



Sunflower Foundation

HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information, contact Billie Hall, President and CEO, Sunflower Foundation, 785-232-3000 or 866-232-3020.

Sunflower Foundation announces 2010 Advocacy Fellows

TOPEKA – The 2010 class of Advocacy Fellows for the Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans has been announced. This year’s class of 15 nonprofit leaders from across the state will learn how to become effective public policy advocates for their organizations and the people they serve.

The Advocacy Fellowship class is part of the foundation’s non-partisan advocacy initiative, which is designed to provide education and training opportunities for nonprofit leaders. The goal is to bring the perspective of the nonprofit world to public policy.

“We are proud to build on the success of our inaugural class with this second year of outstanding Fellows,” said Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation, which launched the advocacy program in 2008. “We are pleased with the diversity of individuals and organizations that are represented and look forward to another year of exceptional involvement from the group.”

The fellowship program includes six sessions over the course of a year, including one visit to Washington, D.C. Topics include how to develop advocacy strategies, build coalitions and grassroots efforts, navigate the political process and work with the media.

“Bringing together nonprofit leaders with a wide range of experiences and interests really brings a new voice to policy discussions – on a local, state and national level,” Hall said. “These Fellows, as well as the class before them, are committed to learning, engaging and building a network across the state that can address health care issues facing us now and in the future.”

Leaders selected for the 2010 Advocacy Fellowship class are ([Click here](#) to learn more):

GARDEN CITY

Ric Dalke, Executive Director
Area Mental Health Center

HAYS

Janette Meis, State Director
Kansas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

KANSAS CITY, KS

Katherine Kelly, Executive Director
Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture

Roberta Lindbeck, Executive Director
Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Inc.

LAWRENCE

Brutrinia Arellano, Post-Graduate Fellow
Medical/Legal Partnership
University of Kansas School of Law

Dee Ann DeRoin, MD, MPH, Family Practitioner
Community Health & Wellness

Jake Lowen, Campaign Manager
Clean Air Kansas

LIBERAL

Arturo Ponce, Director
United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries
HIV/AIDS Education & Outreach
Liberal Clinic & Care Center

PITTSBURG

Monica Murnan, Executive Director
Family Resource Center, Inc.

TOPEKA

Corrie Edwards, Executive Director
Kansas Health Consumer Coalition, Inc.

Craig Kaberline, Executive Director
Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association

Doug Vance, Executive Director
Kansas Recreation and Park Association

WAMEGO

Deb Kiker, Clinic Administrator
Community Health Ministry

WICHITA

Annette Graham, Executive Director
Central Plains Area Agency on Aging
Sedgwick County Department on Aging

Anne Nelson, Associate Executive Director
Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation

In conjunction with the fellowship program, the Sunflower Foundation also will be sponsoring its *Advocacy in Health* Speaker Series, which brings four national leaders to the state for public forums. All forums are free and open to the public. [Click here](#) for more information.

This year's first speaker in the series is Marcia Avner, nationally recognized author and nonprofit advocacy expert. She will speak at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

The Sunflower Foundation is a charitable organization with a mission to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans. The foundation's funding priorities are health care access, healthy behaviors and prevention, capacity building and advocacy. More information is available at www.sunflowerfoundation.org.

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