Mission Focus: Leaving a Legacy

By now many of you have seen some amazing legacy stories from some of the Foundation’s favorite people. Luis Rodriguez spent some time making a video explaining why he gives to the Foundation, and the Rice Family shared their story of 100+ years of working in Putnam City.

Luis wants to say thank you to the teachers and staff who molded him. The Rice Family is honoring a family tradition of teaching in our district. There are just as many reasons as there are ways to leave a legacy. Whether you’re donating to our endowment, making a gift to perpetuate Penny’s Closet, targeting your gift to the instrumental music program that brought you so much joy, or supporting our athletes through the Hall of Fame, we are grateful. Your legacy in Putnam City is changing lives, little by little, day by day.

If you have not yet, please continue building that legacy by making a gift to the annual campaign which funds things like YES! Grants, STEM Labs, and Early Birds. Visit www.pcf4kids.org and start building that legacy for our children today.

Get to Know Our New Community Relations Coordinator

“arSendMessagePeople; some amazing legacy stories from some of the Foundation’s favorite people. Luis Rodriguez spent some time making a video explaining why he gives to the Foundation, and the Rice Family shared their story of 100+ years of working in Putnam City.

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Get to Know Our New Community Relations Coordinator

"We’re sowing seeds and dreaming big through the Foundation’s new community engagement program” said Sharon Williams, our new Community Relations Coordinator. Sharon came to us just a few months ago, but has already been successful helping our schools get the things they need.

She is actively working with schools to fulfill needs and build relationships with community businesses, social service groups and civic organizations to enhance Putnam City students’ educational experience.

The Community Relations program works to connect the community’s desire to help with the students and teachers who need that help.

Cooper Middle School identified 16 families in our community needing a Thanksgiving Dinner Basket. Through the Foundation’s community engagement program, local businesses have donated to the families.

Northridge Elementary raised funds for new playground equipment through a Turkey Bingo night. Thanks to in-kind donations from local businesses, the Foundation provided prizes for bingo winners.

The Putnam Pioneer wanted you to get to know our newest employee. Here’s what she had to say.

PP: Tell us about your connection to Putnam City Schools.

From the Blog: What is Civics, Anyway?

Did you know that the Putnam City Schools Foundation has a blog? It comes out each Thursday on our website www.pcf4kids.org and includes news about Putnam City, musings on Jennifer’s time as a student and teacher in the district, and thoughts on the state of education in Oklahoma. The blog below is from Nov. 21, 2019. Please take time to read and comment on them each week!

"Young people aren’t learning anything about civics today."

“When I was a kid, we learned how to be good citizens.”

You might have heard statements like this, or even said them yourself in the past. Often they follow a news report of some sort which reveals an utter lack of understanding on how government works, or just a report on a bill that passed with which the speaker disagreed.

Even as a history teacher, I too have been tempted to think kids aren’t learning citizenship, but of course I know from firsthand experience that that is not the truth at all. In fact, our state requires some kind of civics and citizenship learning at every single level of school — even Pre-K! It’s right there in the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies.

So what are we talking about when we say “civics?” According to the state standards, civics is defined as “the study of the rights and duties of citizens and of how their governments work. The goal of civics is to develop literate, informed, competent, and responsible citizens who are politically aware, active, and committed to the fundamental values and principles of American constitutional democracy.”

But how do we really become politically aware in a fragmented media landscape where truth is out of style (shout out to MC 900 Ft. Jesus)?

It’s hard when people don’t prioritize their citizenship and choose to take in sound bites instead of really studying an issue. My own mother has said repeatedly “they’re all liars!” so many times of late, and I don’t argue with her (I mean why would I? She’s the momma!), but I don’t think we should all just throw up our hands, thinking it’s beyond saving.

Because what is the “it”, really? IT is our nation! I think it’s worth spending time doing some digging into primary sources to find out what’s going on in our local and

Get to Know Sharon Williams

Continued from page 1

and attended Hilldale in the infancy of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EAHCA) of 1975.

PP: What did you know of the district before coming to work at the Foundation?

PC has a long history of being one of the top districts in the state. That’s a tradition that was started long ago in 1914 and continues today. From my personal experience, Putnam City Schools’ teachers, counselors, principals and administration supported my family through difficult times by providing services that made a difference in our lives. That’s the Putnam City family that I know.

PP: What was your first job?

Outside of babysitting, my first real job at 16 was as a waitress and cashier at Ken’s Pizza in Yukon. It felt like a slice of freedom and independence. I was eager for the new experience and responsibility. I could start providing for some of my own needs and that felt good.

