Hoping to inspire donors to leave money for charities when they die, the Tulsa Community Foundation announced Tuesday that it will give $1 million in matching grants for "planned giving."

Forty-four nonprofit organizations across eastern Oklahoma will receive $20,000 now for every $100,000 that people pledge to bequeath to them, officials said.

The Planned Giving Challenge is the first and apparently only program of its kind, said Phil Lakin Jr., CEO of the Tulsa Community Foundation.

"If anyone else is doing it, they got the idea from us," he said. "And that sets us apart again as America's most generous community."

It's part of a wider effort to help local nonprofit organizations think strategically about their futures.

"We tend to think always about our immediate needs and immediate donations," said Derk Tenzythoff, senior vice president of resource development for the Tulsa Area United Way. "This challenge was to take a long-term view."

The nonprofit groups collectively hope to raise more than $4.5 million in planned giving, officials said.

They have already received $300,000 in pledges toward that goal.

Each nonprofit group will have until Dec. 31, 2013, to meet its Planned Giving Challenge.

Lori McGinnis-Madland, executive director of Tulsa Street School, said: "It helps us ensure the long-term future of our school. The beauty of it is, once we have secured this future funding, we'll have hard dollars, too, for administrative costs right now."

The Tulsa Community Foundation grants were made possible by a donation from the George Kaiser Family Foundation.

Forty-four grant-qualifying organizations listed

Nonprofit organizations that have qualified for Planned Giving Challenge grants:

Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma, Bishop Kelley High School, Camp Fire USA Green Country Council, Tulsa CASA, Cascia Hall Foundation, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Tulsa, the Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges, Child Abuse Network, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Counseling & Recovery Services of Oklahoma, CREOKS Mental Health Services, Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless, DVIS/Call Rape, Family & Children's Services, Gatesway...
Tulsa Community Foundation unveils matching grant program for nonprofit groups


**Original Print Headline: Foundation offers matching grants**

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**Associated Images:**

Tulsa Community Foundation CEO Phil Lakin Jr. talks with agency leaders Tuesday about the foundation's matching grants for their programs. STEPHEN PINGRY/Tulsa World