



# PATTERSON

FAMILY FOUNDATION

# 2024

ANNUAL REPORT



# LETTER FROM THE CEO

During my time at Cerner in the early 2000s, I learned many foundational skills that equipped me for my career. Two things often rise to the top. The first is the famous reputation that Neal Patterson had for asking associates what they were working on, expecting a clear, mission-informed answer. From the moment you started at Cerner, your manager would coach you to have an answer ready because you never knew when Neal would join you on the elevator, and you wanted to have a good answer.

The second thing is a piece of collateral that I keep at my desk which details the story of three different workers being asked what they are doing. The first man answers, "I'm laying bricks." The second man answers, "I'm building a wall." The third man proudly answers, "I'm building a cathedral, the greatest one in the world!" The first words on the image are "Cerner values visionary thinkers." The story of the cathedral builder took on a life of its own. On any given day, you may be in the weeds doing something mundane (laying a brick). However, if you keep your eye on the magnificent mission you are building (the cathedral), you are filled with a deep sense of purpose. This story is about both seeing the vision of something wonderful and having a deep purpose to work diligently toward that vision.

These two anecdotes are particularly powerful when I think about the work we are doing at the Patterson Family Foundation. When others are looking at laying bricks or building walls, we are focused on working with our rural partners to build the cathedral. Our work is informed not just by immediate need, but by the long-term potential of our catchment. We are laying bricks that will empower communities to refine and build new industries, schools, and healthcare solutions – investing in ideas that will form the very center of thriving rural communities. In my first few months as CEO, I have seen the impact that the foundation has made toward our mission – 261 grants to 116 counties, over \$57 million total in investments – these investments that have the potential to transform communities. I also see the next phase we are building: business intelligence to inform decisions, more entrepreneurs solving difficult problems, and working together to understand and meet the needs of the communities we serve.

If I were stopped by Neal in the elevator today, and he asked me, "What are you working on?", I'd tell him that we are partnering with rural communities like the one he was raised in to better understand their needs and build the right cathedral for their residents!

As we look forward to 2025 and beyond, we are thinking about long-term planning, community enrichment, and amplifying new voices and opportunities in Kansas and western Missouri.

## OUR MISSION:

**WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP RURAL COMMUNITIES THRIVE.**

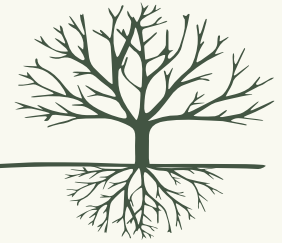


Maria Flynn

President and CEO



# OUR MISSION: ROOTED IN RURAL



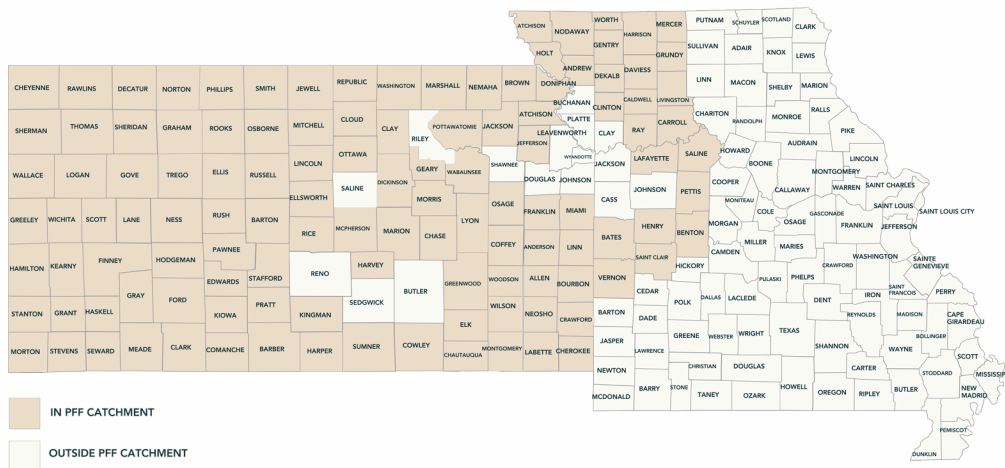
After mourning the tragic loss of Neal and Jeanne Patterson to cancer in 2017, their adult children embarked on the task of identifying a fitting mission for the private foundation that would soon receive significant funding from their estates.

During their lifetimes, Neal and Jeanne had both embraced meaningful work on a significant scale. Rather than dictate the Foundation's future mission, though, they had the foresight to welcome their family members to work together to identify a mission that would be meaningful to them. Drawing on past conversations, the family recalled Neal's counsel not to shy away from complex challenges, even ones that could take decades to address. From Jeanne, they remembered advice to identify real gaps left unfilled by others. Both founding donors had emphasized approaching the Foundation's work with an enterprising spirit, grounded in collaboration and curiosity—values that reflected how they lived.

By 2019, our second-generation directors identified rural communities as places of deep need and great opportunity. Before becoming a successful entrepreneur, their father Neal had spent his formative years in a small agricultural town on the Kansas-Oklahoma border. The Foundation's rural focus honors those roots and the inherent potential in every rural person.

In this fifth year of our rural mission, the Patterson Family Foundation is proud to collaborate with—and learn alongside—nonprofit leaders, institutions, and agencies working to help rural communities thrive. Our programs and initiatives serve 119 counties in Kansas and western Missouri with populations of 50,000 or fewer—including the community Neal once called home.

