

Hiawatha Community Foundation hires Executive Director

**(KNZA)--The Hiawatha Community Foundation (HCF) has announced the hiring of Deborah Geiger as their first full-time Executive Director.**

**According to a release, the position has been made possible through the Patterson Family Foundation Capacity Building Program established for rural communities and marks the ability for HCF to better serve the community and its nonprofit organizations. Geiger will officially begin her role as Executive Director of HCF on April 1st.**

**The release says HCF is one of 20 affiliates of the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF) and Geiger will be a member of the GMCF development team while focusing on the growth and success of HCF. HCF has previously been led by a volunteer board and will now have a dedicated executive director to not only enhance the impact on the community but also to strengthen community partnerships and support local initiatives. Along with working with the local board, Geiger will also collaborate with GMCF.**

**"HCF Board is excited to have Deborah on board to devote more time to the Foundation and to help the Fund Holders. Also, to help bring on new donors to the Foundation," said HCF Board President Virginia Freese.**

**The release says Geiger's work in nonprofit leadership and entrepreneurship demonstrates her deep commitment to rural development and community engagement. She has led initiatives to improve accessibility and build stronger connections in Atchison and the surrounding region. Living on an organic farm in Robinson with her husband and three children, she brings a hands-on approach to sustainability and collaboration. The release adds her experience and passion for community-driving impact will be a valuable asset to the Hiawatha Community Foundation.**

**"I am so excited to come back to the area. I feel like it is a perfect fit. I am excited to get on board," said Geiger.**

**HCF was founded in 2020 by a group of volunteer community members.**