

Ways to Save – Ways to Give – Ways to Step Up

Do you remember clipping coupons? Did you smash aluminum cans and turn them in for cash? Did you ever Trick or Treat for UNICEF? Do you remember the envelope that was passed around between neighbors that allowed people to choose a charity to give to? Were you a Candy Stripper? Are you a volunteer on a board? Do you give your time at the food pantry, bloodmobile, rest home or church?

Today, coupons aren't needed because you have the app on your phone. I looked up UNICEF and it still exists as a division of the United Nations. The envelope full of cash and checks we placed in others mailboxes, well, let's just say that in today's world that would not be very smart. In researching Candy Strippers, I found that while the term 'candy strippers' has since gone out of style, volunteerism has not. If anything, volunteerism has become more popular in recent years.

If you remember any of these ways of saving and giving you are probably as old as me or older! But no matter how old (or young) you are, if you are involved in ways of stepping up to help your community and neighbors, you are living a happier and more satisfying life than those who don't. Research shows that volunteering provides many benefits to both mental and physical health. Volunteering helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety. Volunteering even combats depression.

People still look for ways to save money or look for ways for our money to make money. Nobody looks for ways to pay taxes but we sure look for ways to save on our taxes.

The Greater Sabetha Community Foundation is interested in all the above and often can help you with saving, giving and stepping up. The community foundation world is catching on in northeast Kansas. When GSCF was founded in 2015 we were the third affiliate. There are now fifteen affiliate community foundations. Community Foundations are helping many communities in areas of giving, saving and volunteering.

How can a community foundation help someone save? By opening a Donor Advised Fund and investing the funds, over time your charitable gift may grow so you can receive the tax benefits while watching your DAF earn interest. This can allow you to actually gift more than the original investment.

Farmers can take advantage of the Gift of Grain Program and save and give at the same time. By giving grain to the Community Foundation (or to any 501c3), you avoid including the sale of the grain in your farm income. Although a charitable income tax deduction is generally not available to you, the avoidance of declaring it as income is a significant benefit. You deduct the cost of growing the crops, which typically results in saving self-employment tax, federal income tax and state income tax. You can benefit even if you don't itemize your deductions and take the standard deduction. Log into our website <http://www.sabethafoundation.org/index.cfm> and click on the gift of grain brochure for more information.

The Greater Sabetha Community Foundation can be your connection to get you started stepping up to help your community or answering questions about the tax benefits offered through GSCF. Ask any one of our board members (Kelly Girton, Janie Glace, Marvin Kohlmeier, Von Lauer, Jessica Lay, Steve Lukert, Martin Mishler, Amy Mitchell, Bill Simpson, Chris Tramp, Daniel Tramp or Bart White) for more information.