

Communities Foundation of Oklahoma

March 12, 2025 Discussion

Historical Record & Audio-Derived Transcript

Community Opportunity Initiative • Historical Exhibit 06

This document preserves the March 12, 2025 conversation that preceded the 2026 Brian Crawford Memorial Community Opportunity Initiative. It is included to document the origin of the inquiry, not to suggest that Communities Foundation of Oklahoma endorsed the later framework.

Document Context

On March 12, 2025, Kenneth Crawford contacted Communities Foundation of Oklahoma in connection with the existing Brian Crawford Memorial Scholarship relationship and a broader concept involving youth opportunity, nonprofit collaboration, endowments, community benefit and the developing Baseball Heaven research.

During the call, CFO staff discussed bringing appropriate internal personnel into a later conversation, described a philanthropic-services pathway and fiscal sponsorship, and indicated that if the concept was not a fit for CFO, the organization might be able to identify someone for whom it was a better fit.

Historical Boundary

This is a 2025 record. It should not be read through the lens of the fully developed 2026 Community Opportunity Initiative. The conversation documents an early concept and an invitation to continue exploring it; it does not document a CFO commitment, approval, sponsorship, funding decision or endorsement.

Source & Transcript Note

Source: audio transcript dated March 12, 2025. The supplied transcription labels all speech segments as "Unknown," so this document does not assign every statement to a named speaker. The automated transcript also contains apparent recognition errors, including names and organizational terms. To preserve the historical record, the transcript text below is presented substantially as supplied rather than silently rewritten. Readers should consult the original audio if exact wording or speaker attribution becomes material.

Conversation Overview

Topic	What appears in the March 2025 record
Memorial & scholarship	Existing Brian Crawford Memorial Scholarship relationship and the family history behind the work.
Community service	Crawford described creating graphics/canvas memorials for grieving families as an outgrowth of his own experience.
Baseball Heaven / research	An early version of the research concept was presented as a possible Oklahoma nonprofit/community model.
Partnership question	The call explored whether future nonprofit/public/philanthropic partnerships and endowment structures warranted discussion.
CFO pathway	CFO staff discussed philanthropic services, fiscal sponsorship, internal expertise and referrals to other organizations if appropriate.
Next step discussed	CFO staff proposed starting an email chain and scheduling additional conversation; the later substantive partnership discussion did not occur.

Audio-Derived Transcript

The timestamps and text below follow the supplied transcript. Speaker labels remain unassigned because the source identifies them as "Unknown."

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;52;23

Please hold while I try to connect you to Amber with Foundations of Oklahoma. Used to be Lauren and see us on scholarships. This is Amber. Good morning, Amber, this is Kenneth Crawford. How you doing? Good. How are you? I'm doing good. We have the Bryan Crawford Memorial Scholarship. Yes. And so I'm the dad, Kenneth. So. All right. I was wanting to see touch base with the Community Foundation, Community Communities, Foundations of Oklahoma, and find out more about opportunity.

00;00;52;26 - 00;01;27;19

Last year, or possibly in late 20, 23. You guys are per your request. I met with the, uh, Mattie Foundation and talked with them a little bit out of more at a moore, Oklahoma, you know, visit with them and and stuff like that. And I have a doctoral study in progress about my journey and Brian's memorial and the state.

00;01;27;20 - 00;02;06;02

Wow. And in the state of Oklahoma and youth sports and opportunities. And you know why we don't have that in Oklahoma. And I've developed if you have a second. If not, I mean, we can do we can touch base. So over the years, you know, part of my my therapy is, you know, when I would see a young baseball player or softball player or high school or somebody that's been tragically killed or committed suicide or whatever, you know, I would do graphic collages and send canvas prints to the parents.

00;02;06;04 - 00;02;25;29

A lot of them here in Oklahoma because of the grieving, you know, of what I went through. You know, I mean, I know that, you know, when it's all you know, everything is confusion. But when the confusion settles down, everybody's gone, but the family doesn't move on. And so, you know, I provide that, you know, just, you know, somebody cares.

00;02;25;29 - 00;03;07;12

Anyway, I've developed this concept called baseball heaven, and I've researched this extensive heavily and have data analysis for a doctoral study to to show how a nonprofit can prosper. And so I didn't I know that, you know, the community, you know, the investments and all that, you know, as far as you know, you know, we we have an endowment, you know, in turn, you know, it's managed, you know, in a mass fund, basically for the return every year.

00;03;07;15 - 00;03;45;11

But I'm wondering, you know, in that deep down business side of it, is there an opportunity for something here in Oklahoma, a nonprofit based in a facility? If the data shows that, you know, you know, I have I have I have a lot of resources to build something here in the state of Oklahoma, including capital funding. But, you know, this is all a result of my journey, not because something I want to do, but I think it's right.

