

Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation
Board of Director's Meeting
TVDS Administrative Office, 521 W. 35 Ch Pkwy, Chanute, KS 66720
March 24, 2026

Present: Mike Hofer, Vic Anderson, Sandra Eggers, Joel Porter, Joel Norris, Jeff Ports, Shana Forsyth, Lynette Emmerson, Bill Fiscus

Not Present: Judy Brigham, Mike Reid, Steve Sewell, Phil Newkirk, Larry Coleman

Staff Present: Melissa Cannon-Smith, Joe O'Rourke, Lea Chickadonz, Tricia Campbell

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Mike Hofer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion made to adopt agenda as presented (Joel Porter/Sandra Eggers). Motion passed.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes from the December 2, 2025 meeting were presented. Motion made to approve minutes as presented (Jeff Ports/Joel P.). Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Lea Chickadonz, VP of Administration, presented the financial report for the period ending February 28, 2026. Motion made to approve the financial report as presented (Sandra/Jeff). Motion passed.

5. Staff Reports

5.1 Programming

Melissa Cannon-Smith, VP of Programming, updated the board on Tri-Valley advocacy efforts, workforce development, and leadership initiatives.

- On Thursday, March 19th, Tri-Valley staff and persons served attended the 2026 InterHab Advocacy Day. Forty-one of the over 800 participants represented Tri-Valley. Participants met with state legislators to emphasize the need for the state's continued investment in services for Kansans with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities. Tri-Valley participants met with three legislators: Representative Dan Goddard and Senators Tim Shallenburger and Ron Ryckman. As thanks for their continued support, Tri-Valley purchased lunches for our ten area legislators and their administrative staff. Along with the

lunches, these legislators and their administrative staff were also given a succulent plant grown at the Fort Scott Greenhouse.

- Tri-Valley continues to focus on strengthening employment opportunities across our eight counties. Staff in Tri-Valley's Employment Services are working towards becoming certified trainers for the Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) program. To become certified, ACRE offers a 50-hour training -- both Tri-Valley Employment Coordinators have successfully completed the program. Tri-Valley Employment Specialist are enrolled in the current session.
- Tri-Valley is launching a Mobile Work Crew program to provide community-based and internal work opportunities for individuals in our I/DD Day Services. Crews will be selected based upon interest, skills, and person-centered goals. They will be supervised by DSP with coordination provided by the Employment Specialist. Job examples include groundskeeping, mowing, raking, janitorial, or simple maintenance tasks. The goal is to provide work experience, skill development, and community engagement.
- In April, InterHab will begin their 2nd Annual Leadership Program series. The program is a 6 session leadership development program designed to cultivate leadership across the I/DD system in Kansas. Applications came from across the state. From the 60 applications, 37 participants were selected. Brenden Spillman, Tri-Valley Employee Relations Coordinator, was selected and will represent Tri-Valley in the statewide leadership initiative.

5.2 Operations Report

Joe O'Rourke, VP of Operations, updated the board on several maintenance and operational concerns.

- On May 1st, a HUD inspector will visit Brentwood in Moline. Normally, the HUD inspections are very thorough. Joe is spending time in Moline preparing for the visit.
- Tri-Valley is working with Enterprise on a fleet management proposal. The proposal is a 3-year program in which Enterprise would manage 40 of our 65 vehicles. The KDOT vehicles would be excluded.
- It is the time of year for the annual state fire marshal inspections. An inspector has already visited Chanute, Humboldt, and Iola. No date is set for inspections in Fort Scott, Neodesha, or Moline.
- Landscaping work is underway at the Duplex located in Chanute. A new privacy fence has been installed. A new concrete driveway has been poured. A gazebo and sidewalk have been added to the back yard.

- In Humboldt, sidewalks have been installed at Mulberry and Pecan. The sidewalk will provide paths to the tornado shelters. Also at Mulberry, we will soon be renovating a shower to make it more accessible.
- In Chanute, the Service Center painting project has been completed.
- In Fort Scott, new vinyl planking was laid at the Service Center. Rooms were also painted.

5.3 Administration

No report was given.

5.4 CEO Report

Bill Fiscus, CEO, updated the board on recent legislative activity as well as vacancies in Foundation homes.

