



***Mission: Reduce limitations to resources through innovative facilities, collaboration and funding to support rural Kansas communities and provide equal opportunity for all***

Welcome to The Reimagine Rural Campaign where the FSL seeks to acquire 350 acres to provide a transformative facility and program expansion that will offer a three-phase ecosystem platform to provide a coordinated network of support. Our facilities will provide a wrap-around support structure that enhances health and well-being, explores creativity, strengthens life skills, improves social emotional development, reduces compassion fatigue and integrates community-based resources that are essential for educating and developing healthy, productive citizens.

**The FSL Is a 501(c)(3) Foundation that helps provide funding, innovation and technical expertise to support underserved Kansas communities and provide opportunity for all. [www.fslhub.org](http://www.fslhub.org)**

The FSL is excited to bring a state-of-the-art facility to rural Kansas where there is truly no place like home. Our family friendly facility is meant for all ages as we are very intentional about quality time and shared experiences. From the minute you arrive you will be integrated into an experiential learning environment where you will explore, create, problem solve, accomplish life skills, fail, succeed and GritThru all while being immersed in real life experiences.

***"Interacting with nature, can increase self-esteem and mood, reduce anger and improve general psychological well-being with positive effects on emotions or behavior" Charlie Hall, Ph.D Texas A&M AgriLife***

**Construction: The Future Service Leaders Foundation Brings You:**

**The ECenter- (phase one) 70,000 sq foot space that includes:**

- **Offices** and Hub Offices for rural collaboration efforts
- **Partner Hub Spaces-** Space for partnered local mental health professionals, 24 hr mental health hotline, mental health navigation efforts, education collaboration spaces, organization collaboration space, local church and community collaboration spaces.
- **Experiential Learning Center-** STEM, Simulation, Gamification, Scenario Based Learning, exploration classrooms, training labs, Interactive Experiences.
- **Conference Center** (seats 300- that can be separated into spaces that can be used by local schools, businesses and community events for retreats, workshops and other events
- **Distance learning center** ( AI Capabilities- Green Screen- Distance learning Opportunities for rural schools to connect to experiences through connectivity.
- **A Culinary Kitchen-** ( equipped with top-of -the line induction cooktops for hands on instruction, classroom, green screen for local televised events, hub kitchen that can be used by church groups, 4-H groups- partnership opportunities with local tech colleges)
- **CTE Hub center** (CTE Experience Labs-) Innovative spaces for expert CTE Instructors to offer the CTE Experiences and classrooms to offer workshops/courses.

## **Agriculture Center- (phase one) sq foot space that includes:**

### **The EFarm 150,000 sq foot that includes**

- **Animal Sanctuary**, (animal hub spaces for experiences)
- **Indoor Arena** (animal therapy spaces)
- Veterinarian Hub Space (for partnership with local Veterinarians and with KSU College of Veterinarian Medicine to work alongside our local youth of all ages)
- Community Gardens
- Agriculture Field Crop Plots (Crop Watch) partnerships with KSU and our local rural schools
- Rural adventure space (for youth to play, dig up worms to fish, build, create) silo rock climbing wall a one of a kind created by Koch Construction with lookout ) nature trails, fishing docks and more. All while surrounded by cattle in the flint hills of Kansas
- **The Pasture Amphitheatre** (small community outdoor theater in the hills. Great opportunity for churches, schools, community members.) This theater will seat 3,000 people (mainly built on with rock by Koch Construction but many seats are directly on the Flint Hills land.

### ***Revolutionizing the connection between schools, families and communities***

The **Rural Vitality Center** will provide transformative facilities where we can offer community members, youth, educators and businesses a pathway to a responsive culture by enriching minds, strengthening life skills, increasing individual self-efficacy and resilience, while reinforcing community connections.

The Rural Vitality Center will provide cultural richness as we have taken advantage of established principles and approaches to effectively meet the needs of today's society and provide sustainable practices that support ecological, human and economic health and vitality for all. Our sustainability approach recognizes that we must meet the needs of our present generation through our interconnected environment without compromising the needs of our future generations to come.

Our location not only offers a break from the hyperconnected society that provides exposure to nature, retreats and summer learning programs, it will also improve attention, lower stress, create better moods, reduce risk of disorders and even improve empathy and cooperation. Psychological research is advancing our understanding of how time in nature can improve our mental health and sharpen our cognition. The **Rural Vitality Center** has found a way to tap into the benefits for both physical and psychological human wellbeing at a time where it is needed more than ever.

**We Encourage** everyone to visit The FSL facilities and experience the innovative **ECenter** services. You will always be enriched in experiences; whether it's hiking, fishing, visiting our nature experience center, our facilities embody rich rural history that will leave you feeling enriched in culture and provide you with an experience of a lifetime.