## COUNTIES SERVED BY THE PATTERSON FAMILY FOUNDATION



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## **BOARD:**

Lindsey Patterson Smith

Clay Patterson

Cortney Patterson Barton

Will Patterson

## **ASSOCIATES:**

**Maria Flynn**

*President and CEO*

**April Martin**

*Chief Legacy Officer*

**Jessica Hunt**

*VP of Strategy and Programs*

**Chris Harris**

*Sr. Director of Programs*

**Kelsey McManimie-Stines**

*Sr. Director of Operations*

**Adam Erickson**

*Program Officer*

**Emily Masters**

*Program Officer*

**Denise Schuele**

*Program Officer*

**Malarie Lindhorst**

*Operations Coordinator*

**Qadir Fazli**

*Salesforce Administrator*

**Brian Fenaughty**

*Research Analyst*



# 2024

## GRANTMAKING



2024 was a year of meaningful growth for the Patterson Family Foundation. We expanded our investments in ways that more deeply align with our mission and catchment area. Building on insights from prior years, we worked from a stronger foundation of partnership with the communities we serve.



**THE FOLLOWING DATA ILLUSTRATES THE SCOPE AND IMPACT OF THE FOUNDATION'S WORK IN 2024:**

**261 GRANTS AWARDED-**

—providing funding across a wide range of community needs.



**116 COUNTIES REACHED**

—including both long-standing and newly supported communities.

**145**

**FIRST-TIME GRANTEEES WELCOMED**

—expanding our partnerships and reach.

**\$57.3 MILLION INVESTED**

—a record level of funding that reflects our dedication to rural communities and their resilience.

**THRIVING RURAL GRANTS: 53.7M | HOME COMMUNITY GRANTS: 0.5M  
PATTERSON LEGACY GRANTS: 3.1M**

# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



## WHY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY?



**OUR VISION:** Rural communities have resilient economies that offer diverse and stable career opportunities for all residents.

We are committed to keeping rural economies strong by helping grow and retain great talent, attracting former and new residents, and investing in opportunities that strengthen and diversify local and regional economies.

## 2024 IMPACT

**77** ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
GRANTS AWARDED

—fueling projects that support local growth and opportunity.

**\$16.2 MILLION**  
INVESTED IN RURAL ECONOMIES

—helping communities build resilience and expand prosperity.

**54**

COUNTIES  
REACHED

—ensuring broad impact across our catchment area.

**54** NEW GRANTEES  
WELCOMED

—strengthening partnerships and reach.



# EDUCATION

## WHY EDUCATION?

**OUR VISION:** All students receive a high-quality education that prepares them for future success.

A strong education system is at the heart of a thriving community, and we're working with educators, families, and local leaders to help it grow. This means supporting and developing exceptional teachers, providing students with opportunities to develop skills and experience, and creating more hands-on learning opportunities that prepare students for the future.

## IN 2024, OUR EDUCATION GRANTS STRENGTHENED OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS:

**75** EDUCATION GRANTS AWARDED

—supporting initiatives that expand access to quality learning.

**\$12.3** MILLION

INVESTED IN EDUCATION

—fueling programs and resources that help students thrive.

**53** NEW EDUCATION GRANTEEES WELCOMED

—broadening our partnerships with schools and organizations.

**54** COUNTRIES REACHED

—ensuring educational support touched communities across our catchment area.

# HEALTHCARE

## WHY HEALTHCARE?

**OUR VISION:** Communities have access to high-quality healthcare services, leading to improved health outcomes and increased well-being for all residents.

Access to quality healthcare is essential for keeping rural communities strong. We work to expand the healthcare workforce, improve access to essential services, and empower all rural residents to lead long, healthy lives.

## 2024 IMPACT



**71** HEALTHCARE  
GRANTS  
AWARDED

—supporting organizations working to expand care and address urgent health needs.

**56**

COUNTIES  
REACHED

—ensuring healthier futures across our catchment area.

**\$11.5 MILLION** —to improve services, and workforce capacity.  
INVESTED IN RURAL HEALTHCARE



**63** NEW HEALTHCARE  
GRANTEES WELCOMED

—broadening partnerships and fostering innovative approaches to community health.

**58** NEW GRANTS DIRECTED TO RURAL  
EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS

—equipping local responders to care for their communities.



# COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

## WHY COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS?

Community foundations are meaningful and important vehicles for encouraging local philanthropy. The Patterson Family Foundation aims to help support the local philanthropic system, reinforce a sense of community, and empower local leaders to serve area needs through its work with community foundations. Our 2024 community foundation programming included capacity building and leadership development for community foundations and matching funds to boost local donor engagement. This work is not done alone, and is made possible through instrumental partnerships with organizations including Kansas Leadership Center and the Kansas Association of Community Foundations.

**OUR VISION:** Community Foundations are thriving and able to disburse funds to enriching and purposeful causes in their community.

111

GRANTS GIVEN

\$13.6 MILLION  
TOTAL AWARDED

69 COUNTIES  
INVESTED IN

33

CAPACITY  
BUILDING  
GRANTS  
AWARDED

1,698 GRANTS AWARDED TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE COMMUNITY MATCH PROGRAM

85% OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS RECEIVING MATCH FUNDS MAXIMIZED THEIR MATCH!





# GET IN TOUCH

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## WEBSITE

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