



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of ABILENE

IMPACT REPORT

SUMMER 2023

To our CFA friends and supporters,

Thank you! You share our vision for a thriving Abilene, endowed forever. How does it all work?

A donor makes a gift to establish a fund. We invest that gift, the fund grows, and a percentage from the fund is used to make grants. That's the power of endowment.

Our team provides the nonprofit expertise to assist donors in maximizing giving.

This **report shares how your charitable giving amplified the grantmaking impact for our local nonprofits.**

From our grants team and all at the Foundation, we thank you!



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PHOTO

Nonprofits attending the Abilene Gives Kickoff at the Foundation on May 2. Special thanks to our breakfast sponsors, First Financial Bank and First Financial Trust.



SCAN THE QR CODE to watch a highlight video celebrating this year's Abilene Gives.

7th Annual Abilene Gives sees record nonprofit participation and giving

What a difference a day, or 12 hours, makes! The goal of Abilene Gives is to create an opportunity for our community to support local causes they passionately care about and engage a new generation of philanthropists. On May 2, 2023, the giving day was another great event for local charitable causes!

Our community and donors **raised more than \$2.1 MILLION, including \$515k from more than 30 donor-advised funds, for 170 nonprofit organizations** serving Abilene and the surrounding region.

During Abilene Gives, donor-advised fundholders made gifts to their favorite nonprofits from their funds or to sponsorship opportunities. 100% of sponsorship dollars went directly to participating nonprofits as either a bonus prize or into the amplification fund. The amplification dollars awarded to a nonprofit are based on their organization's percentage of the total amount raised for Abilene Gives.

Join us at abilenegives.org on the first Tuesday in May as we return next year to raise awareness for the charitable organizations serving our communities.

Together by giving a little, we'll do a lot for the causes we care about.

A million dollar grantmaking impact benefiting VFDs

The Community Foundation of Abilene (CFA), with support from public contributions and **donor-advised funds**, has **awarded more than \$1M to volunteer fire departments (VFDs) in the last year**. This includes more than \$267k awarded during the VFD grant cycle earlier this spring.

These grant funds provide added support for VFDs to purchase the safety equipment needed to serve and protect our neighbors in communities surrounding Abilene. Their requests ranged from personal protective gear (structural and wildland), firefighting foam, radios, SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus), partial funding for trucks, additions to fire stations, and fire shelters (wildland). The departments were also reimbursed for truck repairs, tires, and replacing hoses and nozzles during the Eastland Complex and Mesquite Heat fires.

The North Lake Brownwood VFD is just one example of a department who received a grant in the last year. In 2022, North Lake Brownwood was awarded a \$12k grant to purchase bunker gear. Soon thereafter, the Eastland Complex fires happened. With donor support, the Foundation provided an additional \$14k grant so that wildland gear could be purchased as the volunteer men and women had been fighting the fires wearing their jeans.

The VFD grant cycle opens at the start of each new calendar year. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and departments from the following counties are eligible: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor and Throckmorton.



Community impact by the numbers

Grantmaking is kind of our thing. And it's our donors' thing.

The Foundation has multiple grant cycles each year available for eligible nonprofits based on geographic location and program focus. Before final grant funds are allocated by a committee, donor-advised fundholders can recommend grants from a donor-advised fund. Donors simply recommend a grant be made from their fund to a charitable organization of their choosing, and the CFA staff takes care of the rest.

In FY23, donor-advised funds provided 12% or nearly \$120k toward the total awarded in our community grant cycles. Grants recommended by donors from their established funds support the causes they care about throughout the year. To our donors and supporters, **THANK YOU!**

Need a refresher on accessing your fund or information about starting a new one? We're here to help! Contact our donor relations team for next steps.

SCAN THE QR CODE
to see the full list of FY23 community grant recipients.



STEPHANIE DELAGARZA

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PHOTO

Student award recipients attending the scholarship reception on the evening of May 15 at the NCCIL.



SCAN THE QR CODE
to see the full list of 2023 scholarship recipients.

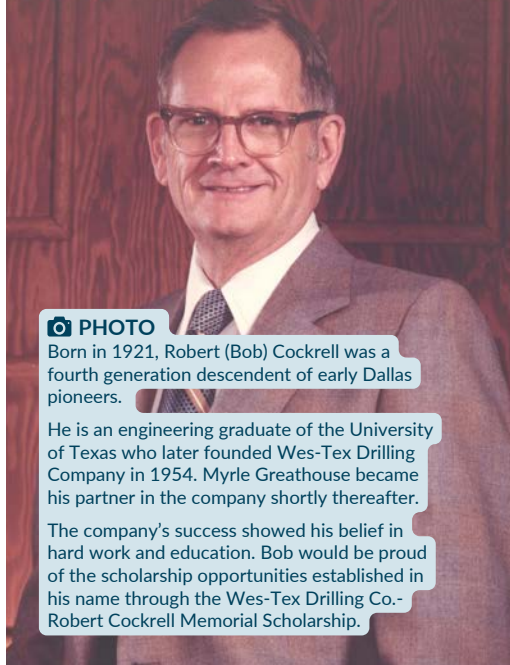


PHOTO

Born in 1921, Robert (Bob) Cockrell was a fourth generation descendent of early Dallas pioneers.

He is an engineering graduate of the University of Texas who later founded Wes-Tex Drilling Company in 1954. Myrle Greathouse became his partner in the company shortly thereafter.

The company's success showed his belief in hard work and education. Bob would be proud of the scholarship opportunities established in his name through the Wes-Tex Drilling Co.- Robert Cockrell Memorial Scholarship.



College scholarships awarded

The Community Foundation of Abilene presented a record scholarship award amount, **more than \$983k in awards to 223 students**. A reception was held at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) where donors who established the scholarship funds were invited to meet the students who were selected as award recipients.

Scholarships support students pursuing specific postsecondary careers or certifications in trades such as welding and mechanics. These scholarship funds are established in partnership with our generous donors.

Donors work with the Foundation to set the criteria for their fund, such as designating the award for students from specific schools or for students studying in a particular field. **The Foundation manages more than 120 scholarship funds** that support deserving students in the Big Country.

PHOTO

Cooper High student and Cockrell scholarship recipient, Mansi Bhakta, with Sharon and Mike McDonald. The McDonalds are family of Cockrell's business partner, Myrle Greathouse.



JENNIFER WEBER

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\$560k

in grant support awarded to 37 nonprofits during the fall community grant cycle



\$94k

in Future Fund grant support awarded to 22 nonprofits serving children and youth



\$374k

in grant support awarded to 31 nonprofits during the spring community grant cycle



\$296k

in grant support awarded to 11 rural nonprofits through the Dr. Paula Windham fund



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AUG 22

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BREAKFAST**

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NOV 8

**ANNUAL
LUNCHEON**

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to learn about Friends of CFA
membership opportunities.

