

V I S T A S



ADDRESS

From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director
WEDNESDAY MORNING August 9, 2017
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3



The **NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY** celebration on Saturday, July 22, at the Flint Hills Discovery Center and Blue Earth Plaza in Manhattan was attended by over 1,000 guests. This was the 4th year that the Discovery Center has joined in this celebration recognizing Cowboy culture and heritage.

A special thanks to this year's premier sponsors **Dan and Beth Bird** of Manhattan for making this event possible.

Children and adults enjoyed buckboard rides, panning for gold, blacksmithing, branding, and roping. Everyone had the opportunity to learn about cowboys and their tools of the trade, the Buffalo Soldiers, rope making, Cowboy poetry, gun slinging and rope spinning. We'll see you all again next year, Happy Trails!

Duty First: 100 Years of the Big Red One, is a stunning and powerful new exhibit opening in August at the Discovery Center. The Center was chosen by the U.S. Office of Military Affairs to showcase the Army's 1st Infantry Division, the **Big Red One**, in celebrating its 100-year history.

The **DUTY FIRST** exhibit opens Saturday, August 26, 2017 and runs through January 14, 2018 in the **Tallgrass Gallery** and the **Mezzanine** area of the **Discovery Center**. This exhibit is a collaboration between the Discovery Center, the Fort Riley Museum Complex, and the Center of Military History. Guests from across America and around the world are expected to visit the exhibit during this time. The Big Red One is the first U.S. Army division to reach a century of service. The **Flint Hills** Fort Riley post became home to the Big Red One in the 1970's. **Sponsors for this exhibit are Visit Manhattan, Col. (Retired) Charles & Merry Rayl and Briggs Auto Group.** We salute all those who currently serve and who have served in the Big Red One. We appreciate your service and sacrifice!

2017 marks the 5th anniversary of the Flint Hills Discovery Center! The concept for the Center started nine years before that, and it was only through the hard work and vision of many that this iconic community cornerstone was made possible. The Flint Hills and tallgrass prairie – its people, heritage and ecosystem – is unique and the Discovery Center serves as America’s “introduction” to all of it. More than 80,000 visitors-representing every state in the union and numerous foreign countries were drawn to downtown Manhattan last year because of the Discovery Center.

The development of the Flint Hills Discovery Center was an essential component triggering an additional \$80 million in development on the south side of Manhattan. Much needed hotels and restaurants were added to our community. In addition, condo and apartment developments have brought year-round residents and many young professionals to downtown Manhattan. Our success as a community has drawn representatives of other cities to Manhattan to learn how it was done. We hope every resident of Manhattan takes pride in what has been accomplished in our great city.

- Bruce Snead, Foundation Board President.

Dr. Charles Rice, KSU Distinguished Professor in Agronomy, and FHDC Foundation Board Member has been awarded the International Agronomy Award from the American Society of Agronomy and the International Soil Science Award from the Soil Science Society of America. Charles will receive the awards this fall in Tampa, FL. Charles’ research has included such areas as climate control changes. Charles helped author reports about climate change in 2007 and 2014. For his work in these areas, Charles was among the scientists recognized when their report won the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 2007. During the course of his research Charles has visited over 33 countries and has also been invited to do presentations and provide mentoring. Charles is exceptionally well known for his research on the impacts of climate change on agriculture and soil carbon and nitrogen cycles. Charles and his wife Sue are long time Manhattan residents. Congratulations Charles and thank you for your service to the FHDC Foundation!

DID YOU KNOW? Did you know that Americans donated \$390 Billion in 2016? That’s right, \$390 Billion. This country is incredibly generous! According to *Giving USA* for more than a decade, **individual Americans** have donated more than 72% of the annual total. In 2016 individual Americans donated \$281 Billion. **Individuals** donated another 8% or \$30 Billion as bequests (at death gifts). Foundations and trusts donated 15% or \$59 Billion and businesses donated 5% or \$19 Billion. The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation is grateful to everyone who has made it the focus of their charitable giving. Thanks to your charitable gifts, the FHDC Foundation is helping build an ever more dynamic and vibrant Discovery Center.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

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The VISTAS MEMO is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. We thank and celebrate all those investing in the Center’s unique and dynamic mission.