- Since January, InterHab has been lobbying the state legislature for a 10% rate increase in HCBS services in the FY27 state budget. When all was said and done, the Senate included the full 10% increase in their budget. The House included 3% in their budget. Due to the differing amounts, the House and Senate went into Conference Committee. Today, the committee recommended a revision to the numbers as such: FY27 would see a increase of 6% and FY28 would see an increase of 4%. HCBS would receive the 10% increase over a 2-year period. We are hopeful that it will pass through the legislature and be signed into law by the governor.
- Earlier today, Bill met with the Neosho County Commissioners to request county funding for FY26. So far, Neosho County has been the only one to request budget information. Normally, the requests are made in June.
- As of today, we have five openings in foundation homes. The openings are located in Fort Scott, Humboldt, and Moline.
- At the June meeting, the board will nominate and vote upon officers for FY27.

6. Old Business

6.1 Fundraiser Update

Tricia Campbell, Special Projects Coordinator, provided an update to the board for 2026 fundraisers.

- For FY26, Tri-Valley staff have applied for 15 grants and have received 6. The biggest grant comes from Frontier Farm Credit – these funds will be used to upgrade frames and windows at the Fort Scott Greenhouse. Tri-Valley also received funding from the Chanute and Fort Scott Walmart stores to purchase first aid kits. On a side note, shoppers may now donate to Tri-Valley while online shopping on Walmart.com. Tri-Valley is now a member of Walmart's Round Up program.

- The 26th Annual Truck Raffle Drawing is moving along nicely. The prize, a 2026 Dodge Ram 1500, is in our possession. It arrived a few weeks early and we were able to get it last week. So far, we have received 607 entries. The truck will be on display at the Administrative office during good weather.
- On May 1st, the Foundation's Boardwalk BBQ will be held at the SEK Impact Center. This year, staff will utilize a new program which should improve check-in and check-out. Attendees will be able to check-in online as well as bid online for the silent auction. RSVPs will be sent out on Wednesday.
- Upcoming golf tournaments are as follows:
 - June 27th – Fredonia
 - August 1st – Erie
 - September 12th – Fort Scott.

6.2 By-Law Review

During the December meeting, the board reviewed the Foundation By-Laws. Bill introduced a three new changes to the by-laws. The changes dealt with board notification for both regular and special meetings. Language was updated to include virtual meetings as well. Motion made to approve by-laws with changes (Joel P./Jeff). Motion passed.

6.3 Policy Approval

During the December meeting, board members reviewed three policies: Board 7 (Conflict of Interest); Board 8 (Public Comment); and Board 9 (Board Meeting & Agenda Item). Following a review of the proposed changes, Jeff was curious about the time limit for visitors on Board Policy 8. Bill will speak to Kurt Kluin for clarification. Motion made to approve Board 7 (Conflict of Interest) and Board 9 (Board Meeting & Agenda Item) and to table Board 8 (Public Comment) until the June board meeting (Jeff/Joel P.). Motion passed.

6.4 Sale of Land

Darin Luebbering of Advanced System Homes has approached the Foundation about purchasing our two lots in the Osa Martin Heights subdivision. He is offering \$15,000 for each lot; comparable to what the city charges. Due to the final rule, the Foundation is unable to build additional houses on these lots. The lots are costing the Foundation as we pay to keep them mowed and maintained. The board discussed the other possibilities for the lots. Following a brief discussion, Mike Hofer suggested that the Board take the matter under advisement and table it for the moment. Bill will contact the City of Chanute about a trade. Right now, the two lots

are under one deed. Kurt Kluin has the paperwork to separate the lots. Joe suggested that we compare the purchase price of our most recent home to the cost for a new build.

7. New Business

7.1 Fort Scott Housing

In Fort Scott, the Foundation rents to an individual who is very destructive. Staff feel that he would benefit from his own apartment/home. It would be very difficult for him to find rental property. Bill has been working with a local realtor to find a smaller home that would fit his needs. The issue is the price of homes is high – everything we find is above \$70,000. The ideal home would be 800 to 1200 square feet. Joel P. suggested putting a tiny house on a lot. The board agreed that staff should continue to look at potential property.

8. Board Member Reports

None

9. Acceptance of All Donations

For the period between December 1st through February 28th, the Foundation received \$18,100 in donations. Motion made to accept donations in the amount of \$18,100 (Joel P./Sandra). Motion passed.

10. Announcements

- The next board meeting will be June 23, 2026

11. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting (Vic Anderson/Joel P.). Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Eggers

Secretary

4/13/2026

Date