PP: When not working, what do you spend your time doing?

Being with my family and spending time with my grandchildren are very important to me. One of our favorite family activities is camping. My dog, Molly, is very spoiled and my ever-faithful companion. We enjoy playing and taking walks. I also enjoy gardening, reading historical fiction, and genealogy.

PP: How do you describe your current job to people you meet?

I use what I call my elevator speech: my job is the best job ever! I get to work for students, teachers and schools matching their needs with resources from the local community which includes parents, businesses and organizations.

PP: What will need to happen to make you feel like your program is a success?

When teachers, schools, parents, local businesses and social service organizations can all come together in a partnership forming a life preserver around the school to ensure that all the needs of students, teachers and the school are met, that will feel like success to me.

PP: Thank you Sharon! We are so grateful to have you on our team!

Continued on page 6
THIS IS WHY WE DO IT! CareShare

A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who supports the Putnam City CareShare program.

Because of YOU, over 400 families, representing 1,260 children, experienced the wonder of Christmas this year. That represents over $90,000 in contributed items! We could not do this without the love and support of our wonderful Putnam City Community, and of course, our amazing volunteer Erin Brewer.

Throughout the year, Penny’s Closet provides new coats and shoes to students. Last year we provided 325 coats and 216 pairs of shoes.

If you, your business, your church group, or someone you know would like to help, please contact our office at 405-495-5200, ext. 1205.

Thank You CareShare Christmas Adopters!

COMPA NIES & GROUPS

Alliance Steel, Inc.  
Apple Tree Antiques  
Arbor Grove Elementary  
Capps MS Yearbook/Leadership Class  
Church of the Servant  
Cookson Carriers Corp.  
Coronado Heights Elementary PTO  
Council Road Baptist Church  
CRBC Bridge Builders  
Early Birds at CRBC  
Energy Financial  
Faith Church  
Family Solutions Counseling PLLC  
First Enterprise Bank  
Girl Scout Troop 654 - Susan O’Hara

Hadden Home Group/Council Road Baptist  
Harvest Hills Elementary  
Hefner Middle School PTO  
Heritage Baptist Church  
James L. Dennis Elementary PTO  
Kevo Properties  
LWPB Architecture  
MCJ Elves  
Mosaic Church OKC  
NBC Bank  
Northridge Elementary  
OKC Community Church  
PCSD Elementary & Secondary Academics  
PCSD Human Capital  
PCSD Office of Curriculum and Instruction

PCSD Transportation Department  
Putnam City High  
Putnam City North  
Putnam City West Library  
Ralph Downs Elementary PTO  
Sooner Surfacing and Machine  
SNU Cross Country & Track Program  
St Mark’s United Methodist Church  
St. Mark’s United Methodist  
Thompson Homegroup  
Tinker Air Force Base-KC-135 Tankers  
Titus/Hurd  
TriCorps  
Will Rogers Elementary  
Yukon HUD Charity

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Dawn Allee  
Linda Allen  
Katy Anderson  
Mandy Apple  
Kaitlyn Arnett  
Kris & Randy Baggerly  
Ellen Baker  
Tiana Ballinger  
Sue Banks  
Linda Banz  
Sterling Barnett  
Corinne Beasler  
Ashley Blackburn  
Charlene Bockus  
Julie Boggs  
Lauren Booker  
Julie Boyd  
Sherri & David Boyd  
Angie Boyles  
Shirley & Jim Brand  
Rena Bredy  
Rob Brewer  
Laura Britton  
Amber Brown  
Amber Caro  
Laura Caruthers  
Amy Chao  
Tara Clanton  
Rebecca Cooper  
Adrienne Covington Graham  
Lauren Cravens  
Holly Crouch-White  
Brenda Davis  
Linda Deason  
Peggy DeMeyer  
Peyton Disney  
Jessica Dodd  
The Domes Family  
Brandi Duden  
Jessica Edwards  
Maggie Elder  
Kathy Etherton  
Amanda Ewing  
Samelia Farni  
Matt Flusche  
Ashley Fogle  
Linda Frantz  
Lori Freman  
Emma Fritz  
Emily Funkhouser  
Laura Ganz  
Lisa Gates  
Steve Gilbert  
Dave & Millie Gillogly  
Carson Glass  
Becky Gooch  
April Goode  
Gloria Hamilton  
Pamela Hardebeck  
Leah Harris  
Kay Harsha  
Melissa Hayes  
Kelli Helton  
Pamela Henderson  
Carri Hicks  
Becca Hinton  
Julie Hinton  
JoAnn Holman  
Emelie Hunter  
The Hurst Family  
Amanda Hyden  
The Ivey Family  
Chelsea Jarolim  
Lauren Jones  
Erin Karl  
Sara Kersey  
Tracy Kersey  
Tori Kitchel  
Lisa Koehn  
Sherri Lippert  
Stephanie Lippert  
Anissa Lott  
Beth Manning  
Lindsey Manwell  
Heather McAnear  
Celena McCord  
Colleen McMillen  
Shawn Meyers  
Barbara Minton  
Kristi Olsen  
Stephanie Orsburn  
Taylor Perry  
Ashley Powell  
Suzanne Powell  
Kaylee Price  
Melissa Redding  
Denise Reece  
Kelly Reed  
Brooke Rivera  
Michelle Rogers  
Tracy Rogers  
Lisa Rosenberg  
Arianne Russell  
Stephanie Russell  
Tracey Russell  
Candy Sandlin  
Christopher Sanford  
The Schoenberger Family  
Liz Schwarz  
Jennifer & Greg Seal  
Jessica & Jay Sherrill  
Keri Shiple  
Emily Sims  
Paula Smitherman  
Jennifer & Stephen Stauter  
Savannah Stumph  
Shirley Tabor  
Carley Tayar  
Dolly Thomas  
Jaimie Thomas  
Mary Ann Thomas  
Brenda & Bryan Thomason  
Steve Thompson  
Thuy Vu  
Vonda Walkup  
Connie Weber  
Barbara Williams  
Jenny Williams  
Jennifer Yeaman
Nominations for the Golden Apple Award Needed

