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#500forGood Winners

Winning applications are listed alphabetically by state

Bank of Colorado <i>Estes Park</i>	CO	I would share with Ballet Renaissance! Ballet Renaissance is committed to educating and inspiring youth and community through the art of classical ballet. Since 1997, the organization has accomplished its mission with dedicated volunteers. Open community classes are offered for ages 5-18. The also offer Protégé, which is a merit-based, tuition-free program focusing on students that demonstrate a high level of commitment and work ethic.
Bank of Colorado <i>Estes Park</i>	CO	I would love to support the music program at Estes Park Elementary School. Music teacher Paul Maley engages in amazing ways with elementary school students. Each year, Mr. Maley, along with the elementary school choir and band, produces a video showcasing the students and their work. The videos are often in collaboration with other community groups or older students and are a highlight of the year for many involved. Watch One Now
Del Norte Bank <i>Del Norte</i>	CO	If we had \$500, we would donate it to the Victim's Assistance Law Enforcement organization (VALE). This organization helps children living in six rural counties. Our donation would help VALE purchase items for children who are impacted by crime or are themselves victims of crime. Our donation would go to purchase blankets, stuffed animals and coloring books.
First FarmBank <i>Greeley</i>	CO	We would provide the microgrant to the Springfield Council for Arts and Humanities in Springfield, Colorado. This nonprofit has numerous projects under its umbrella but has taken over the local theatre. The theatre is run mostly by volunteer help to give the community and youth something to do on weekends. They show a free movie every Thursday night and a new release movie on Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday evening. This is a great hub and gathering place for the community.
First Pioneer National Bank <i>Wray</i>	CO	I would combine the funds with \$500 from our bank and plant some new trees at our nursing home.
FMS Bank <i>Fort Morgan</i>	CO	I would donate the funds to the Michael Ray Lee Foundation, an organization created in memory of a close family friend who embodied integrity and had a deep love for the game of golf. The foundation, run by

		his family, honors Mike’s legacy by supporting high-performing junior high, high school and college golfers while also expanding access to the game throughout the Greeley community. In addition to offering scholarships and mentorship opportunities, the foundation provides golf equipment to local elementary and middle schools, helping introduce the sport to students who might not otherwise have access. They are currently building a nine-hole golf course specifically designed for beginners using the SNAG (Starting New At Golf) approach, which makes golf more approachable and inclusive for new players.
FMS Bank <i>Fort Morgan</i>	CO	I would use the funds to help sponsor and expand upon an annual event hosted by Colorado Custom Game Calls. Every year, they work alongside Hometown Heroes Outdoors to unite a group of veterans for a weekend of hunting and comradery. The event is an all-expense-paid opportunity for those who have served our country to get together and get outdoors. Food, lodging, hunting licenses, gear and swag are provided to each veteran through fundraising efforts. Some of the veterans are seasoned hunters, and others have never stepped foot in a blind. But the relationships that are built and friendships that are forged are so meaningful to each and every participant. Every year, we receive nothing but positive feedback and appreciation. Any grant money received would be used to increase the number of vets we are able to host this year.
Frontier Bank <i>Lamar</i>	CO	A \$500 donation could have a meaningful impact on the Holly, Colorado, volunteer fire and ambulance service. In a small community like ours, where everyone knows each other, every dollar is stretched to its fullest to keep us all safe. This contribution could help purchase essential supplies like first aid kits, oxygen tanks or updated protective gear for our volunteers. It might also go toward necessary equipment maintenance, helping ensure that our vehicles and tools are always ready during emergencies.
Mercy Community Capital <i>Denver</i>	CO	MCC would donate the \$500 to an organization called Urban Peak. Urban Peak is a borrower of MCC, and MCC supported Urban Peak with a loan to build a four-story building that offers integrated youth services and a shelter with transitional style dorm housing. These services include case management, a medical clinic, on-site mental health services, education, employment services and life skills development. The project is serving 600 unique homeless youth accessing the shelter each year and is serving 36,000 meals per year. Urban Peak will use the donation to provide meals to homeless youth.
Union State Bank <i>Newton</i>	KS	If we had \$500 to help our community, we would like to donate to a project called “The Table.” The Table, organized by the So Shine Foundation in Newton, Kansas, was initially a response to the isolation that people experienced during the lockdown. The Table wanted to

