



A Newsletter from FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS, INC.

205 E. MADISON AVENUE, IOLA, KS 66749

Spring 2018 Issue



The Fine Arts Plaza is really taking shape fast and it is easy to see what a terrific improvement it will be to the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. Accessibility has been one of the greatest disadvantages of the building for years, but now everyone will be able to access the facility and enjoy what it has to offer. The elevator has been installed and the brick work is flying up when weather conditions allow. The crews will soon be working on the EIFS (synthetic stucco) which covers the remaining exposed green board, and installation of the glass and doors in the new entry will follow. That's the good news.

Here's the not-so-good news. Recently we discovered that the entire length of the alley running east and west behind the building will need to be reconstructed. This work is necessary to control the flow of rain water off of the new roof and to direct any water run off away from our neighbors to the south. Hofer & Hofer has provided a plan for the work but since it was not a part of the original contract, a change order will be required and the cost will be added to the project's total.

The City of Iola has generously agreed to help by tearing out the old asphalt and preparing the alley for the concrete work. This will provide a significant savings to the Friends. The remaining cost for the concrete and labor required to complete the alley project has been estimated at \$50,000.

While the Friends have some money set aside to cover unplanned expenses such as this, they are unable to cover the full cost of the alley project AND still pay for the highest priority elements in and around the parking area. Additionally, a portion of their funds (just over \$10,000) have been designated toward specific elements within the plaza such as landscaping, benches, or the musical garden feature, and can not be used to pay for other expenses.

The bottom line is that the Friends must raise an additional \$45,000 in order to complete the alley project and complete the other priority projects - including irrigation, sod installation, basic landscaping, and signage - in the spring and early summer.

I hope you will consider what you can do to contribute to this project. Cumulative gifts totaling \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a very special donor wall in the new addition. Cumulative gifts totaling \$500-999 will be also be recognized on a permanent display.

If you have any questions about what your family has contributed to date or how your gift was designated, please contact the Bowlus office at (620) 365-4765 or email Susan Raines at susan.raines@bowluscenter.org. We would be happy to share the information we have on file.

2017-2018 FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE!



LOCAL PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION

Members of Iola's Chapter L, P.E.O. group joined forces to collect and contribute a generous donation of \$1,000 to help with remaining expenses of the Fine Arts Plaza project. Iola's P.E.O. is part of an international philanthropic organization who celebrates the advancement of women and supports education through scholarships, grants, awards and stewardship of Cottey College in Nevada, MO. They also have a mission to MOTIVATE women to achieve their highest aspirations.

That's where P.E.O. and the Bowlus cross paths. The Bowlus and the many school and community sponsored programs that take place within the walls of the fine arts center share a mission of supporting arts education and inspiring folks, both young and old, to hone their skills.

P.E.O. members pictured front row from left, Stephanie Larson* (P.E.O. special projects chair), Terri Piazza* (P.E.O. chapter president), Diana Asher* (Friends of the Bowlus President), Susan Raines* (Bowlus Executive Director); second row, Linda Johnson*, April Hudson, Judy Baker*, Sally Huskey* and Susie McKinnis; third row, Nancy Toland, Shellie Regehr, Mary Ann Arnott*, Terri Carlin*, Charlene Larson, Beth Toland, Lisa Whitney* and Pamela Hart*. (An asterisk (*) indicates Friends of the Bowlus, Inc. membership.)

A FAMILY TRADITION!

Three generations of the Gilpin family have considered themselves not only grateful beneficiaries of the Bowlus Trust, but "friends" of Mr. Bowlus and the amazing center for fine arts that he has provided for the children of Iola and citizens of the area.

Following the Gilpin family tradition of gifts to the Friends of the Bowlus, Karen and Jim donated \$3,000 to the plaza project very early on - in late 2015. Last year after their names were drawn as cash prize winners for a Rotary organization fundraiser, they directed the not-for-profit to send another \$1,000 of their winnings to the Friends. "The plaza project on the east side really looks great and will greatly improve access to the building," Jim said. "I think Mr. Bowlus would be pleased!"

We think Jim's mother, Helen, would be pleased as well. While in her 80s, business-minded Helen Gilpin set up an annuity which paid a life insurance policy listing the Friends of the Bowlus as the sole beneficiary. Upon Helen's death in 2012, the Friends received \$155,000 which provided a significant boost to funding in the project's very earliest stage of planning.

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. (Note: Thomas H. Bowlus was a long-time Rotarian also!) We are grateful that the Gilpin's have chosen to support their community through Rotary International and for generously directing this additional gift to the plaza project!



Pictured are Diana Asher, Jim and Karen Gilpin and Susan Raines.



Pictured are Rita and Rick Berntsen with Diana & Susan.

AMERICA'S FARMERS GROW COMMUNITIES!

