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*Report from the Executive Director  
Michelle Komlofske*

**Philanthropy (fi-lan-thro-pe)**

The selfless concern for human welfare and advancement; the effort or inclination to increase the well being of human kind, as by charitable aid or donations. What is your definition of philanthropy? Donors in western Kansas have shown their generosity time and time and again by making 2006 a record year for charitable contributions! More and more individuals are choosing to give back to society. Increased generosity has to do with the fact that many people want to leave a legacy by making an impact on society. Despite the popular conception.....private individuals do most of the charitable giving in America. The WKCF is thankful for your gifts and appreciates the opportunity to share those gifts with many worthwhile organizations. As we pass our ten year anniversary and look to the future, it is gratifying to tell you that with your support, grants returned to western Kansas counties since 1997 totals over one million dollars! Thank you for whole heartedly embracing philanthropy to make an impact on the lives of so many people!

Most charitable programs and non profit organizations are best known by the services they provide. It is important to remember that these agencies also create the space and opportunity for individuals to engage in volunteerism and become involved in civic life. By connecting people, inspiring philanthropy and giving voice to local concerns, charities weave an uninterrupted web of connection that binds communities together. Throughout all corners of western Kansas, you will find committed individuals coming together to make our communities stronger and better for all.

**GIVING IN AMERICA.....**

- ◆ Nearly 9 in 10 (89%) American families give charitable contributions
- ◆ Americans report that being asked to give makes a substantial difference in the size of their gifts
- ◆ Charitable giving in the United States totaled more than \$250 billion dollars in 2005 with individuals giving almost \$200 billion
- ◆ Almost 65 million Americans do some sort of volunteer work at least once a year
- ◆ Three out of four non-profits utilize the internet to engage their supporters

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Kirk Olomon and Nick Burroughs, Trust Officers

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