



LAURA MCKNIGHT
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Laura McKnight is president and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. With more than 3,000 individual funds under its umbrella—ranging in size from a few thousand dollars to tens of millions of dollars—the Foundation helps its donors organize their generosity, offering tools and services for a better way to give. The Foundation values integrity, respect, passion for serving its donors, and innovation, recognizing that every gift, whether \$25 or \$25 million, makes a difference in the lives of others.

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation serves donors throughout the entire Kansas City area and beyond. The Foundation ranks in the top ten among the more than 650 community foundations in the country, a position it has held since 1999. In 2009 alone, the Foundation’s donors granted over \$175 million to the charitable causes that meant the most to them. The Foundation is fortunate to serve a region that is one of the most generous in the nation. Indeed, Kansas City’s high income households give nearly twice as much to charity as the national average.

Laura is a lifelong resident of the Kansas City region but for her time spent earning a degree in philosophy from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where she graduated a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Laura earned her law degree with honors from the University of Kansas, following in the footsteps of a long line of family Jayhawks. In 2001, after spending more than six years as a tax and estate planning attorney at the Kansas City law firm of Spencer Fane Britt & Browne, Laura joined the staff of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. Laura served in a variety of roles at the Foundation, including senior vice president of development and executive director of the Community Foundation of Johnson County, one of the Foundation’s regional affiliates, before assuming the role of president and CEO in 2006.

Laura enjoys contributing to Kansas City’s quality of life beyond her role at the Foundation, including serving on the boards of directors of the Heartland Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors, the American Royal Association and the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute. Laura is the grateful recipient of several local honors, including the Kansas City Tomorrow Distinguished Alumni Award.

Laura and her husband organize their giving through the Laura McKnight and Clay Barker Fund at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. Most of all, Laura enjoys every minute with Clay and their five daughters, ranging from preschooler to college student. It is never dull!

