCCF Board elected to host summer listening tours to gather input from the seven counties the Foundation serves including: Barber, Comanche, Kingman, Kiowa, Pratt, Rice, and Stafford.

SCCF has a mission of “Assuring a Bright Future for South Central Kansas” since 1994 and realized an in-depth review was a high priority.

With the current staff focus of donor funds, grants, and the Youth Making a Difference program, SCCF hoped that the summer listening tours would provide insight to where the Foundation is achieving great results and where the next Strategic Plan should focus our resources and energy.

We hope you find the discoveries mostly predictable but encouraging for the future of South Central Kansas. We make a promise to continue seeking input and suggestions as we adapt to our changing environment.



OVERVIEW – COLLECTIVE RESULTS

Covering seven rural counties in South Central Kansas, we expected many of the issues to overlap. SCCF realized that many of the issues facing our communities may be currently out of reach for the Foundation's granting but hope to capture the true needs of each community.

Our plan is to continue growing our funding to eventually be able to tackle these large scale issues, while not ignoring the smaller needs that still have a huge impact on the citizens we serve.

Below is an overview of the collective responses from our seven county listening tours before diving deeper into each county's specific comments.

1. Activities for community members of all ages
2. Childcare
3. Community Communication
4. Community Marketing
5. Housing
6. Mental Health
 - Education
 - Providers
 - Outreach
7. Transportation for doctors' appointments, elderly use, etc.
8. Walking Trails
9. Workforce
10. Upgrade to facilities such as:
 - Community event spaces
 - Parks
 - Pool
 - Sport complex

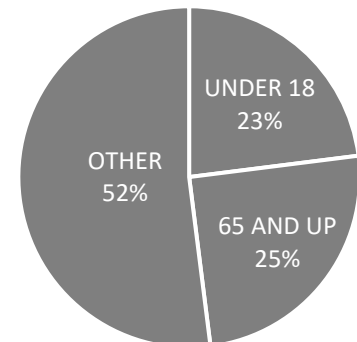
INDIVIDUAL COUNTY RESPONSES

BARBER COUNTY:

Barber County covers the communities of Hardtner, Hazelton, Isabel, Kiowa, Medicine Lodge, Sharon, and Sun City. This county has two school districts: Barber County North USD 254 and South Barber USD 255.

SCCF scheduled two separate Listening Tours for both communities and received feedback from nearly 15 individuals.

Statistically, Barber County has a population of 4,110 with 49% female, 94% white, 25% 65 and older, 23% younger than 18 years old, and a median income of \$49,668.



BREAKDOWN OF REPONSES:

CITY OF KIOWA	CITY OF MEDICINE LODGE
PROUD	PROUD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pride of the Community and willingness to help others. Kiowa District Hospital, Movie Theater, Grocery Store, General Store, Dance Studio Schools Slow paced community Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barber County United Murals History Brick Main Street
NEEDS	NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Improvements Welcome Center Assisted Living Facilities Mental Health Public Transportation Community Building Repairs Youth Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employees needed at every level Walking Trails Business to fill empty store fronts Housing Updated restrooms for the Peace Treaty

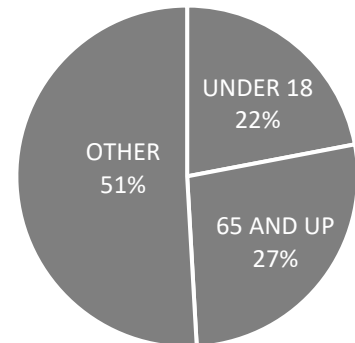
INDIVIDUAL COUNTY RESPONSES

COMANCHE COUNTY:

Comanche County covers both Coldwater, Protection, and Wilmore. This county has one school district, USD 300 South Central School.

SCCF scheduled one Listening Tour for Comanche County and received feedback from over 20 individuals.

Statistically, Comanche County has a population of 1,670 with 50.9% female, 95.7% white, 27.1% 65 and older, 22% younger than 18 years old, and a median income of \$48,125.