So many wonderful people work to make our district the place where children can get a world class education while being surrounded with the support they need. We want to honor these people with a Golden Apple!

The Golden Apple is the highest award anyone associated with Putnam City can achieve.

It can go to a teacher, principal, volunteer, secretary, custodian — anyone who works with the district in some capacity.

The form is simple to complete, but the nomination is enhanced by recommendation letters extolling the virtues of your candidate.

Our Golden Apple Committee meets in March to rank the nomination forms, and then the winners receive a monetary gift, as well as the golden apple award itself.

The forms are available now on our website at wwwpcf4kidsorg/golden-apple. To be considered, nominations must be received in the Foundation office by Friday, Feb. 21, 2020.

Your biggest challenge might be deciding whom to nominate, so start planning now!

Alumni Spotlight: Kim Ingmire

by Jorden Richard

Kim Ingmire is a Putnam City North alum and the owner and venue coordinator of Clauren Ridge Vineyard and Winery in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Kim and her husband have been living in Edmond for the past 21 years and have raised two children.

Opening the winery in 2012, she has stayed busy by hosting events for all occasions. Everything from weddings and receptions to anniversaries and birthday celebrations.

Her husband, Thomas Ingmire, is the primary winemaker when he is not at his daytime job in emergency medicine.

We sat down with Kim to ask her some questions about her journey in the community.

PP: How did you decide that owning a winery was something you wanted to do?

I do events, wedding receptions, and anniversaries; Tom, my husband, makes the wine. So when the building was under construction, I had visions of different things that I could do. I always loved putting on events for family and friends but the idea of doing that as a business really appealed to me so when the winery was finished, I put a package together and we have been busy ever since!

PP: Have you had any mentors with you in your life or business?

My dad; he’s wonderful and smart and he has a lot of common sense and is business oriented. He helped me to stay focused and think about things I needed to think about.

PP: With your time spent at Putnam City North, what experiences, if any, have helped you with your journey?

PC North is a great school and I think the whole Putnam City School District is fantastic. I always had great teachers that I really liked, I think the teachers were really interested in furthering the students and getting them to think in ways that they wouldn’t normally think of.

PP: Have you taken any time to mentor people?

From time to time, I will take people in that have an interest in weddings and becoming a professional wedding coordinator. I let them come in and follow me around when I do the weddings or detail appointments for the weddings.

PP: Thank you for taking the time to visit with us!
Foundation Scholarship Deadline Approaches

Each year thanks to the generosity of various families, the Putnam City Schools Foundation offers scholarships for both students and teachers.

The scholarships are named after people who made a difference in our district, and offers their families a way to leave a legacy of their loved ones.

Below are brief descriptions of each scholarship. **All applications can be found at [www.pcf4kids.org/scholarships](http://www.pcf4kids.org/scholarships)** and are due in our office by Feb. 28, 2020 by 4 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Good luck!

