To: All Members of Overland Park Rotary Club

Subject: Overland Park Rotary Prairie Playground and Tot-Lot at the Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead, 138th and Nieman Road, Overland Park

Date: November 18, 2014

First a short recap of our Club’s involvement with the Farmstead’s Prairie Playground.

In 2013 our Club’s Foundation approved a $10,000 per year challenge grant for each of three years to update and enhance this Rotary Club’s Prairie Playground and add a Tot-Lot for those under three years old. The matching fund challenge was contingent on our membership pledging a like amount. Total receipts for the 2013 membership campaign were $12,300, of which $2,967 was prepaid for 2014 and 2015 (divided as $1,533 for 2014 and $1,433 for 2015). Thus actual gifts applicable to last year totaled $9,333. The $667 shortfall was taken from the prepaid 2014 pledges. This left us with $1,533 prepay for this year.

As of November 1, 2014, sixteen members have paid $3,550 for this year. $1,533 from last year’s prepay by eleven members brings the total to $5,083.

Next we have an additional eighteen 2014 pledges from last year’s effort totaling $3,050, which would raise our total to $8,133, or less than $2,000 will meet our 2014 goal assuming all those who pledged are able to do so.

So, if you’ve been to the Farmstead this past season, you know how popular the Rotary Prairie Playground and Tot-Lot is. This appeal is for new members and others who did not participate last year to do so now. Of course additional gifts from those who would like to help get us over this goal would be helpful and appreciated.

Can we count on you?

Katherine Howell
Overland Park Rotary, President
Fellow Rotarians:

A little over ten years ago our Rotary Club and Foundation gave a generous gift of $42,000.00 for the Prairie Playground at the Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead. Our Overland Park Rotary sponsored playground is now an integral part of an exceptional family attraction.

The Farmstead was started about thirty-three years ago, and is now one of Greater Kansas City’s top ten attractions. Attendance was over a record 460,000 this year.

Four members of our Rotary Club are directly involved with the Deanna Rose Farmstead. They are Kate Allen, David Morgenson, Dean Dyer and Ben Craig. They observed an unmet need in the playground area. Thanks to our members and our Foundation, that need has been met with the addition of a tractor and Tot-Lot.

Our Foundation committed to provide $20,000 per year for three years and the 2013 payment was made last year. The 2014 payment has also been made on the Foundation Board’s confidence that our members will fulfill the $10,000 challenge grant.

**Individual PLEDGE Form**

In order to assist, on a matching fund basis, our Foundation in providing enhancements to the Overland Park Rotary Club Prairie Playground located at the Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead, including the addition of a Tot-Lot for toddlers 3-years old and younger, I hereby pledge my financial support as follows:

Annual payment of $__________ for ________ years.
($50 - $250) (1 or 2) (2014-2015)

Further, I understand that payment(s) are to be made payable to the Overland Park Rotary Foundation (a 501(c) 3 entity) not later than December 15 for each year to which I commit, and that an appropriate receipt for tax purposes will be provided.

**Please return to our Club Registration Table c/o the Club Foundation**

Date: ____________________

Rotarian’s Signature ____________________

Print Name ____________________

Please remember our Overland Park Rotary Foundation in your will or IRA gift.
Deanna Rose Farmstead celebrates a busy year

"People are motivated by the weather, and we had beautiful weather this past season," she said.

The farmstead is open seven months of the year, April 1 through Oct. 31.

The 12-acre Farmstead opened in 1978; it was renamed in 1985 to honor Deanna Rose, the first Overland Park police officer killed in the line of duty.

The Friends of the Farmstead, part of the Arts & Recreation Foundation of Overland Park, is a nonprofit group that helps raise funds for future projects and programs at the Farmstead. The group helps to run 41 fund-raising events each year at the venue.

The Friends group runs two major fundraisers for the Farmstead. The 15th annual Pumpkin Hollow took place from Sept. 24 through Halloween, drawing more than 22,000 people. The Pumpkin Hollow featured a horse-drawn wagon ride through the farm to a "patch" with each person taking home a pumpkin. The event included a hay ride, hay maze, and more.

The second event, Night of the Living Farm, was held over two consecutive weekends in October. Now in its 18th year, the Night of the Living Farm featured of Masquerade and carved pumpkins walking a path for the children to search for their next prize.

Hayrides were a popular attraction at Deanna Rose Farmstead in Overland Park.

"This past year, Friends of the Farmstead completed Main Street with the building of John's Blacksmith Shop, Ray's Barbershop, and Pat's Photography Parlor," Sirridge said.

The group offered a new fundraising event this year, Moonshine on the Farm, which took place Sept. 6. It was our first adults-only fundraiser, Sirridge said. "Guests enjoyed live bands, dancing, dinner, lawn games, hay rides and much more."

Sirridge said although the farmstead officially closed for the season on Nov. 1, there is one special event coming up. The Holiday Lights on Farmstead Lape starts the evening of Thanksgiving and runs through Jan. 3. The public is invited to see the lights, which are outside of the farmstead's gates.

While the farmstead is closed, work continues, including cleanup and maintenance activities as well as taking care of some of the farm animals, including some baby goats due in January. The farmstead will reopen for the next season on April 1.