

# Gypsum begins community foundation

By Jean Kozubowski

Special to Salina Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

**GYP SUM** – The Gypsum Valley Community Foundation is off to a great start, said Gary Olson, co-chairman of the local advisory board.

A group of area residents started thinking in March that the area needed a way to fund long-term investments, he said.

Once the group coalesced with the advisory board, it set a goal of \$10,000 by the end of 2020. Final figures weren't in by press time, but Olson said he was encouraged by the amount of support and interest already. He said the fund was "well on pace."

"We are really a strong group of people – volunteers, farmer-type guys – who have a strong interest in seeing Gypsum survive," Olson said.

The figure of \$10,000 is what the Salina Area Community Foundation, which is managing the fund for Gypsum, requires before grants can be given out.

Olson said the board hopes it has enough over \$10,000 that some grants can be given out in 2021 already.

"If we have the money available, we are planning to give out a grant in 2021," he said, something pretty positive, pretty popular but not controversial.

A successful grant can increase donations "exponentially," he said, and the next goal is to get to \$100,000 by the end of 2021.

Nonprofit organizations, such as churches and youth groups, will be eligible to apply for the funds, Olson said. The town has "a lot of needs, a lot of ideas."



## Got good news?

We want to hear about it. Send your ideas to [news@salina.com](mailto:news@salina.com).

This fund can not be used for scholarships; other funds cover that, he said.

"This is driven more towards community needs, maybe a children's youth program in the summer," Olson said.

Since he's on the board that

makes the decisions, he said, he doesn't want his ideas to prejudice what projects are funded, but he's heard talk of reviving the old baseball diamond.

The baseball diamond has not been used in some time, he said. It has lights and a playground.

"If they were in a little bit better condition, they could be used a lot more," he said of the baseball fields he played on as a youngster.

Some people want to paint downtown buildings, he said, and improve the website to give a better presence to the community.

"We're trying to preserve our community and provide a nice place to live," Olson said.

This is a team effort, he said. Members of the local advisory board include co-chairman Hannah Hahn, Matt Everhart, Kevin Hall, Todd Kaniper and Carl Redden.

The board has a donation structure but is accepting gifts of any amount.

Donations can be mailed to GVCF, P.O. Box 136, Gypsum, KS 67448-0136.