Vibrant Communities
with a Positive Future
Kansas PRIDE Impact 2017 – 2018
As a partner of the Kansas PRIDE program, the Kansas Masons, from more than 200 lodges across the state, have pledged their support to local communities. Since the partnership was established in March of 2016, 15 Masonic Lodges have continued, or provided new, active support in 20 communities. Their efforts have included assistance with fundraising, providing knowledge and volunteers, and celebrating local community success. If your community does not have a Masonic Lodge, contact the Kansas PRIDE office to find a contact in your area.

In 2017-2018 the Kansas PRIDE Program served 68 communities.


Key: * = Project Excellence Award; $ = Community of Growth Award; ^ = Community of Action Award; + = Community of Excellence Award; # = Rising Star Award; @ = Community Promotion Award

Partnerships

KANSAS FREEMASONS
ON THE LEVEL

K-State Research and Extension partnered with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to implement a Community Intern Program. In the summer of 2017, five interns worked in five northwest Kansas communities, including three PRIDE communities. The Hansen Foundation continues to support the First Impressions program in northwest Kansas with the addition of eight new communities in 2017. Another new initiative is Ripple Effects Mapping, where counties determine impacts from projects funded by the Hansen Foundation.

Four counties participated in the process; three of the four counties have PRIDE communities.
The Community Vitality staff visited more than 100 communities to lend support through strategic planning, informational presentations, and workshops. The First Impressions program, administered by K-State Research and Extension, helps communities learn more about strengths and weaknesses through the eyes of a first-time visitor. It also provides an opportunity to learn about the strengths and weaknesses of other communities. The immediate impacts of First Impressions are the call to action and engagement of community volunteers; the development of improved communication between residents and community organizations; and the increased awareness of community attributes. Since 2015, more than 60 Kansas communities have participated in First Impressions. For more information, contact us at PRIDE@ksu.edu.

Kansas Department of Commerce
As a partner of the Kansas PRIDE program, the Kansas Department of Commerce’s Business and Community Development Assistance Team worked with communities and businesses throughout the state. During 2017, the regional project managers assisted 33 PRIDE communities. The regional project managers also worked with 52 businesses in 18 PRIDE communities.
Recognition
Three Kansas PRIDE Project Excellence Awards, which replaced the STAR Capital Awards for local community recognition on the state level, have been given in recognition of a special project. The 2018 awardees of this honor are:

- **Alton PRIDE for Built Capital:** City Park Improvements — Since 1985, Alton PRIDE has been involved with improving the town’s centrally located park. In early 2017, PRIDE members identified and began improvements to the park’s picnic tables and shelter house, completing the project in time for the Alton Summer Jubilee.

- **Perry PRIDE for Cultural Capital:** Patriotic Mural — Perry PRIDE worked with their local postmaster to have an American flag mural painted on an inside wall of the post office. The mural, easily visible from the street through the post office windows and doors, makes the area more inviting and celebrates the patriotism found in Perry.

- **Potwin PRIDE for Built Capital:** Large-scale Ball Field Lighting — After a storm damaged light poles at Potwin’s ball field, night softball tournaments at the community’s Watermelon Festival became a thing of the past. Working with the City of Potwin, Potwin Lions Club, and Potwin Recreation Committee, Potwin PRIDE found the funding needed to replace the light poles. Westar Energy donated some materials, labor, and trucks to get the poles re-installed.

Five Kansas PRIDE communities honored volunteers or partners with the Rising Star Award. The Rising Star Award recognizes an individual, business, organization, elected official, major benefactor, or youth for making an outstanding contribution to a local PRIDE program. The 2018 awardees of this honor, selected by their local PRIDE committees, are:

- **Alton** — Lillian Conway for volunteering her time and talents to Alton PRIDE since its beginning in 1985.

- **Humboldt** — Doris Fugitt for her care of the flower beds and Indian Prayer Wheel in Neosho Park, and the city square bandstand flower beds.

- **Iola** — The City of Iola for the time, expertise, equipment, and strength given by the city’s administration and employees in support of Iola CITF/PRIDE’s meetings and projects.

- **Linn Valley** — Sue Sanor for being a longtime member of Linn Valley Community PRIDE, and a huge supporter of its projects and fundraisers.

- **Perry** — The Billtown Go-Getters 4-H Club for their continued partnership with Perry PRIDE in spring cleanup projects and planting community flower pots.

Funding
Kansas PRIDE Inc. provides grants for eligible local PRIDE organizations.

**Community of Growth Grants**, grants that are available for start-up or smaller projects, were awarded to:

- **Macksville** for event celebration
- **Savonburg** for a historical booklet

The Partners in PRIDE Grant opportunity was discontinued in the fall of 2017 and replaced with the Community of Action Grant. The final recipients of the Partners in PRIDE Grant are:

- **Grainfield PRIDE** — ADA-compliant ramp for community building
- **Lakin** — Main Street self-watering system
- **McFarland** — Picnic area and shelter house improvements

Kansas PRIDE **Community of Action Grants** were awarded to five local PRIDE organizations for the following projects:

- **Alton** — Park benches ($1,650)
- **Grainfield** — Office building flooring ($1,000)
- **Iola** — Directional signage ($1,465)
- **Perry** — Signage project ($1,000)
- **Larned** — Bench project ($1,600)

**Community Promotion Grants** are a new opportunity through PRIDE’s partnership with the Kansas Masons, to assist communities with marketing and promotion. This year’s grant was awarded to:

- **Iola** — Promotional Brochures
Volunteers Impact PRIDE

Provided through PRIDE’s partnership with, and the generosity of, the Kansas Masons, the Volunteers Impact PRIDE (VIP) Grant program was developed by Kansas PRIDE Inc. The grant provides incentives to communities for projects that enhance the quality of life and help communities help themselves through sweat equity and volunteerism at the local level. This is a single activity grant considering the measurable impact of the project on the community.

The 2017 VIP recipients include:

- **Almena** — Playground replacement
- **Grinnell** — Roof repairs on local store
- **Lincoln** — Sidewalks and improvements
- **Norton** — Community signage
- **Russell** — Walking trail and wellness

Revisiting these communities from 2017 through the spring of 2018, we found that Almena has completed the playground replacement, providing a great place for children to play and a place for families to gather in the evenings. Grinnell’s Hometown Grocery Store is open for business, serving the community and surrounding area with opportunities for purchasing groceries locally and creating restaurant-quality meals. Norton’s signage project has been completed and provides new opportunities for identification and wayfinding.

Week of PRIDE

During the 2017 Week of PRIDE, the Kansas PRIDE Program partnered with 48 Hours of 4-H to invite 4-H Clubs to join with PRIDE organizations in volunteer opportunities. 197 adults and 179 youth in 11 PRIDE communities spent 760 hours planning and implementing projects and raised more than $7,498 to invest into their communities. Nine youth from two 4-H clubs assisted in two communities.
Thank you to our sponsors who make educational and funding opportunities possible.

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For sponsorship opportunities and to learn more about the Kansas PRIDE Program: kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu, email PRIDE@ksu.edu, or 785-532-5840.

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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