



Bucklin Community Better Life Foundation 2025 Year End Review

The Bucklin Community Better Life Foundation had another successful year from carrying out various projects and fulfilling our first grant cycle!

Work continued at the City Park with the remaining playground pieces that could be renovated. This was made possible through remaining grant funds that were actively applied for and awarded, matching funds through BCBLF and gracious donations. Ben Vigness Welding's team did a great job bringing these pieces back to life so they can be enjoyed for several more years to come.

If you've been to the park recently, you might have noticed a BRAND-NEW addition! A new, "rumble" slide was ordered and installed to replace an old fiberglass slide that couldn't be repaired. This is the first new piece of playground equipment installed at the park since the large jungle gym in the early 2000's. Once again, BCBLF actively sought out partnership with the Southwest Kansas Community Foundation through their grant cycle to help make this possible supplying matching funds. A big shoutout to the Bucklin City employees for their help assembling and installing this fun, new piece of equipment.

The proceeds of the 2025 Annual Cash Raffle fulfilled BCBLF's financial commitments to the award winners of the first annual grant cycle; USD 459 PTO, Bucklin Library, and City of Bucklin. The PTO's concrete projects have made it easier for afternoon school pick-up with the new sidewalk in the playground area connecting the school to Grace Street as well as an extended concrete pad by the concessions area at the football field for the grill. The Library was able to offer a fun-filled summer program schedule throughout the summer, encouraging learning and literacy to children while not in school. And lastly, BCBLF helped finish the city's fundraising efforts for Bucklin residents to enjoy a freshly relined city pool!

We are eagerly planning and selling tickets for this year's cash raffle which will be held on February 27, with a fun, new addition of HiFi Production's Dueling Piano act! We're excited to be bringing a new entertainment offering to Bucklin as part of this event! While the cash prizes are the same, we have some new recipients of the proceeds along with a previous recipient:

- The Fire Department, for a new communication system.
- The Recreation Commission for new pieces of equipment to continue with the renovations of the community gym.
- Lastly, funding in full the summer reading programming at the library again.

The Christmas season was especially bright and festive with BCBLF sponsoring the first-place prize for the first ever Bucklin Christmas light contest. With over a dozen contestants and a couple of hundred votes, it was a great success! Rudolph also made another visit in Bucklin this year and proved to be a bit trickier to track down each day during his stay. Between these two holiday activities, over \$400 of Bucklin Bucks were distributed into the community, besides just being fun!

Thank you, Bucklin, for your continued support and we welcome new members and new ideas at any time of the year! A perfect time to join is during our annual meeting which is held in early April each year.