

College fund gets million from Koch

BY STEVE PAINTER
Eagle Topeka bureau

TOPEKA — Koch Industries donated \$1 million Wednesday to help the state's largest business organization establish a scholarship fund for children and spouses of those who died in last week's terrorist attacks.

Executives from Koch and other businesses said they were looking for a way to help with the long-term needs of the victims, in addition to the immediate recovery effort.

"We saw a void, ourselves, in this one specific area of educational scholarships. That is an interest area of our company — youth issues and education, specifically," said Mike Morgan, Koch's director of public and government affairs.

The idea for the fund grew out of conversations between Morgan and Gov. Bill Graves, who then got the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry involved.

The business group set no goal for how much would be raised but estimated future educational costs of victims' children in the millions

of dollars.

"We're talking about students who are now in college. We're possibly talking about students who are yet unborn. Our commitment is at least 22 years," said Frank Meyer, chairman of the chamber and of Custom Metal Fabricators in Herington.

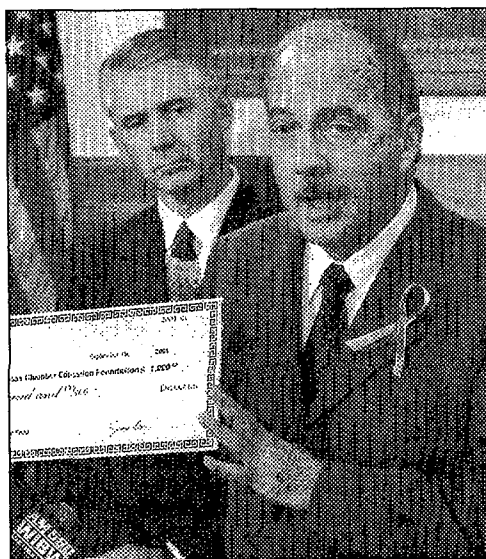
Graves said funds may eventually be combined with similar efforts developing in other states.

Money contributed to the scholarship fund will be held in the Kansas Chamber Education Foundation. Chamber officials plan to work with one or more national organizations with an established record of administering scholarship funds.

Contributions may be made by check or credit card.

Checks should be made out to the Kansas Chamber Education Fund and should say Sept. 11 Scholarship Fund on the memo line. Send checks to the Kansas Chamber Education Fund, 835 S.W. Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612.

Credit card donations may be made by calling (785) 357-6321.



Gov. Bill Graves listens as John Fowler, president of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, talks about the Sept. 11 Scholarship Fund set up by the organization. The fund, which received an initial donation of \$1 million from Koch Industries, will provide scholarships for children and spouses of those who died in last week's terrorist attacks.

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