

Windsor Community Foundation: Brian Lessman

Brian Lessman serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Windsor Community Foundation. Originally founded over a decade ago, this organization began as a response to a community-wide need for a recreation center. Through the use of primarily voter-approved funds, the foundation took on this project and successfully met the needs of their community. At this point, however, the need for the Foundation was very minimal, and it faded out of sight for several years.

About four years ago, community members recognized the need for a community foundation with a more traditional role; one that could provide an ongoing service of matching local donors' funds with organizations. Brian was recruited as a volunteer board member from within the Windsor community and immediately stepped up to a leadership role.

In an effort to make their organization as efficient as possible, the Windsor Community Foundation as an affiliate fund of the Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County. This relationship allows the Windsor foundation to have all the capabilities of a community foundation while enjoying the benefit of an experienced staff, administrative support, and the advantage of pooling resources for investment.

Since their "re-establishment," the Windsor Community Foundation has been working towards their ultimate goal of creating and maintaining a long-term role within their community to build permanent endowments to meet the charitable needs of the Windsor area. One major project that had the Foundation takes great pride in is their assistance in responding to the tornado that went through Windsor in 2008. As their small community came together, the Windsor Community Foundation served as a central location where funds could be donated and distributed properly and effectively. This event raised community awareness not only of the role of a community foundation, but of the benefits offered by an organization.

Since then, the Foundation has continued to work to expand their services. One population they are currently targeting through awareness trainings is financial advisors. By making these individuals aware of the benefits of donations made to a community foundation, donors interested in giving back to their community through monetary means will have a wonderful opportunity to do so.

The Windsor Community Foundation continues to be an extremely beneficial asset to its surrounding area on a regular basis as well as in times of crisis. Brian and his board are a generous group of individuals who have recognized a need in their community and become committed to creating an organization to address it. Without their countless hours of volunteer work, the Windsor community would be lacking one of its greatest resources for improvement in overall quality of life.