00;03;45;12 - 00;04;20;14

I think it's something more than the I think it has something to do with, you know, all of our all of our parents here in Oklahoma, you know, that are going through something, you know. So I didn't know if there was a possibility for future discussions, you know, on on, you know, a partnership, a nonprofit nonprofit, you know, a public public partnership, you know, down the road between, you know, community foundations and Bryan Grove Memorial to for, you know, everything to go back into endowments.

00;04;20;16 - 00;04;44;04

Okay. Yeah. And and, you know, and I know that, you know, families are probably, you know, I mean, they've reached out to me. I mean, they're searching for something, you know, And that's, again, you know, my thought, you know, a few years back called baseball heaven, you know, and I have a website and I have a I have extensive 25 years of study.

00;04;44;05 - 00;05;10;05

I mean, when Brian passed away, this is all I've done. And so and so I've extensively researched about everything you can the state of Oklahoma and why it why it won't work, why it hasn't worked and how it will work. You know, I mean, part of the doctoral study problem, you know, problem solution. So that's what I that's what I have.

00;05;10;05 - 00;05;33;28

And I would love to visit with, you know, with you guys, you know, on a you know, just a sit down maybe or a conference call or something, you know, to to show you exactly what my study entails and to see if there is a possible, you know, relationship for our communities, our kids. You know, that that puts that puts back into endowments.

00;05;34;00 - 00;06;16;22

Mm hmm. Yeah, we definitely would love to have that conversation and see. And of course, my role is really, you know, pretty focused and taken with the scholarship program. Yes, we have a lot of different departments. And so I could absolutely pulled together. Um, yeah. The right people to kind of have that conversation and and the group as well connected to that that happens to be something that, you know we're not 100% sure if it's fit for us, we probably would know someone who it would be.

00;06;16;22 - 00;06;46;27

But I yeah I after I just got up here and went back to so I will so you can look at you can look at a couple I mean I don't know which one you have but if you have a Brian Crawford memorial dot com and then, and then I have another one that I've I've started doing my research and you know I, I started documented on a website you know but then I've built an app that has it all but you can look at baseball heaven dot net right?

00;06;47;00 - 00;07;09;11

And that's, that's my, you know, my, my, my madness, you know, behind everything in the research, you know, I mean, this thing will work, there's no doubt about it, you know. But, you know, the ripple effect of the research and the deep down, you know, roots of everything here in the state of Oklahoma doesn't facilitate that. I mean, it we need we need legislative reforms.

00;07;09;11 - 00;07;40;15

What we need. And and so, you know, it's the you know, but I have an app, you know, if you have a if you have an area that has where you I can do a screencast uh, I can, I can show anybody everything about my study and show, you know, you know and, and you know be and be informative, you know, it's not in I mean, it has to be a strict partnership, you know, an equal value, you know, I mean that's what, that's what we need so that I think I can help.

00;07;40;15 - 00;08;31;06

I really do. And I think you guys can help as well in all over Oklahoma communities. Um, yeah, Well, we try to we've tried to reach statewide, so that definitely something that is important to us. Would and would department would would you be referred me to by chance. I don't know a whole lot about um, yeah. You know, so we have a, um, we have a philanthropic services team and they are kind of like the first people to talk to when someone is, you know, thinking about, you know, kind of that very first step of, I know something needs to be done, whether it is to create a nonprofit, which we actually we will have

00;08;31;08 - 00;08;57;23

and we do fiscal sponsorships. And what that basically is, is it's, you know, it's a lot to get your 523. It costs money, it takes time. And so we actually hold as the sponsorships for people and sometimes run like the accounting portion kind of of their Oh really? That's an organization. Yeah. So that might be a good fit.

00;08;57;25 - 00;09;17;03

And another I think you meaning that first off teams and then Sarah has other expertise to kind of be like, yeah, I think that could be a really good partnership or Hey, I'm not sure we have the resources you need, but like here, you know, let me connect you. So I think I think she's probably the right person, right?

00;09;17;06 - 00;09;45;29

See, and I would love to sit in too, just because, you know, we we do your scholarship. And so I think it'd be good for me to learn, too. Well, you know, I mean, if you look, there's another another website that's out there that, you know, through, you know, the 20, 25 years journey, you know, in in really understanding the business side of everything, you can look at a complex that we helped build and it's called the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex.

00;09;46;02 - 00;10;10;22

We built we helped build it. And wow. Yeah. And, you know, when the College Education Foundation decided to go a different direction, we haven't had any contact with them. And so we have the naming rights on that. But, you know, and and that's the business side of it. You know, I mean, the general public man, that's awesome. I mean, I still get calls.