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Nixon Scholarship - $1,000</td>
<td>Mrs. Nixon taught PEAK (Putnam City’s gifted and talented program) for twenty-five years. Her love of teaching is honored with this scholarship which is awarded to a senior who plans to pursue a career in teaching.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Barrios Scholarship - $250</td>
<td>Mr. Barrios was a well-respected science teacher at Putnam City North High School. This scholarship is for a Putnam City North senior who wishes to pursue a career in engineering, chemistry, physics, biology or technology.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Talley Scholarship - $2,000</td>
<td>Mrs. Talley taught at Putnam City West High School for 24 years. She retired in 1994 and passed away in 2010. This scholarship was created for a deserving student who otherwise may not qualify due to situations that prevent them from having a high GPA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Cutter Scholarship</td>
<td>Michael Cutter’s friends seeded this athletic scholarship to honor his outstanding high school athletic performance as well as his courage in the face of a difficult disease. <em>(There is no application for this scholarship; it is awarded to a deserving young man who participates in Putnam City West’s athletic program.)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Glenn Scholarship - $1,000</td>
<td>This scholarship is awarded to a Putnam City High School senior who is involved in sports or other extra-curricular activities. <em>(Applications for this scholarship are handled by the Putnam City High counselor’s office.)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay Culver Scholarship</td>
<td>Clay was an outstanding young man — gifted academically and musically. His life was cut short due to illness, but his legacy lives on in this unique scholarship provided by his family. It is awarded to an outstanding ninth grade student attending Putnam City North. <em>(Applications for this scholarship are handled by the Putnam City North counselor’s office.)</em></td>
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### FACULTY SCHOLARSHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Downs Scholarship - $500</td>
<td>Named for one of our former superintendents, the Downs Scholarship is awarded yearly to a Putnam City faculty member who wishes to pursue graduate or undergraduate courses in administration or counseling.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberta Jo Lowe Scholarship - $1,000</td>
<td>Ms. Lowe was a beloved faculty member at Hefner Middle School. Her family established this scholarship to honor her memory and provide an opportunity for deserving faculty members to pursue graduate or undergraduate courses in a variety of subjects she loved.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Scholarship in Memory of Nancy Talley

Thanks to the generosity of the **Nix Foundation**, we have a brand new scholarship being offered this February. The Nix family wants to use this opportunity to honor Mrs. Talley who taught at Putnam City West for over two decades and cherished her time as a Patriot.

The **Nancy Talley Memorial Scholarship** offers a one-time gift of $2,000 to a graduating senior from **Putnam City West High School**.

Most scholarships focus on top-achieving students with ample extra-curricular activities and plenty of honors classes, but the Talley Scholarship recognizes that great students don’t always make 4.0 GPAs or have the opportunity to do more than work outside of school. This scholarship is for them.
Endowment Matching Opportunity Still Happening

The nonprofit world can be difficult, with leaders not knowing if they’ll make the budget they set forth each year because no donor relationship is permanent.

Donors have many passions, and some major donors make it clear from the outset that they will not be funding a project more than two or three years.

The best way to combat this financial roller coaster is to establish an endowment.

The Putnam City Schools Foundation established one in 1992, and we can count on $25,000 to come our way each year due to the investment prowess of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

But, we want to expand that for just CareShare and Penny’s Closet.

The reality is that these programs are serving more children every year. We need to have a steady stream of income on which we can count exclusively for these two programs.

When we asked the Kirkpatrick Family Fund to match the project, they said yes. So for every $3 you give, they will donate $1. It will add up fast, and then be put to good use for children in perpetuity.

Give today at https://www.occf.org/pcsf/ or send us a check and let us know it’s for the endowment and we’ll take care of the rest.

Be a part of making sure children have Christmas gifts and warm coats for decades to come.

Dr. Greg Walton is 2020 Wall of Fame Inductee

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Greg Walton is the 2020 Wall of Fame inductee.

“I am so flattered and honored to be on the Wall of Fame,” Dr. Walton responded.

“I have so many great memories from Putnam City High School, not the least of which was winning the state football championship in overtime against Putnam City West.”

Dr. Walton graduated from Putnam City High School in 1980 before attending Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma medical school.

He is co-owner of the WeightWise Bariatric Clinic in Edmond, Oklahoma which has helped over 7,500 people transform their lives and find lifetime health.

This year’s event will again be at the historic OKC Farmer’s Market on Thursday, April 16th.

Visit our website today to purchase your tickets for this exciting event: https://pcf4kids.ejoinme.org/2020WallofFame.

We look forward to honoring Dr. Walton and recognizing our staff on this occasion!

Welcome New FRIENDS!