Always keeping her eyes and ears open, Friends of the Bowlus Executive Board Member Rita Berntsen stumbled across an opportunity to apply for a grant from the America's Farmers Grow Communities Monsanto Fund - and she jumped on it! Monsanto is a company that supplies many farm related products including seed and fertilizer that the Berntsens use on their family farm located north and east of La Harpe.

Thanks to Rita and husband Rick, the Bowlus Fine Arts Center has won a \$2,500 America's Farmers Grow Communities grant! The funds will be used to help complete the Fine Arts Plaza project.

Since 2010 more than \$29 million has been donated by America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. More than 8,000 organizations in rural America have benefited -- and we are PROUD to be one of them! Learn more at www.americasfarmers.com.

CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE!

STOCK MARKET BENEFACTION

When there is something positive building up in Iola, chances are that Mary Kay and David Heard are in the thick of it!

The Heards recall attending the inaugural Kansas City Philharmonic concert in 1964 and were also in attendance nearly 30 years later when Bob Talkington, former president of the Kansas Senate and longtime Iolan, took the stage prior to an event. He addressed the crowd, proudly sharing information about the formation of the NEW Friends of the Bowlus organization and its mission to raise funds to support building and equipment needs of the fine arts center.

The Heards knew immediately that this was something they had to be a part of! "[The Bowlus] is a treasure for Iola," says Mary Kay. "We have to support all of these good things in our community. Without community support, it's hard to stay viable."

The most recent gift received from the Heards was a gift of stock, designated toward the Fine Arts Plaza project. By gifting stock, the couple is able to avoid tax implications from capital gains, and upon transfer, the Friends are able to hold (or sell) the shares to meet their current financial needs. This is yet another creative way to make a charitable contribution. Thank-you to David and Mary Kay for your generous and thoughtful gift! (By the way, all shares have been SOLD!)



Pictured is Diana Asher with David and Mary Kay Heard.



Pictured is Diana Asher with Gary and Janice Parker.

Brad and daughter-in-law Dorothy with a note reading "In honor of Gary Parker's 80th Birthday!" We think that is a VERY THOUGHTFUL gift!!

DOWN ON THE FARM

Allen County farmers Gary and Janice Parker are also no strangers to the Bowlus and Friends organization. Gary has served on the Friends Board since 2008 and the couple regularly attends Bowlus events.

Over the past few years, the Parkers have given "gifts of grain" to several well-deserving charitable groups in our community, and the Friends of the Bowlus is thankful to be among them. With their "gift of grain," a portion of the income from the season's crop is directed to the Allen County Community Foundation, which then disburses the funds to the various recipients as designated by the Parkers. This method of giving reduces the amount of farm income realized, providing a benefit to all parties.

The Parkers have also inspired their children to give. Why just last month, the Friends received a generous gift from the Parkers' son

RETIREMENT? WHAT'S THAT?

For the past 8 years, Diana Asher has spent her Monday afternoons working in the Bowlus office helping Susan and Traci with whatever needs to be done. She was elected to the Friends of the Bowlus board in 2013, and became the organization's president in 2017. And still, the Ashers keep on giving!

For the past couple of years, the Ashers have directed a portion of their required IRA retirement fund distribution to the Friends of the Bowlus. This year's gift has been designated to the landscaping project, specifically to help pay for installation of the new sod.

Diana and Bill are ardent supporters of the Bowlus Fine Arts Center and they urge everyone to consider becoming a Friends member or at least plan to donate to help the plaza reach its completion.



So many creative folks in our community! We urge you to think outside the box. What philanthropic organizations are you a part of that may be willing to give a gift to the Friends? Does your company match charitable contributions? Is there a company that you trade with that offers grants for special projects? Do you have a benchmark birthday or anniversary coming up? Are you dying soon? (Just checking to see if you're reading all the way to the bottom!!!) Consider the Friends of the Bowlus when declaring a recipient of memorial gifts.

PROGRESS REPORT!

Crews took full advantage of some unseasonably warm days in January to build the cinder block structure for the storage area, pour concrete for the new loading dock, and lay brick on the tall beams supporting the new roof structure.



By February 15, the green board was up in preparation for the EFIS (Exterior Insulation and Finish System). The finished surface will be painted a neutral tone and will look similar to stucco. Heavy coats were shed and the guys enjoyed some "short sleeve" weather -- whistling while they worked!



The very next week, frigid temperatures and ice "froze" progress on the project.



It's now mid-March and all of the brick work has been completed and sealed. A decorative screen wall mimics the design of the courtyard wall and former portico and will conceal the outdoor storage area and loading dock from view from the new entry.



The EFIS crew is on site and will be working the next couple of weeks on the exterior. A section of the alley will be excavated and new concrete poured during spring break week while students are out of the building. Windows and doors for the new entry are scheduled for delivery the last week of March.

Pre-Show P-A-R-T-Y!

Saturday, April 14 ~ 6-7 p.m. ~ CNB & T Community Room

Members and guests are invited to enjoy some wine and cheese with fellow "Friends" prior to the Resurrection concert at the Bowlus!