00;10;10;22 - 00;10;34;26

I mean, what we did there was was beautiful and awesome, you know, But it was a 25 year journey. You know, And so that's why, you know, you know, I dug deeper and deeper into research, developed my, you know, thought on baseball heaven, you know, and and you know, have a talking with the families, you know, like the I'll think of his I'll think of their name here in a second.

00;10;34;26 - 00;11;00;17

But you know, the Edmond family, you know these bills or were they. No, no. The Reece found Reece the Edmond He was the Edmond Young of the committed suicide, you know, and their foundation, they're based on, you know, they do a lot with Autism Foundation, you know, and Stephanie, Stephanie, Stephanie Bills. I mean, you guys put us in contact with them.

00;11;00;17 - 00;11;22;03

And, you know, she'd asked me the question two years ago, you know, would you I mean, looking back, would you ever do this again? And that was a tough question because at the time, I mean, you know, I we just, you know, finished building the complex and not knowing what the future holds, you know, and just knowing that there's something out of whack, you know?

00;11;22;05 - 00;11;52;23

And I said, yeah, I would do it again. You know, it's hard. You know, it's it's a hard, hard process, you know? But today I look at it and go, Absolutely, absolutely. Because I see benefit for families and communities. You know, and it's through extensive doctoral research with public information. It's not, you know, speculation or anything like that, but it's it's big time, you know, And I hope, you know, I've been hoping that municipalities would see the way.

00;11;52;23 - 00;12;20;10

But, you know, municipalities aren't transparent either. And so, you know, that's where you get into, you know, how can we provide this to our communities, You know, you know, a different route. You know, and the people that care the most of the people that it's affected the most. And, you know, with me and my thoughts on baseball and there's other parents out there, other nonprofits that, you know, would you know, you guys have connection with those.

00;12;20;10 - 00;13;00;15

And, you know, you put others in contact with me and this is what I've got in my thoughts. And I'd like to share it with you guys so that, you know, it's a you know, it's it'll be an intriguing story of of Brian's memorial, that's for sure. Is Yeah, absolutely. So but yeah but let me. Yeah. So I think a good place to start for for us is for me to have a conversation and and share your information with Sarah and, and potentially kindle as our fiscal sponsorships just, just to have her in the loop and and schedule some time.

00;13;00;19 - 00;13;21;08

Do you, do you or do you have ability to are you in sunny is that right? I live in Shawnee but I'm a retired uh, chief officer Tinker Air Force Base Fire Department. So you know it in like, you know, and then I spent five years at at Seminole State College, and, you know, I'm 50 I'll be 60 this year and I'm running out of time.

00;13;21;08 - 00;13;38;22

You know, the Lord's only given me so much time, you know, And and, you know, we need we winning solutions and not point fingers, you know? I mean, I'd rather spend my money doing that, you know? I mean, so but yeah, no, I'm available. If you're willing to come to the office someday, we could. We have all the technology and stuff.

00;13;38;22 - 00;14;06;25

Yeah. No, that's no problem at all. It's just, you know, without the. Okay, no, that's no problem at all. You could actually record it if you wanted to. I mean, this is a this is a documentary, for sure. I mean, you can't make this stuff up, you know? Yeah. Yeah, it's interesting. Yeah. So what is the best to so that I can put it on an email so that we're not calling and trying to figure out what's the, what's the best email for you.

00;14;06;28 - 00;14;38;25

Kenneth Vacuum sports dot net which C Brian Crawford Memorial. So it's kin is at BCM Sports dot net. Okay. Well I was actually thinking about you guys this week because our applications closed yesterday and slowly going through and checking things. How many did we get this year? 12. This year, 12. Interesting. You know, that's one of the things we used to have an annual baseball tournament for Ryan.

00;14;38;25 - 00;14;58;10

You know, that was our fundraiser, you know, But through the business and politics, you know, we don't we're not we don't have it anymore. But during that but during that tournament, our our tournament, our scholarship committee, I mean, they would spend the whole weekend going through every one of those. It was a great family time, you know, But they still do that.

00;14;58;10 - 00;15;21;06

But, you know, it's you know, one of those things that you chairs that gets taken away, you know, that process. But they definitely love doing the scholarships. And we do, too. I wish we could do more, a lot more. And I think we can, you know, I really do. So anyway, yeah, start 12. Maybe there's one straggling round or 13.

00;15;21;06 - 00;15;38;29

That was Brian's number 13. Oh, there you go. Maybe we'll have to see. Sometimes they sometimes they don't hit their submit button, they fill everything out and then like, why are you still in draft. What are you doing? You're killing yourself over here. Like, Come on, help me out. I want to help you. Right? Right. Are you guys.

