

Jo Zakas

Legacy Foundation

2026 GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

THE LEGACY

The mission of The Jo Zakas Legacy Foundation is “to empower nonprofits serving at-risk populations and educational organizations developing student achievement in the Arts and Hospitality fields.”

Since Jo S. Zakas established the Foundation in 2003, our motto has been “Changing People’s Lives.” As an entrepreneur, artist, and civic leader, Zakas helped people improve their personal and professional lives. She helped others throughout her life until her untimely death in 2016.

A RUNAWAY

Because she left home at the age of 12, Jo Zakas would be an “at-risk” child today. Her determination to grow from that scared, 12-year-old runaway into the driving force she became in the Wichita community led her to believe that other people can also change their lives.

In 1972, Zakas developed Clifton Square Shopping Village, a shopping center of vintage College Hill houses for office and retail use. The Square served as an incubator for small businesses during her 45 years of ownership and continues today under new ownership.

A MENTOR

Her business and personal success forged a lifelong mission to help at-risk populations improve their lives. She understood the impact of the choices she made—in business and life—on her success. Zakas spent her lifetime mentoring others to make good choices. Her legacy of helping others become better citizens and entrepreneurs by making better choices continues through the Jo Zakas Legacy Foundation.

THE FOUNDATION

Annually, the Jo Zakas Legacy Foundation awards grants to area non-profit organizations that serve at-risk populations in Wichita, Kansas, and surrounding communities. A Board of Directors manages the Foundation. The legacy board started awarding grants in 2019.

Most grants awarded range between \$500 and \$5,000. Grants can cover a project or program as a whole or combined with other donors to help cover funding. **Please give us something specific to fund.**

Past grants have funded basic-need items like toothbrushes and toothpaste for underserved school children, art therapy classes for youth in crisis, and employment training for teens.

The Jo Zakas Legacy Foundation is a Nonprofit organization (501(c)3). Find more information online at JoZakasLegacyFoundation.org.

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Grant Application Instructions
Deadline: The last Friday in April | April 24, 2026

THE PROCESS AND INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION DUE DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 | THE LAST FRIDAY IN APRIL

Anticipated Award Month: August

1. Fill out the application **and After-Action Survey**; answer the questions in order.
2. Use a Word document with 12pt type and one-inch margins.
3. Be clear and brief in your responses. Prefer fewer than 75 words in your answers.
4. Once completed, send your application pages and supporting documents on or before the due date:
 - a. By email: jozakas.foundation@gmail.com | PLEASE name the file with your organization's name and "JZLF app" OR
 - b. By mail: **6446 E. Central**, Box 115, Wichita, KS 67206 **NEW ADDRESS**
 - c. It must be received or postmarked on or before the due date for consideration.
5. The Jo Zakas Legacy Foundation Board of Directors will review all applications received on time and ensure that your program/project supports the foundation's purpose.
6. Those who pass the initial review stage will be assigned to a Board Member as their contact person. The board member will present your program/project during the foundation's selection process.
7. If your organization is a finalist, the Board of Directors may contact you to schedule a visit or a virtual interview.
8. After the interview process, the Jo Zakas Legacy Foundation Board of Directors will meet to review the finalists and decide on funding.
9. We will call the selected organizations approved for funding.
10. Approved organizations will receive checks shortly after approval in August.

Questions? Contact a Foundation Board member at jozakas.foundation@gmail.com:

Ipek Born
Janice Brown
Jan Bush
Cathy Feemster
Krista Peterson
Kent Wilson