

## A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION IS COMING

Serving Sabetha Strong is the theme for the Community Celebration Gala to be held on January 13 at The Main Event. The evening will begin with a social hour and appetizer buffet sponsored by KSi Conveyors. Eric and Sarah Scoby will be entertaining the guests with music while we enjoy treats by Sweet Rosie's, this year's caterer. Jim Summers has sent a case of his wine to sample as well.

GSCF invites the community to attend and enjoy the evening as we celebrate our people, our community and its accomplishments. Three Sabetha families will be honored for "serving strong" and this will become a yearly event for the Gala.

Many rural towns are struggling. Sabetha is thriving. Bob Cook, a contributor to Forbes magazine, wrote an article titled, "School Sports Decline Symbolizes Rural Towns' Struggle to Survive." He wrote that "according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, non-metro areas of the country from 2010-15 declined in population by 136,000, which is the first time rural America as a whole lost people." He went on to comment how this population decline has affected school sports and noted that many rural schools are no longer able to field basketball and football teams. This is not a problem here. Thanks to our many dedicated coaches, our teams are full of young athletes who are excited to represent our mascot on the field.

For those of us who live in this community, we realize that we are an exception. At a time when most rural towns face problems, Sabetha seems to flourish. More young people are moving "back home" to work and raise a family. The excellent education opportunities in the schools, the jobs that can provide a career opportunity for a lifetime and enjoying the slower paced life are drawing factors. The people come here to retire are a tremendous asset to our community. I was visiting with a woman who moved from California and encouraged her son to move with her. She was told he would have a job in a week and she said, "It didn't even take him a week to find a job in Sabetha. And we just love it here!"

Yes, our community deserves a celebration and our people deserve recognition. The Greater Sabetha Community Foundation is now in its third year and the number of contacts from people who call this place "my hometown" is growing. Calls from afar are becoming more frequent as former and current residents discover what we do and why we exist.

If you are curious to learn more, join us for the Community Celebration Gala.