		create something that would foster community connection. The Table provides a free weekly meal to anyone in the community and surrounding areas. They are now serving more than 200 meals a week on average. We would like to donate \$500 to The Table and also have Union State Bank employees volunteer to serve the meal to the community.
Community National Bank & Trust <i>Augusta</i>	KS	I would donate it to the Augusta School District to eliminate past due student meal program debt. If a parent becomes delinquent in their child's meal plan payment the student is relegated to eating cereal for lunch instead of the regular hot meal. This is very embarrassing to the student and only diminishes their self-esteem.
Elk State Bank <i>Seneca</i>	KS	If we had \$500 to better our community, we would donate it to Concordia's historical Brown Grand Opera House. The Brown Grand is almost 118 years old and is proposing to install a new cyclorama and new lighting and sound systems. The Brown Grand strives to improve community engagement in the cultural arts and to grow its reputation as a regional cultural hub. They need to raise their lighting and sound technologies to industry standard. They expect to see an increase in attendance and greater community engagement in the future. The Brown Grand will use the funding to reach its goal to purchase lighting and sound technology needed to ensure the Brown Grand is a destination for audience members and performing arts groups of all kinds.
First Heritage Bank <i>Centralia</i>	KS	If we're lucky & receive \$500, we'd use it to install a permanent sign for the City's Community Center. The building had previously been owned by the American Legion & was purchased more than 25 years ago to be used as a Community Center for nonprofit groups to hold fundraisers & for citizens to rent for weddings or other social functions. There had been a nice wooden sign designed & installed by a local Eagle Scout, however over the years the weather destroyed the sign.
First State Bank <i>Plainville</i>	KS	Our downtown organization, Downtown Plainville Inc., is working on a project to bring an outdoor stage/gathering venue to the location of an abandoned lumberyard. We think this will be a tremendous asset to our community in so many ways. I think their words can describe the project, and its benefits to our community better than mine. <i>Downtown Plainville Inc., a nonprofit organization, is launching an ambitious community revitalization project called The Yard — a dynamic public space built on the site of a recently cleared, long abandoned lumberyard. Honoring over a century of history, The Yard will become a central gathering place for Plainville residents and visitors alike. It is designed to re-energize our downtown, create space for culture and commerce, and build social connections from the ground up. We are seeking funding to help bring this vision to life and invest in a more vibrant, inclusive, and economically resilient downtown Plainville.</i>
Grant County Bank <i>Ulysses</i>	KS	I am on the board of Ginger's Hope, Inc., located in Ulysses. Our mission is to provide diabetic supplies and medications to those who cannot afford them. Year to date, we have paid \$10,000+ to our local pharmacy for the