00;15;38;29 - 00;16;05;13

Are you. Is your office still over there? Like off the 63rd Northwest Expressway area? Yeah. Yep. We're. Yeah, right. Kind of north of what used to be the Chesapeake Energy campus. Yeah, right. 63 in check out. I have, ah, one of our CPAs. McAfee is in that area. Uh, so if you, if you guys want to schedule time or something, I can kill two birds with one stone.

00;16;05;16 - 00;16;31;13

Perfect. You exactly always work harder. Not better. Right? Right. Well, you know, and that's what and that's what technology allows us to do. I mean, you still got to be smart to tell it what to do, you know? But technology is very, very detailed. Yeah, Yeah, for sure. Okay, Well, let me, um. Let me start an email chain with.

00;16;31;20 - 00;16;56;07

With you all. And with you and Sara. Yeah, just. Just just in time and and and hopefully get you in soon to kind of have these conversations and see what your vision is and how we can help. Yeah, just include me. Don't include the foundation right now. Um, I'm like, I want to, I want to get some ducks in a row, you know, before I, you know, talk to anybody else.

00;16;56;07 - 00;17;24;28

As far as, you know, my thoughts, you know, I just, I like to establish those relationships before I start, you know, visiting with other people. So, yeah, that makes total sense. I gather all the info and then you have your ducks in a row. I get it right. Cool. I'll pick an email and then do you want. I think typically I where I think is it K know about the applications I go is that still the right.

00;17;25;02 - 00;17;48;01

Yeah they do it. Yeah. The only thing, the only thing that I do is that there's a tiebreaker and then that's where I come in with the tiebreaker. So also on those, the reason K likes to get the or gets us is so we can take the names off of them so that it's impartial. So you. Yeah. So anyway, all right, well how's law.

00;17;48;02 - 00;18;12;23

How's law and doing these days? I mean, she was my original contact years ago. Yeah. But she works for found out, which is like the software that we use and, and so I've got, I've been able to see her a couple of times this year at different conferences. But yeah, yeah, she still lives in the area. But yeah, she has climbed the ladder, found it and is like one of their big directors.

00;18;12;23 - 00;18;37;20

So I think she's doing really well and she always says, How are my people doing? Well, Oh, I'd like some ideas. That's awesome. I'm happy for her and she's very instrumental when we set this stuff up. Yeah, they did a great job. I love that between her in the office and I was able to really come into a a good space, uh, well organized, well-run machine that I just, you know, try not to screw up.

00;18;37;22 - 00;19;08;26

Yeah, well, it's that credibility that you have, you know? I mean, the you know, the, the organization has, you know, facilitating foster that environment over the years. And so, you know, there's a lot of organizations out there that come and go, you know, but you have to be passionate and have passionate people, you know that that are the face of your organization, you know, and, you know, and you want those people to get promoted up the chain, you know, I mean, that's what you want.

00;19;08;26 - 00;19;27;04

You want to get promoted up and stay within your organization and and mentor the younger people. Yeah, absolutely. Well, we have a we have a great team right now. We're kind of we had a kind of a I think we kind of got to that point where a lot of our staff was ready for their next adventure and they have a decently new team.

00;19;27;04 - 00;19;51;20

But man, I've really, you know, I'm I'm coming up on two years. The CFO and, um, and the team that we have right now is really good, really. So we're doing a lot of stuff that when they started, you know, when they kind of broke up five years ago or six years ago, whenever that was now, um, have really just really taken that run with it.

00;19;51;20 - 00;20;12;02

So we're, we're in a fun place right now. It's been fun to be a part of it, you know? We're sure. Yeah. Okay. All right. Well, then I will send you this email and get things going. And again, you and Kay will hear from me soon about applications, and. And we'll get. Will you move in and get you connected?

00;20;12;03 - 00;20;18;18

Awesome. Have a great day. All right. You too. All right. Bye bye. Bye.

Why This Record Matters to the 2026 Inquiry

The importance of this record is continuity. It shows that the present inquiry did not begin after the 2026 research was assembled. In March 2025, Crawford was already asking whether the memorial, nonprofit experience, research and endowment concepts could support a broader Oklahoma partnership. CFO staff responded by identifying philanthropic services, fiscal sponsorship and a possible referral pathway as subjects for a future conversation.

The 2026 initiative is materially more developed and intentionally more cautious. It no longer asks one organization to adopt a finished Baseball Heaven model. It asks experienced partners to evaluate whether a collaborative Community Opportunity Network merits discovery, what structures might be appropriate, and which organizations should participate.

Relationship to the 2026 Briefing Set

This historical exhibit should be read after the Executive Brief and Master Strategic Concept. Those documents contain the current proposal, safeguards, research firewall and pilot-before-scale framework. This exhibit exists only to preserve the historical origin of the CFO inquiry.

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER