



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDED GRANT FROM JONES TRUST FOR WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

TOPEKA, KS—The Kansas Historical Society announced it has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the W.S. & E.C. Jones Trust, Bank of America, Trustee, to be used at the William Allen White House State Historic Site in Emporia. The grant will be paid in five annual \$20,000 installments.

The Historical Society will use the funds to expand the site's audience base through school. Historical Society Executive Director Jennie Chinn said, "We have a vision of sharing the story of William Allen White and his legacy with Kansas students. This generous gift from the Jones Trust helps us make that vision a reality."

The Historical Society operates the site in cooperation with the non-profit William Allen White Community Partnership. WAWCP President Tom Eblen echoed Chinn's excitement by saying, "This generous gift ensures that future generations of Kansans will continue to discover and appreciate the impact William Allen White had on Kansas and American history."

Walter and Evan Jones were raised on a farm near Lebo in Coffey County. They formed a partnership, Jones, and Jones, which grew to three when Walter married Olive Taylor in 1911. Walter managed the buying and selling of cattle, Evan supervised the cowhands oversaw the ranch, and Olive kept the books. Walter died in 1953, and Evan followed a few months later. Olive died in 1957. The brothers' wills provided that their estate be left in a trust, the income from which would be used for providing medical assistance for needy children in Lyon, Coffey, and Osage counties. Education benefits were added in 1961 and in 1974, the W.S. and E.C. Jones Foundation was established to manage the administration of grant requests for medical and educational programs.

The William Allen White House State Historic Site is a National Historic Landmark and is one of 16 state historic sites operated by the Kansas Historical Society. The home is open for tours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday - Saturday and 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and groups of 10 or more, \$2 for students; and free for KSHS, Inc. members, active military, and children five and under. Additional contributions to the Kansas Historical Society can be made through the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., the non-profit organization which supports the Historical Society through fundraising and retail operations. The Kansas Historical Society, organized in 1875, was established at the outset as a public-private collaboration.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.

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