		supplies and medication. We are reaching out to surrounding areas and expanding to northwestern Kansas as well. We also provide diabetic education and provide free to low-cost classes for people with diabetes, diabetic care givers and people who have been diagnosed with potential diabetes. We provide literature and handouts at community events as much as possible. We have a diabetic educator on the board who donates her time for education.
Mid-America Bank <i>Baldwin City</i>	KS	If I had \$500 to help the community, we would give it to the FFA chapter at Palco High School to establish an "FFA Official Dress Closet." The Palco teachers think having different size options for the different official dress items will benefit the program by preventing the financial burden from being something that stops kids from getting involved. This will help an FFA program that has had fewer kids in recent years. The Palco school district is transitioning to include an ag-focused curriculum with the opening of its Northwest Kansas Ag Education Center. The goal is to boost enrollment by bringing in kids from outside the district who have an interest in receiving an ag-based education. So far, there has been a positive impact on the school's enrollment and strengthening the FFA chapter will further supplement what the school district is doing, which in turn strengthens the community.
Solutions North Bank <i>Coffeyville</i>	KS	I would donate it to Live Healthy Montgomery County, Inc., to allow us to continue the Laundry Love program in our community. Two times a month, volunteers provide quarters and laundry detergent for those in need to wash clothing and bedding for free. The local organization has partnered with the National Laundry Love organization to help every person in our community to feel loved, valued, seen and honored.
Stockgrowers State Bank <i>Maple Hill</i>	KS	If I got #500forGood, I would like to help the Local Heritage Home, which is an Intergenerational Senior Living Facility and Childcare Center. There is a senior residence and a daycare that is in the same building. They get to interact on a daily basis. They both bring joy and smiles to each other along with the staff. To keep the both the adults and kids engaged, I would put money toward buying games/activities that children and adults can play together, encouraging interaction across all ages and abilities, including youth, seniors and individual with disabilities.
The Bank <i>Goodland</i>	KS	In Goodland, KS, we have a nonprofit organization called Hope's Place. This nonprofit organization helps all kinds of individuals, kids and families in need. If I had \$500, I would donate it to Hope's Place to buy new car seats for the hard-working moms, especially those who are actively trying to take classes at Hope's Place to become great mothers. This would be a great reward for a new mom or current struggling mom who is working hard to improve herself even though she may have financial trouble or other difficult obstacles in her life.
The Western State Bank <i>Garden City</i>	KS	If awarded the \$500, I would donate the funds to our local school district's nutrition department to help cover negative lunch account balances for students. When a student's meal account becomes

		overdrawn, their access to a full, nutritious lunch is restricted or rescinded. The district's policy allows for a limited number of meals ranging from 1-4 depending on the school level before alternate meals are provided or, in some cases like the high school level, no meal at all. This funding would help ensure that no child is denied a proper meal at school due to financial hardship, supporting both their wellbeing and their ability to focus and succeed in the classroom.
Union State Bank of Atchison <i>Atchison</i>	KS	I would purchase no slip socks for the local care homes. The residents always request socks for warmth and the grips for safety for those who are fall risks.
Vintage Bank Kansas <i>El Dorado</i>	KS	Several years ago, some members of our community asked the school districts what they could do to help them. One of the consistent themes was how many kids needed decent shoes. El Dorado community partners came together to have their "Steps for success" program. They opened accounts with us for each school in the area and counselors were given debit cards and the ability to use them to purchase new shoes for children in their school.
Vintage Bank Kansas <i>Leon</i>	KS	We would purchase an outdoor projector and a screen to host a community movie night in the park.

Cedar Security Bank <i>Wynot</i>	NE	If we had \$500 to use toward our community, we would use it for the Industrial Tech program at the Wynot Public School to be used to purchase tools and supplies. This is a growing program at the school, teaching welding and woodworking for example. This class gives kids the experience to hopefully find a job when they get out of school.
Security National Bank of Omaha <i>Omaha</i>	NE	Purchasing new children's coats for Completely Kids' winter coat drive is a perfect use. The drive aims to collect 500 new coats, ensuring the kids are prepared to thrive during the winter months. Having a new coat helps the students to feel more confident and better able to fit in with their peers at school.
Commercial State Bank <i>Wausa</i>	NE	Two years ago, straight-line winds devastated Gladstone Park in Wausa, toppling century-old trees and damaging the beloved shelter that had long served as a gathering place for families. While the shelter has since been restored, replacing the lost trees has proven to be a much greater challenge. With \$500, I would help restore the beauty and shade of our park by purchasing and planting young trees. These trees would not only improve the environment and provide much needed shade but also stand as living symbols of our community's resilience and care.
Core Bank <i>Omaha</i>	NE	I'd donate it to the Nebraska Diaper Bank. For the past three years we've held a golf tournament to support the efforts of the Nebraska Diaper Bank. We also have numerous team members that volunteer through our Volunteer PTO program to unbox, count and wrap bundles of diapers for those in need. A diaper is a basic health need as essential to a baby's health and wellbeing as shelter and clothing. Not only does a diaper keep

