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Media Contact:

Amy Miller

Co-Chair/Greeley Community Pride

785-304-2002

amyjo106106@gmail.com

Greeley Community Pride Joins Empower Kansas to Strengthen Community and Economic Development

Greeley, Kan. — Greeley Community Pride has joined Empower Kansas for 2026–2027, becoming part of a statewide network of volunteer-led organizations working to strengthen Kansas communities through locally driven projects, partnerships and community engagement.

Through Empower Kansas, Greeley Community Pride will build on existing community momentum while identifying opportunities to improve quality of place, encourage local investment and create a community where residents, businesses and families can thrive.

For 2026–2027, the group plans to focus on:

- Downtown beautification
- Public space cleanliness
- Procuring park improvement funds
- Community and wayfinding signage

These locally identified priorities can strengthen the community while supporting economic development. Investments in downtowns, public spaces, housing, local businesses, community events and other quality-of-place initiatives can encourage private investment, support existing businesses, attract visitors and help communities retain residents and compete for workers and entrepreneurs.

Greeley Community Pride is already building on local momentum through a kick-off community appreciation and signup event to be held on October First at Berea Hall.

This organization was formed by local residents and city leaders who recognized the need for a unified effort to revitalize shared spaces and strengthen community involvement. Originally founded in 2001 by Dorothy Lickteig, the group led several highly successful years of community engagement, earning Greeley the **Community of Excellence** designation in **2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2006**. Although the organization eventually fell by the wayside, there is now a renewed interest in restoring its mission and momentum. Today, Greeley Community Pride is committed to making our city a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming place for all to enjoy — and ensuring that anyone who visits Greeley experiences the pride, hospitality, and small-town character that define our community.

Empower Kansas connects communities across the state so local leaders and volunteers can share ideas, learn from successful projects and bring new approaches back home. By strengthening the connection between community development and economic development, communities can build places where people want to live, work, visit and invest.

“Every community that joins Empower Kansas strengthens the statewide network,” said Matt Godinez, Assistant Secretary of Quality Places at the Kansas Department of Commerce. “The real value comes from communities learning from one another, sharing solutions and taking successful ideas back home. When communities invest in themselves and strengthen their quality of place, they are also strengthening their ability to retain residents, support businesses and compete for future economic opportunities.”

The initiative traces its roots to Kansas PRIDE and more than five decades of locally driven community improvement in Kansas. While the program has evolved over the years, its focus on empowering local residents to identify priorities and take action has remained central to its mission.

“It’s exciting to see not only the number of communities growing, but the initiative itself continuing to grow and evolve,” said Doug Helmke, president of the Empower Kansas Board. “Communities are different, and they don’t all need the same things. Empower Kansas allows flexibility. We allow groups to serve where they see their biggest need is. That flexibility is what will allow this initiative to continue serving Kansas communities for years to come.”

Residents, businesses and community organizations interested in supporting Greeley Community Pride's Empower Kansas efforts are encouraged to get involved.

The group meets the 2nd Tuesday of every quarter at Berea Hall at 6 pm. For more information or to volunteer, contact Amy Miller or Tyler Rockers

About Empower Kansas

Founded in 1970 by Governor Robert Docking, the initiative now known as Empower Kansas has its roots in Kansas PRIDE and a longstanding partnership involving the State of Kansas, Kansas PRIDE, Inc., and K-State Extension. This grassroots initiative is built on self-reliance, volunteerism and a shared commitment to improving quality of place.

Empower Kansas supports volunteer-led efforts that strengthen communities, encourage local engagement and help create places where people want to live, work, visit and invest.

For more information, visit KansasCommerce.gov/kce.