Kevin and Amy Deardorff have always known that Kosciusko County is a special place.

So, in 2019, it made perfect sense to expand their giving with a Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation! In a recent interview, Kevin and Amy explained why a Donor Advised Fund works for them... and how it might work for you.

Q: Why did you establish a Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation?
A: We have both volunteered at the Foundation in various roles over the years. The Community Foundation supports our community in so many varied ways, including leadership, philanthropy, and training and support to nonprofit organizations. Our involvement educated us on the advantages of Donor Advised Funds, so it was easy to choose.

Q: How do you decide what grants to recommend?
A: We certainly each have our favorite nonprofits, typically because of prior involvement with those organizations, that we support regularly. We also want to support agencies that benefit from volunteer efforts or provide for needs of our friends and families, which can change over time. A major benefit of a Donor Advised Fund is the flexibility to make those decisions at any time and at various levels.

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We want your feedback.
Email us at kcf@kcfoundation.org
A day in the leaf with Harrison Elementary's gardening program

This spring, Harrison Elementary received a Kosciusko REMC Operation Round Up grant. It will soon be transformed into raised beds for the school’s gardening program.

Deb McClintock, a second grade teacher at Harrison, has managed the school’s large vegetable garden for the past decade. “I wanted to purchase raised bed gardens to make the gardening experience more user-friendly and accessible for more teachers and students,” Deb said. “I saw an article about the KREMC Operation Round Up grant program and realized this could be part of the solution!”

The school plans to install raised beds for each grade level to plant and manage. Teachers will be able to use them for STEM learning or to support a unit of study. Some classes may use the raised beds to learn about pollinators; others may use it to learn about teamwork.

Perhaps best of all, the harvest is shared with the school. In the fall, students pick the vegetables and deliver them to the school cafeteria manager. The produce is used during mealtimes so the whole school can enjoy fresh vegetables grown in their own garden. “You never know how impactful this real world learning may be in the students’ futures,” said Deb. “Hooray for raised bed gardens and thank you to Operation Round Up for the funding to help make this happen!”

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program through which KREMC members pool their resources to help those in need. This spring, Operation Round Up awarded over $26,000 in grants! The next Kosciusko REMC Operation Round Up grant deadline is Nov. 1 by 4:30 p.m. Learn more at kcfoundation.org/grants.

KEYS members read to almost 1,000 local second graders during RAKC

Literacy unlocks endless possibilities. That is part of the mission of Read Across Kosciusko County, a Kosciusko Endowment Youth Services (KEYS) program. This March, KEYS members encouraged literacy among nearly 1,000 second graders!

Aided by more than 30 adult volunteers, KEYS travelled to 16 elementary schools throughout Kosciusko County. They read Can I Be Your Dog? by Troy Cummings to 47 classrooms of second graders.

At the end of the program, every classroom received a copy of the book to keep. Each child received a different book, Rise of the Balloon Goons, also by Troy Cummings, to take home.

For KEYS member Lilliana, RAKC brought her full-circle. In addition to Can I Be Your Dog?, she read Children Make Terrible Pets to her assigned group of second-graders.

“When I was in second grade, the author of Children Make Terrible Pets read his book to us. It’s been a favorite of mine ever since,” Lilliana said. “It was fun to share both books with these students.” Maybe some of them will grow up to join KEYS, as Lilliana has!

Literacy is a vital tool for building a strong foundation of learning. KEYS members work hard to inspire reading and support educational success.

Curious about KEYS? Learn more about our one-of-a-kind youth philanthropy program at kcfoundation.org/keys

“Serve as the vehicle for donors’ charitable dreams. Award grants to charitable projects and organizations. Address community needs as a catalyst and convener.”

Visit our website to learn more!
Upcoming Events

**JUNE 8**  Collaborate Kosciusko 10-11AM | Kosciusko County Community Foundation

**JUNE 27**  Collaboration Workshop: Leveling up your impact by building relationships 9AM-12PM | Grace College

**JULY 1**  Community Funds Grant Deadline

**SEPT 15**  KEYS Grant Deadline

**NOV 1**  KREMC Operation Round Up & Community Funds Grant Deadline

How can we help?
We’ll work with you and your financial and legal advisors to implement a plan to that will achieve your charitable goals.

Brenda Rigdon
Chief Development Officer
574-267-1901