		the baby healthier, happier and help them sleep, it also reduces stress of the family unit. The mental health of a parent and child are surprisingly dependent on a steady supply of diapers. Diaper need has profound effects that can last generations.
First State Bank <i>Randolph</i>	NE	First State Bank would like to support Randolph youth in need of food assistance. The Wellness program at the Randolph Public Schools started a backpack program a couple of years ago. Every Friday, food items are privately put in student's backpacks so they have some supplemental food for themselves and siblings over the weekend.
First Westroads Bank <i>Omaha</i>	NE	We would donate it to Angels Among Us! AAU is a local organization in the heart of Omaha, nestled near the Children's Hospital, that supports families going through the battles of pediatric cancer and other childhood illnesses. AAU helps families pay bills like rent and utilities while the families focus on hospital stays, doctor's appointments, treatment plans and other long-term disruptions to traditional family life. To put it simply, AAU helps families hold on while their worlds are turned upside down.
Great Plains State Bank <i>Omaha</i>	NE	I would donate the funds to help the CUES fund purchase sports uniforms for their various teams. The CUES fund is a non-religious nonprofit that helps to educate inner-city youth. Providing funds to assist with purchasing uniforms would be a great morale booster for children who come from backgrounds without many material goods.
Heritage Bank <i>Grand Island</i>	NE	If I had \$500 to help my community, I would give it to Hope Harbor's Lighthouse Apartments. This program provides transitional housing and supportive services for women and children who are rebuilding their lives after experiencing domestic violence or homelessness. The Lighthouse Apartments offer not just a safe place to stay but also case management, education, job support and emotional healing — tools that empower families to regain independence and stability.
Jones Bank <i>Seward</i>	NE	I would give it to our schools to feed our kids. There are so many kids that have negative lunch accounts in this world. I just want them to all know they can come to school and be fed even if that isn't the case at home. I know our schools don't turn the kids away, but the money has to come from somewhere to feed everyone.
Security Bank <i>Laurel</i>	NE	Here in Laurel, NE, a group of volunteers are working to fundraise for a new all-inclusive playground. This playground would be handicap accessible and would welcome children of all abilities to play, explore and grow together. Outside play is so important for our youth. Having a safe place for all kids to go would be a wonderful addition to our growing community.
Security Bank <i>Hartington</i>	NE	We plan to utilize the requested funds to support the Hartington Senior Center, a vital resource for both our elderly citizens and the broader community. The Center plays a key role in enhancing the quality of life for seniors by providing essential services such as daily congregate meals and Meals on Wheels for homebound individuals. On average, the Center serves 40 to 60 meals each day.

		In addition to its meal programs, the Senior Center offers recreational and social activities as well as referral services that connect seniors with necessary local resources. It also serves the greater community by hosting public breakfasts and other events and by providing a large meeting space suitable for family gatherings, graduations and other celebrations. The Senior Center is currently working to modernize its facilities and improve accessibility. However, funding is limited, and the Center relies heavily on fundraising efforts to sustain operations. There is an urgent need for kitchen renovations including updated appliances, new flooring and window coverings. These improvements would enhance the efficiency of meal preparation and create a more welcoming, accessible environment for current and future generations.
Thayer County Bank <i>Hebron</i>	NE	We would donate to a group of high school students that have helped to better our community. They are YAC (Youth Action Committee). They started two years ago with the goal of improving a park that was hardly used in Hebron. The students decided to raise money for pickleball courts and resurfacing the tennis court. They went door to door and hosted a Picklefest that had everything "pickle" in it (pickle eating contest, pickle making, pickleball tourney, etc.). The celebration was a huge success. The Thayer County Bank would like to assist the group in getting a bench for spectators to watch others play. Currently the group is looking for donors for about five benches for the area. Each bench cost \$650. With the FHLB \$500, we would donate the remaining \$150. Not only would this be a nice addition, but it tells our teenagers that we appreciate their work.
The Tri-County Bank – Atkinson <i>Stuart</i>	NE	If we had \$500, we would assist the Atkinson American Legion Post #86 install a drop box for American flags that are in need of retirement. This 24-hour drop box would allow for the local Legion to collect American flags beyond repair and perform proper flag retirement ceremonies. This service promotes patriotism by giving citizens, businesses, schools and municipalities a convenient way to properly and respectfully retire their American Flag. The total project is \$2,900, and The Tri-County Bank - Atkinson will match the FHLBank \$500 if chosen as a winner of the #500forGood grant.
United Republic Bank <i>Gretna</i>	NE	United Republic Bank is proud to partner with the Gretna Schools Foundation in supporting local children through the Gretna Backpack Program. This initiative provides weekend meals to students facing food insecurity — ensuring they return to school on Monday nourished, focused and ready to learn. Currently, 737 students across the district benefit from this vital program. We are seeking a \$500 grant from FHLBank to help enhance this program. Your generous support would allow us to purchase nutritious food items