### **What the Rural Vitality Center contributes to local communities, families and schools**

- A state-of-the-art Rural Vitality Center facility to support rural Kansas communities, business's families and schools.
- Essential mental health hub service spaces that include a 24hr call center, navigation services and experiential therapy options.
- Telemedicine and Distance Learning Capabilities
- Community support services that provides space for such things as summer learning

- opportunities, community events and cross-sector collaboration efforts.
- Educational services that provide space to bridge education equity gaps and hub space for educational resources and learning
  - Community Gardens, Community Kitchens, Food hubs, Greenhouse hub spaces and a unique youth farmers market
  - Grant funding opportunities for our partnered rural communities and schools
  - Supportive fundraising efforts
  - Prioritized resources
  - Job Opportunities
  - Low cost memberships
  - Funding that flows directly back to our local rural communities, families and schools.

## About Educators

The increasing rate of student mental health needs is taking a toll on educators. Furthermore, educators are experiencing what some call a secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, stress and more. Our 24/hr call center and navigation services will bridge gaps in mental health care and education equity.

A majority of American teachers feel stressed at work, according to [a new survey](#) from the American Federation of Teachers — “the number citing poor mental health has jumped alarmingly over the past two years. Experts say resultant costs in human resources and health care spending could amount to billions of dollars. The figures come from the union’s 2017 Educator Quality of Work Life Survey, a poll administered to almost 5,000 teachers and school staff across the country. Results suggest a sizable increase in the number of stressed educators since the poll was last conducted in 2015. 58 percent of respondents described their mental health as “not good” for at least seven of the previous 30 days. Just two years ago, that number was 34 percent.”

## How The Rural Vitality Center Facilities Addresses Needs;

The Rural Vitality Center Facilities provide the opportunity to let go outside the hyperconnected society where educators, families and community members can engage, explore and investigate the wilderness giving them a respite to reinforce positive mental health and personal social-emotional skills. It goes back to the familiar message from the flight attendant, “Adults, please place your oxygen mask on first, then assist the child near you.” Our communities must be given the opportunity to **address personal growth** in order to thrive.

## The ECenter Experiential Services Provide:

- Adventure Activities
- Distance learning
- Nature Activities
- Weekend retreats
- Summer education programs
- Professional Learning
- crisis intervention and problem-solving classes for community members
- mindfulness and meditation retreats
- Low-cost community access
- Advanced courses
- Animal therapy
- Ecotherapy

## **We Are On Our Way to Our Goal!**

For more than a year, The FSL has prepared for The Reimagine Rural Campaign. A feasibility study indicated a phased approach, along with a clear vision would make The Reimagine Rural campaign most successful. Following feasibility, the highly experienced architectural firms of Anderson Knight Architects) were selected for the design: A 70,000 square foot main center - to be known as **The Rural Vitality Center**

Construction: BHS Construction of Manhattan, Kansas will lead the way in our construction as they have worked with over 2000 projects and have a long history of being active in the community and developing strong partnerships. We are excited to work with their incredible team and they help deliver a transformational facility.

**Domenari Capital** differs from the ordinary private equity group as they span the globe in multiple industries. Domenari specialized in financial services in Overland Park Kansas where they became a part of many successes. They are a source for international investments, mergers, acquisitions, finance and private equity funding. In 2018 they finalized over \$100M In project funding and in 2019 they sold IG Malmyzh Copper for \$200M. At this time, they are working on a project in Puerto Rico and are very excited to see where the project leads. Domenari is in full support of the Rural Vitality Project and we are very grateful to not only have their backing but also to have their financial support.

"The current economic crisis in the United States requires a renewed commitment to investing in rural communities in order to ensure that they have a prominent place in this country's future. The onset of the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic crisis further exposed the vulnerability of rural communities. We cannot continue to drain rural areas of their resources and wealth as it continues to make the overall economy less resilient." ~Olugbenga Ajilore

Investing in rural people is a long-term solution to many problems we face today, lack of mental health services, education equity, poverty, unemployment and more. Each of these things can be improved by rural development to assist in strengthening rural economies with attractive prospects for young people so that they can stay in Kansas.

The **FSL** has created a rural-urban linkage that works. The interaction between rural and urban areas are important for social and economic development. The **Rural Vitality Center** focuses on enhancing the service delivery of our rural ecosystem that will benefit both rural and urban areas. Our partnerships with business leaders, schools, communities and organizations, provide a resourceful and progressive environment. The **Rural Vitality Center** provides opportunities through our infrastructure and The **ECenter** services will offer shared resources that build and sustain strong rural-urban linkage.

The **FSL** will set the stage for raising the profile in rural investment as we create an abundance of opportunity to assist in the change and growth of our members. When you invest in the **FSL** you invest in rural and urban communities. Our road to the future is integrated with virtual and collaborative activity. Collaboration will remain a major factor in supporting our members as we connect resources and elements to provide a system of care that is available to our members.

Thank you for your support,