BREAKDOWN OF REPONSES:

PROUD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospital• Recreation for Children• Safety• Schools• Support• Churches• Tight Knit Community• Food Bank
NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update Tennis Courts• Mental Health Services• Jobs• Storage for Food Bank's supplies

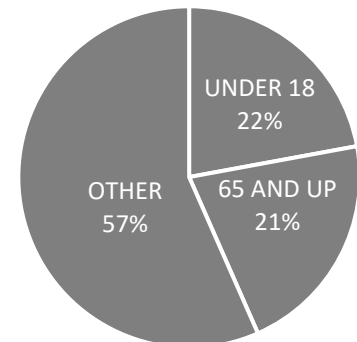
INDIVIDUAL COUNTY RESPONSES

KINGMAN COUNTY:

Kingman County covers the communities of Cunningham, Kingman, Nashville, Norwich, Spivey, and Zenda with two school districts of Kingman-Norwich USD 331 and Cunningham-West Kingman USD 332.

SCCF scheduled one Listening Tour for Kingman County and received feedback from over 20 individuals.

Statistically, Kingman County has a population of 7,392 with 49.6% female, 96.1% white, 21.3% 65 and older, 22.1% younger than 18 years old, and a median income of \$57,304.



BREAKDOWN OF REPONSES:

PROUD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community TheaterLibraryParksDowntown AreaCommunity's PrideSupport of the many nonprofits that serve the county
NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Swimming PoolDowntown touchupsMore grant opportunitiesCommunity Hospital SupportRecreation Commission

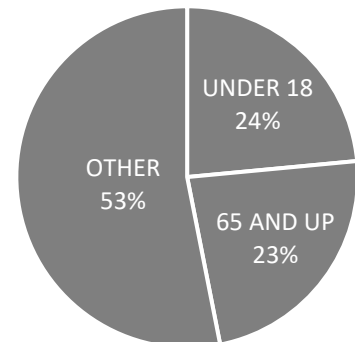
INDIVIDUAL COUNTY RESPONSES

KIOWA COUNTY:

Kiowa County covers the communities of Greensburg, Haviland, and Mullinville. This county houses both Kiowa County USD 422 and Haviland USD 474 as well as Barclay College.

SCCF scheduled one Listening Tour for Kiowa County and received feedback from nearly 15 individuals.

Statistically, Kiowa County has a population of 2,392 with 51% female, 93.6% white, 23.4% 65 and older, 23.5% younger than 18 years old, and a median income of \$53,107.



BREAKDOWN OF REPONSES:

PROUD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kiowa County School District• The People• Forward Thinking• Organization Support• Barclay College• High Talent Level• Kiowa County Media Center• Recreation Availability
NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality Workforce• Retaining College Students Post-Graduation• Regional Partners• Better County Communication of events, grant opportunities, etc.

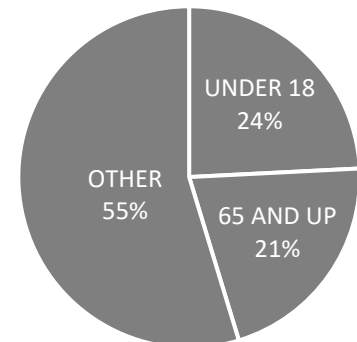
INDIVIDUAL COUNTY RESPONSES

PRATT COUNTY:

Pratt County covers the communities of Byers, Coats, Cullison, Iuka, Pratt, Preston, and Sawyer. It includes Pratt USD 382, Skyline USD 438, and additionally Pratt Community College.

SCCF scheduled one Listening Tour for Pratt County and received feedback from nearly 20 individuals.

Statistically, Pratt County has a population of 9,181 with 49.7% female, 93.6% white, 21.1% 65 and older, 24.2% younger than 18 years old, and a median income of \$54,644.



BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSES:

PROUD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Council Meetings• Hope Center• Green Sports Complex• Support of Arts• Amenities: Hospital, Parks, Schools, Library, Teen Center, Churches• Amazing Leadership• Generosity
NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Younger Generation Volunteers• Many meetings, no action• Mental Health• City Appreciation, instilling community pride• Parenting Groups

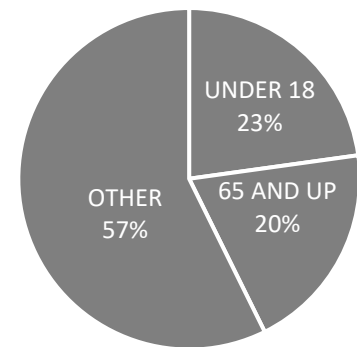
INDIVIDUAL COUNTY RESPONSES

RICE COUNTY:

Rice County covers the communities of Alden, Bushton, Chase, Frederick, Geneseo, Little River, Lyons, Raymond, and Sterling. It is home to the schools of Sterling USD 376, Chase-Raymond USD 401, Lyons USD 405, Little River-Windom USD 444, as well as Sterling College.

SCCF scheduled two Listening Tours for Rice County and received feedback from nearly 20 individuals.

Statistically, Rice County has a population of 9,390 with 49.2% female, 92.7% white, 19.9% 65 and older, 22.8% younger than 18 years old, and a median income of \$49,688.



BREAKDOWN OF REPONSES:

CITY OF LYONS	CITY OF STERLING
PROUD	PROUD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf Course Ball Fields Celebration Center Town Square New businesses Community Center in Bushton Lyons FFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sterling Village Community Involvement Sterling College Community Safety Sterling Lake Downtown Areas Sterling Services
NEEDS	NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toddler Friendly Park Equipment Health Food Programs New Recreation Commission Building/Sport Complex West side of town square upgrades Biking Paths Employees Metal Health Awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of downtown district Assisted Living Facility Destination Location Christmas Event More Community Spirit Historical Museum expansion

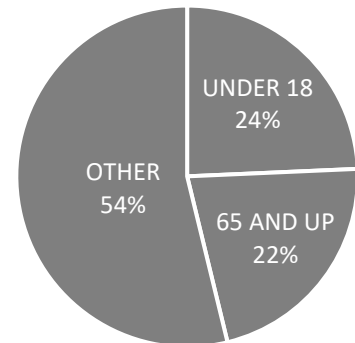
INDIVIDUAL COUNTY RESPONSES

STAFFORD COUNTY:

Stafford County covers the communities of Hudson, Macksville, Radium, Seward, Stafford, and St. John.

SCCF scheduled one Listening Tour for Stafford County and received feedback from 10 individuals.

Statistically, Stafford County has a population of 4,034 with 48.9% female, 94.1% white, 21.9% 65 and older, 24.3% younger than 18 years old, and a median income of \$51,857.



BREAKDOWN OF REPONSES:

PROUD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People• Schools• Stafford Library Revival• Stafford Landbank• Forward Movement/progress
NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better Communication• Workforce• Downtown Remodel• Better signage• Grant Writing assistance• Volunteers

CONCLUSION



In conclusion, South Central Community Foundation is committed to the seven counties it serves and as a regional Foundation has the difficult job of impacting many communities with a small staff and support of volunteers.

The Board of Directors would like to focus the Foundation's attention on the following areas:

IMMEDIATE FOCUS:

1. Grant Dollars Availability
2. Community Communication
3. Community Upgrades
4. Retention and Attraction



LONG-TERM GOALS:

1. Housing
2. Childcare
3. Mental Health Awareness and Solutions
4. Recreation/Activities for all ages



In collaboration with the SCCF's 2023-2024 Strategic Plan, the Board of Directors will be spending the next two years addressing the immediate focus while preparing to tackle long term/high need community issues reported this summer.

The Community Foundation hopes to continue receiving the overwhelming community support so they can maintain the impact SCCF has annually while also moving into new spaces that address real concerns in our communities.

