Dear Ambassador Friends,

Have you ever heard, quoted or reflected upon the following sayings: “There is a light at the end of every tunnel” “There is a rainbow at the end of every storm” or “When it’s dark, look for stars?”

Sometimes, we may only focus on these days of decreasing budgets, increasing responsibilities, greater need for accountability and reporting on our tremendous programming, at the same time helping Oklahoma’s families, youth and individuals develop and grow in safe and healthy ways through research-based education.

However, I would like to remind us that we have a “light”/ “rainbow”/and “stars.” I am referring to the Cooperative Extension-Family and Consumer Science Ambassador organization. Ambassadors (which includes the Margaret Edsel Fitch Fellowship and Dorothy Blackwell awards) can provide Extension staff funding for projects, programs, and travel opportunities and Extension recognition for jobs well done to groups, individuals and teams. Funding is also available to OHCE members for projects and programs.

We are thankful that the CE-FCS Ambassador organization has grown from a small cadre of individuals (the charter members) into a statewide organization of supporters committed to enhancing the economic and personal well-being of Oklahoma families and youth through research-based information. In other words, “making a difference in the lives of Oklahomans.” Last fall, there were changes in the bylaws which have caused necessary changes in some of the committees’ work. As we adapt to these changes, let us be thankful that we have this valuable asset as we “Press On!”

Yours respectfully,
Jan Maples
Ambassadors President 2017-2018

Dear FCS Ambassadors:

I want to thank those of you who replied to our survey regarding ideas for growing the FCS Ambassadors Fund through charitable giving. If you have not completed it, please do so at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ES-FCS We really want to hear from you. Our goal is to grow the Ambassadors endowed fund to at least $1,000,000. We are very pleased with the hard work done during the auction time at the OHCE Annual Meeting in OKC this year. Thank you for participating. In Extension, we are open to ideas as to how to grow in a time of reduced state budgets. Please feel free to reach out to me at Jorge.atiles@okstate.edu. Enjoy the Fall!

Jorge H. Atiles
Associate Dean, Extension & Engagement
Assistant Director, Cooperative Extension-FCS
New [Fiscal] Year = New Opportunity

The CE-FCS Ambassadors began their new fiscal year on July 1, 2018. This gives us an opportunity to double-check if we individually, as a county OHCE group, or as a business, etc. have made our donation to the Ambassadors organization. These donations support the educational endeavors of Ambassadors that benefit Oklahoma families and youth.

In addition, you may also wish to remember special people in your life or thank someone for their service by making a memorial contribution or an "In Honor Of" contribution to Ambassadors. Contributions may be made online or donation forms may be downloaded from the Ambassador website - https://humansciences.okstate.edu/fcs/ and click on "Ambassadors."

Jan Maples/Dana Baldwin

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is working to finalize the slate of officer candidates for the following offices:
• Vice President
• Five Directors

The election for these positions will be held during the Annual Meeting.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting if prior approval from the nominee has been obtained.

If you are interested in being an Ambassador Officer or know someone who would make a great leader in our organization, please email janna.kelley@okstate.edu. By December 15th.

Dana Baldwin
Major County FCS/4-H Educator & CED
CE-CFS Ambassadors Public Relations & Promotions Chair:

Ambassadors Treasurer

Dates to remember for board / committee members:
Budget requests need to be turned in to me by January 10, 2019. These budget requests are for the July 1, 2019 – June 20, 2020 fiscal year. The board will have to approve the budget at our face-to-face meeting in January or early February 2019.

If you have any questions about your budget, you can call or e-mail me at any time.

Pamela Varner
State Ambassadors Treasurer

SAVE THE DATE!

CE-FCS Ambassador’s Annual Meeting will be held during the OEA FCS Annual Conference in Oklahoma City, April 16-18, 2019.

At this time the exact date and time has not been determined. So, please mark your calendar and more information will be in the February 2019 newsletter.

LaDonna Hines, Vice-President
Ensure a Bright Future by Helping Build the Endowments

**Ambassador General Fund**
You can support the educational endeavors of Ambassadors that benefit Oklahoma families and youth by making a contribution. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

I pledge: $ _______ to be paid _____ monthly _____ quarterly _____ annually.

Enclosed is a check for $_______ payable to OSU Foundation/CE-FCS Ambassadors.

Charge to my credit card __________________________

________________________ Brand

card # expiration date

Signature __________________________

Name __________________________________

Address __________________________________

Phone ___________________________________

This gift is in memory of:

___________________________________________

This gift is in honor of:

___________________________________________

Send an acknowledgement of my gift to:

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

Return to: Ambassadors Fund, 135 HS, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-6111

**Margaret Edsel Fitch Extension Fellowship**
The Fellowship provides a mini-sabbatical experience for OCE-FCS staff to study a relevant program in another state or country. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

I pledge: $ _______ to be paid _____ monthly _____ quarterly _____ annually.

Enclosed is a check for $_______ payable to OSU Foundation/CE-FCS Fitch Fellowship

________________________

Name

Address

Phone

This gift is in memory of:

___________________________________________

This gift is in honor of:

___________________________________________

Send an acknowledgement of my gift to:

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

Return to: M.E. Fitch Fellowship, 135 HS, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-6111

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Awards and Grants

Congratulations to all the 2018 CE-FCS Ambassador’s grant recipients. A total of 20 grants worth $31,087 were given for this grant cycle. Believe it or not, there was still money left to give if there had been more grant applications submitted.

The good news …you have just a little more time to think about projects you have been dreaming about providing for your county or state project. With the change of CE-FCS Ambassadors to a fiscal calendar (July 1 – June 30), you have six additional months to plan, investigate and write up an application. The 2019/2020 grant applications will be due on January 10, 2019. Announcements of successful grants will take place in the spring, with project implementation and spending between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Put on your thinking caps for ideas the CE-FCS Ambassadors can help you achieve in the future. All grant applications can be found at http://ambassadors.okstate.edu/grants. All applications should be sent to Sonya McDaniel by the January 10th deadline. Early applications will be accepted, however no early awards or funding will be permitted.

Here is a list of grant categories to help get you started.

- County Grants (eight available) = $750 each
- OHCE County Grants (five available) = $800 each
- State Specialist Grant (can fund more than one) = $3,000 cap for category
- Mult-County Grant (three available) = $1,000 each
- Blackwell Legacy Award (one available) = $15,000 up to three year project
- Blackwell Supplemental Award (one available) = $1,000
- Margaret Edsel Fitch Fellowship (can fund more than one) = $11,000 cap for category

Outstanding Individual OCES Staff = $500
Outstanding Team Award (up to five people) = $500
Outstanding Group Award (more than five people) = $500

Applicants Needed for FCS Honor Awards

We have many qualified educators, teams and groups who could easily win this award. Besides, it would look great for your career ladder! The Honor Awards available are Individual; Team (up to five people); and Group (more than five people). The winner in each category will receive $500.00. Applications are due January 10, and are available at: http://ambassadors.okstate.edu/grants

Attention 2018 Grant Recipients – Big Change for Reporting Impact!

Those who received grant funds for 2018 will need to spend their funds prior to December 31, 2018. Written grant reports should be submitted by February 1, 2019 and sent to Dr. Jorge Atiles 135 HSCI Stillwater, OK 74078 or e-mailed to kimberly.nolting@okstate.edu

Due to the change in program year, the 2018 grant recipients will provide program displays at the 2019 OHCE State Meeting on Tuesday, July 9. These displays will be in the main hall of the conference center throughout the day with a slide show of program results showing during the Tuesday Luncheon.

Thank you for your cooperation during this transition year!