

\$25,000 donation to community foundation honors Dr. Kermit Wedel

September 02, 2010

In honor of Dr. Kermit Wedel, who is retiring from the Kansas Health Foundation Board after 18 years of service, the Health Foundation on Friday presented a \$25,000 check to benefit the Ottawa County Community Foundation.

Dr. Wedel plans to use the money to establish a public health and children's fund, providing a broad foundation to do various projects through the local foundation.

"We'll let the money grow for a while as we consider various projects," Wedel said. "The community foundation provides an excellent opportunity to support communities that best know what their needs are."

Representatives from the Kansas Health Foundation praised Dr. Wedel for his years of service on the board, noting that he had been selected to serve because of his statewide leadership in the healthcare field.

Dr. Wedel is a retired family practice physician who has been involved in many activities related to the medical profession, including past president of the Kansas Medical Society, delegate to the American Medical Association, and a member of the Governor's Commission on Health Care.

"We feel so privileged that Kermit devoted 18 years of service to the Kan-

Board members of the Ottawa County Community Foundation attending the presentation last Friday were (front from left) Mark Freel, Dr. Kermit Wedel, Steve Coen of the Kansas Health Foundation, Betsy Wearing of the Greater Salina Community Foundation; (back row) Cheryle Hardesty, Dr. Ken Wedel, Cindy Rupert, Bob Hudson and Jeff McHenry.

sas Health Foundation," said Steve Coen, president and CEO of the Kansas Health Foundation. "His life has been dedicated to improving the health of his community as well as the health of all Kansans. In the process, Kermit has earned love and respect from everyone who knows him.

"Our Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to honor his years of great service with this \$25,000 contribution to the Ottawa County Community Foundation."

The Kansas Health Foundation traces its roots back to the 1985 sale of Wesley Medical Center in Wichita. The sale's profits went to two organizations focused on improving health in the state: the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund and the Wesley Medical Endowment Foundation (now the Kansas Health Foundation). The Health Foundation began with \$200,000,000 in funds, and over the past 25 years it has given away over \$400,000,000 in grants.

Dr. Wedel also serves on



DR. KERMIT WEDEL

the Ottawa County Community Foundation's board. He and his wife, Kathleen, are also founding donors of the local foundation.

Coen noted that Dr. Wedel had served on the Kansas Health Foundation board longer than anyone. "We are indebted to him, he's done so much for the foundation. During his tenure, grants have been presented to all 105 counties in Kansas. He cares deeply about small and rural communities."