Friends of the Foundation are Putnam City employees who choose to support our programs through a monthly payroll deduction. Thank you to our latest Friends:

New Members
Allison Anderson
Corinne Beasler
Faith Boggas
Jessi Colston
Christina Dedmon
Laura Duze-Mosshart
Lori Hardy
Bill Harris
Hannah Grace Hellstern
Cheri Hensley
Stephanie Hines
Kathy Hughes
Jennifer Kealbone
Jennifer Key
Travis Kirk
Paige Krienke
Siobhan Morava
Amanda Neely
Cynthia Quigley
Stephanie Renaud
Jessica Scott
Rebecca Shelby
Deborah Smith
Mary Thele

These Friends Increased Their Pledge
Andrea Unruh
Vicki Vaughan
Shadonna Watkins
Ashley Witt

From the Blog
Continued from page 2

national governments.

How do we practice citizenship by being politically active without being politically offensive? I found a lot of interesting suggestions on www.goodcitizen.org. For instance, one says “go on a police ride-along.” This is a great experience and everyone should do it. Another is to “serve on a jury if asked.” People always talk about trying to get out of jury duty, but I can tell you the process can be fascinating if you recognize that you are a part of it.

Hopefully your family is getting ready for Thanksgiving this week, the most American of all holidays. Part of showing gratitude is by actually serving the nation in which we live, be that through the military, at a polling place, or as a volunteer. We should all be on the same page on this one, people. If we’re not, Lord help us all.

Sow Big Dreams
YES! Grants: Thanks to YOU!

Our generous donors have made more amazing things happen in our district this school year.

You’ve sent students to the science museum and to Circle the State with Song choir clinic.

You’ve sent teachers on professional development to the Ron Clark Academy and Kodaly music training.

You’ve even purchased flexible seating, a rug, sensory materials for our students with special needs, and so much more. It’s been a busy first semester!

Because mental health is a focus of our district for both teachers and staff, we’ve had the opportunity to fund mindful spaces for staff as well. Teaching is demanding, and we want to make sure they always feel valued and empowered to take care of themselves, even while at school.

Western Oaks Middle School students learned about wildlife during a visit from the OKC Zoo organized by Library Media Specialist Emily Smith.

A Putnam City High School student in Doug Flemming’s classroom conducts a sound check on the new equipment they received for their auditorium.

Third graders in Molly McMullin-Yohe’s class at Arbor Grove Elementary are very appreciative for the comfortable new rug.


Christine Clay, fifth grade teacher at Central Elementary, attended a professional development academy.

Thank you for helping me have a life changing experience at Ron Clark Academy. It has been a dream of mine to experience the amazing teachers and students at this innovative school. It was a truly inspirational experience.

Thank you again, Christine Clay.

SPECIAL THANKS TO LAST QUARTER’S MAJOR DONORS

Ash Grove Charitable Foundation  
Dr. Kenneth Cooper  
First United Bank  
Inasmuch Foundation  
Independent Insurance Agents of Greater Oklahoma City  

James Murray Morris  
Paper 'N More  
Lee & Vivian Rice  
Sodexo  
Sovereign Title Services  
TEAM Professional Services  

The Myers Trust  
The Nix Foundation  
Neil Woodward, III  

Sow Big Dreams
The Ambassadors

No it’s not a doo-wop group from the 1950s (though that might be a fun thing for us to do). This is a group of teachers from across our district who are taking a few minutes at a monthly faculty meeting to share some information about the Foundation with their staff.

While we make visits to every school each year, there are so many great things going on in the Foundation, that we need more chances to inform the staff. Ambassadors have also been asked to help their colleagues write YES! Grants.

![Linda Frantz and students](image)

We’re going to be highlighting these extra-generous teachers throughout the year, starting with Northridge Elementary’s Linda Frantz who has already helped a colleague win a grant!

**PP: Where are you going on your dream vacation?**

Anyone who knows me, knows that my dream vacation would be traveling to the International Space Station. Being able to witness the beauty of the Earth from the still quiet of space and then share that experience with my students would be amazing!

**PP: Who is at your Dinner Party of Famous People?**

The guest list for my famous people dinner party would include (in no particular order): Jerry Lewis, Neil Armstrong, Jesus, Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, Christa McAuliffe, Jane Austen, Katherine Johnson, Amelia Earhart, and Will Rogers.

**PP: What do you love most about teaching?**

The thing I love most about teaching is helping students realize they are able to achieve mighty things. Yes, there may be some disappointment and failure along the way, but with perseverance and problem solving, success is right around the corner.