

VISTAS



From the desk of Lesley White, Foundation Director
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You Can Match Up to \$10,000 on April 21st

If \$20,000 in gifts are donated to Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF) GROW GREEN MATCH DAY on April 21st in the name of the FHDC Youth Education Endowment – the FHDC Foundation receives a \$10,000 match!



This is a 50-50 match meaning every dollar you donate is matched by 50 cents up to \$20,000 in donations. Please join us this year and let's reach \$20,000 – if we do, \$30,000 is raised!

What are the benefits of your GROW GREEN match day gift? Our Youth Education Endowment was founded in 2016. These funds go to the FHDC Education Department to enhance programming and inspire youth to CELEBRATE, EXPLORE, and PRESERVE the Flint Hills.

GROW GREEN begins at 12:00 AM on April 21st and runs until 11:59 PM.

Donations can be made in any of the following ways: Mailed donations must be postmarked before or on 4/21/2023 and mailed to GMCF PO BOX 1127 Manhattan, KS 66505 with a memo for the Flint Hills Foundation Youth Education Endowment. You can also donate online at www.growgreenmanhattan.com.

Award of Honor - Flint Hills Discovery Center Kidscape Project

Our Prairie Playscape received the Award of Honor from the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Kansas due to the outstanding work done by McCownGordon Construction and BBN Architects.

This new permanent exhibit immerses children in an exceptional, hands-on, educational experience and features three themed areas: Exploring the Land, Working the Land, and Sharing the Land. Each designated area invites children to learn through play while learning about the Flint Hills and its unique landscape. The Flint Hills Discovery Center aims to educate and inspire visitors of all ages and teach guests the mission to celebrate, explore, and care for the Flint Hills region.





Friend of the Flint Hills Celebrates Mark Nutsch April 28th

Join us on April 28th as we celebrate Mark Nutsch, as our 12th “Friend of the Flint Hills” at the Flint Hills Discovery Center.

As we end our NEXT VISTAS Campaign with the opening of Prairie Playscape last May, we honor Mark who led this campaign as our National Honorary Chairman since 2019. The NEXT VISTAS Campaign raised \$3.2 million for capital projects, programs, and our endowment.

Nutsch, who grew up in Washington County, an American hero, led a 12-member Green Beret- Special Forces ODA-595 unit that used horses to defeat the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan after September 11th. One of the first teams to enter Afghanistan, they were unaware that they would be traveling by horseback. Nutsch’s knowledge of riding, ranching, and horsemanship contributed significantly to his team’s success. Nutsch’s mission has been called the most successful, unconventional warfare campaign in modern history.

Portions of this story can be seen in the major Hollywood movie, *12 Strong*, where Nutsch is portrayed by actor Chris Hemsworth. Today, Nutsch and several of his “band of brothers” own and operate American Freedom Distillery - their “legacy in a bottle.”

To learn more or to purchase tickets online, go to <http://auctria.events/2023FOTFH> or contact Foundation Director, Lesley White, at fhdcfoundation1@gmail.com or 785-748-1275.



Flint Hills Festival - May 6th

Join the Flint Hills Discovery Center (FHDC) for Flint Hills Festival on Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Blue Earth Plaza. This annual community celebration of the Flint Hills is fun for all ages. Thanks to a private donation, the festival and admission to the Discovery Center are free this day.

Experience the culture and beauty of the region through:

- Live music
- Wine tastings
- Food trucks
- Bounce houses
- Flight simulators
- Axe throwing
- Train rides
- Community organizations
- Live birds of prey
- Art
- Games
- So much more!

Follow us on Facebook or go to our website for more information: www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/fhf.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation
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VISTAS is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center.