		for distribution, helping feed dozens of children and their families throughout the school year.
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ACB Bank <i>Cherokee</i>	OK	If I had \$500 to help the community, I would donate to the Cherokee Mainstreet. Every year in December they do an event called The Santa Store. It is open to all children in the county, ages 3-12. Each child gets their own elf to help them shop for gifts for their entire family for only \$0.25 each. They also have Santa and Mrs. Claus there for the children to see and get a picture printed for free. This whole event is by donation, everyone is a volunteer, and all the gifts/items are donated. However, Mainstreet has had to purchase extra gifts in the past due to low donations/number of children attending. Last year they had more than 100 kids attend the Santa Store. A \$500 grant would go a long way in making sure the kids have gifts on Christmas!
Armstrong Bank <i>Muskogee</i>	OK	Fostering Hope is a nonprofit organization founded in Muskogee, Oklahoma, by citizens with a desire to aid children when they are placed in foster care. Fostering Hope exists to meet the needs of foster children in Oklahoma. When a child is removed by authorities from a home and placed in foster care, financial aid from the state is not received immediately, and wait time can be anywhere from two weeks or longer. Children typically bring little to nothing in their possessions. Their possessions, if any, are carried from the home in a trash bag. Fostering Hope supplies each child with an emergency bag we call our #bagfullofhope. Each bag comes with a week's worth of clothing, shoes and socks, essential toiletries, formula and baby bottle, wipes and diapers, books and bible, age-appropriate toy, new underwear and socks and handwritten card. Five hundred dollars will go a long way to help a child with a "Bag Full of Hope" or a comfortable safe place to stay while in transition.
Armstrong Bank <i>Claremore</i>	OK	Blue Star Mothers is such a wonderful organization. This organization helps and supports our loved ones who serve the U.S. Armed Forces or have honorably discharged veterans. They fundraise to send care packages to our troops who are deployed. They are caring and give back to our community by supporting the families that have deployed family members.
BancFirst <i>Lawton</i>	OK	If I had \$500 to help the Lawton community, I would throw a party honoring our heroes, A Festive Salute! Our community is deeply connected with veterans with Ft. Sill located here. We would like to show them our appreciation and honor them by hosting a Christmas party at the VA Center. We would decorate with festive Christmas and patriotic décor, cater delicious holiday food, liven it up with Christmas carolers, organize games and prizes and give gifts. This event would be a heartfelt way to bring everyone together and express our appreciation for those who have served.

