

## Obligated or Grateful?

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me.” (Isaiah 6:8) This was Isaiah’s grateful reaction to God’s grace. Not an act of obligation.

Does that convict you as much as it convicts me? Have you ever thought that if you lived in the city, you could get out of serving or volunteering? I remember looking forward to summer to have some free time. HA! But swim team needed a coach and volunteers and Bible School teachers were needed, so very quickly my summer schedule was full and overflowing with busyness. I must admit that often my acceptance was more of an obligation than a “grateful reaction.” I only wish I would always respond as Isaiah did when he was called to be a prophet for Yahweh.

However, I have learned that even when accepting through a sense of obligation, I was better off serving than not. God is able to use us no matter how the calling is answered. Serving and volunteering was, and still is, a good example to my children, and today I am proud to watch them step up to serve as swim team, track and football coaches, school or church volunteers.

My role as Partner Coordinator for GMCF allows me to work with other area communities. The same thing is happening all over the area. In the eight NE Kansas community foundations I work with, I meet people who are stepping up and doing the work that needs to be done to uphold and grow their communities. Change for good does not happen without local people caring enough to get involved.

The Greater Sabetha Community Foundation would not exist without many volunteers who make things happen. The special events committee met last week to plan the Celebrating Community event that will take place in the library park on July 23. How refreshing to have people like Shari Frey attend and ask, “What can I do? Give me a job.” Marvin is busy planning the program and others will jump in to help when they are asked. And the end result will be to celebrate this amazing community! There will be entertainment, Grimm Girls Chuck Wagon, Rogue Street Tacos, Kona Ice food trucks and chances to spin the KNZA wheel to win \$5 coupons for food and Chamber Checks.

So, come to the park at 5:30, set up your chair, enjoy some local musical entertainment, eat and visit with your neighbors. It is what small communities do!