

catalyst



Q&A WITH KEVIN AND AMY: The Deardorffs are committed, involved members of Kosciusko County.

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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THE STORY!**

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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! •



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



Our Vision

The Kosciusko County Community Foundation will serve as a trusted catalyst to strengthen connections, engage and build communities, and achieve quantifiable impact.



Our Mission

The Kosciusko County Community Foundation brings caring people and charitable endeavors together to inspire generosity and strengthen communities.



How we accomplish our mission:

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!

kcfoundation.org
[Facebook.com/gotoKCCF](https://www.facebook.com/gotoKCCF)

Upcoming Events



Scan this QR code
to learn more
and RSVP

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.



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