First National Bank of Oklahoma <i>Ponca City</i>	OK	Oxford House offers a democratically operated, peer-supported environment for individuals in recovery from substance use, providing both stable housing and a strong sense of community. In our region — Oklahoma Chapter 15 — there are five Oxford Houses: three in Ponca City (two men's houses and one women's house) and two in Stillwater (one men's house and one women's house). Both women's houses are able to support mothers with children as well. To help ease the transition for new residents, I propose creating Welcome Kits that include hygiene essentials, a pair of warm socks, a small inspirational pocket book, a reusable water bottle or mug and a handwritten note of encouragement. These kits aim to provide both practical support and emotional reassurance during a critical time. With a \$500 budget, we can assemble and distribute approximately 10 thoughtfully curated kits to each house across this local area, helping new members feel seen, supported and welcomed from the start.
First National Bank of Oklahoma <i>Oklahoma City</i>	OK	Donate it to the Curbside supportive employment program of the Homeless Alliance (501c-3). Curbside began several years ago with a program to employ homeless persons selling a newspaper (Curbside Chronicle). It is a simple program where instead of standing on street corners asking for donations, they have a product they sell and make a profit from people wishing to support them. They sell apparel now too. These programs provide training to the homeless with a skill and the ability to then find meaningful employment and break the homeless cycle.
FNB Community Bank <i>Midwest City</i>	OK	If I had \$500 to help my community, I would donate it to The Mid-Del Tinker 100 Club. This organization provides vital financial assistance to the dependent families of peace officers, firefighters and first responders who are killed or seriously injured in the line of duty. With a \$500 contribution, we could sponsor a recipient and their family, helping to ease their burden during an incredibly difficult time.
Frazer Bank <i>Altus</i>	OK	We are writing to enthusiastically nominate the Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group (SOCAG) Senior Meal Program for consideration for the \$500forGood award. This program exemplifies dedication, compassion and community service through its unwavering commitment to serving our senior citizens. The SOCAG Senior Meal Program provides nutritious meals to older adults across rural and underserved areas in Southwest Oklahoma, ensuring that no senior goes hungry or feels forgotten. The program not only addresses food insecurity but also fosters social interaction, helping combat isolation and improving overall quality of life for its participants.
Great Nations Bank <i>Norman</i>	OK	Norman has so many great nonprofit agencies. However, Bridges (bridgesok.org) is one that we gravitate to as its focus is on teenage homelessness. Bridges has limited housing (which remains full with each one that graduates and moves out), and there is an application process. Sadly, most of the kids feel that society views them as "bad kids" when that is not accurate. These kids are not getting the love and support that

		they so deserve from their own families but keeping their head up enough to get themselves to school and have passing grades, work at least a part time job and maintain a clean unit.
Great Nations Bank <i>Norman</i>	OK	My son is autistic and graduated Norman North High School in May 2024. He is currently attending an excellent program through the Norman North High School. They help the special needs community transition from high school to adulthood in many different ways. Through this program, some are able to go into the community and learn skills to transition to jobs. Others are taught more practical skills of wiping down tables, taking out the trash, laundry and others. I know that funding is always tight for our schools, so if I won this \$500, would donate the money to this excellent program.
Security State Bank of Oklahoma <i>Holdenville</i>	OK	I would give the Holdenville Art Center the money. The Holdenville Art Center only receives \$1,000 to last them through the whole school year. This would help them tremendously when they run out of funds. The art teacher purchases a lot of the supplies from her own pocket.
Security State Bank of Oklahoma <i>Wewoka</i>	OK	This past year, our community was blessed by the support of #500ForGood and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka. With those funds, the Wewoka school nurse was able to provide health and hygiene items to countless students who might have otherwise gone without. She was even able to purchase a glucose meter for a student living with diabetes – something that has truly changed that child’s daily life and given their family peace of mind. This year, we hope to build on that success. If chosen again, our award will again be matched by Security State Bank to double the impact – bringing \$1,000 directly to Wewoka students.
Welch State Bank <i>Miami</i>	OK	If I had \$500 to help my community, I would put it toward something that is near and dear to my heart – children & Christmas. I would call it Christmas for the Kids at the Club. I have been a board member for The Boys & Girls Club of Ottawa County for 21 years and watched the impact this club has on our children in our community. It’s more than the daily work behind the scenes of providing a safe and supportive environment with meals for youth, they also make it a priority to bring joy, hope and smiles to the face of each child. We here at Welch State Bank would match plus increase those funds and help our local Boys & Girls Club of Ottawa County to ensure that every child experiences the magic of Christmas with a gift of their very own!