

Spring 2018

keith county foundation fund

Newsletter

dedicated to the improvement and long-term viability of our community

In this issue...

	Page
<i>New Faces in Community</i> . . .	2
<i>Your Donations at Work</i>	5
<i>KCFF Kickoff Celebration</i> . . .	5
<i>Nights on the Town</i>	6
<i>Memorials & Gifts</i>	7

KCFF Advisory Committee

- Eric Duhachek* *Chair*
- Pam Abbott* *Vice Chair*
- Sue Schilz* *Secretary*
- Teri Elmshaeuser* . . . *Treasurer*
- Lorena Beckius*
- Craig Draucker*
- Ron Hollman*
- Jon Holzfaster*
- Jacob Hovendick*
- Angie Kolste*
- Sheila Mitchell*
- Mark Perlinger*
- Ken Snyder*
- Mary Weber*

kcff

keith county
foundation fund

*dedicated to the improvement and
long-term viability of our community*

President's Message

Hello from Keith County!



The Keith County Foundation Fund has had a busy winter. We met with community and business leaders regarding early childhood development (ECD) in Keith County as a way to attract young families to our area. Early childhood development is widely confused with pre-school or childcare services. In fact, it encompasses much more than that, and is proven to have a positive longterm impact on mental development and learning capacity. Young families are increasingly demanding these kinds of opportunities for their children when relocating for potential job opportunities. Rural communities are starting to see this as an opportunity to help attract these young families, who are the lifeblood of any community.

KCFF is excited about how we can have an impact in this and other areas. We have worked hard to align our strategic vision with the longterm needs of Keith County. As we visit with community members, it is evident that KCFF shares many of the same goals that our community has. In just the last six months, we have raised over \$370,000 for our endowment fund by making individual calls and discussing our shared vision for Keith County. With the increase in endowment funds, we are able to have a much more meaningful impact through our grant giving. Our grant process has been redesigned to focus on areas where we can have the biggest impact on our shared future.

With a net outflow of population over many years, it takes an active effort by our entire community to reverse the population trends, and to thrive in rural America. We must identify the needs we have, and work together to address them. KCFF is leading the way in this area by holding community listening sessions, and visiting with citizens and community leaders to prioritize the issues we face.

Thank you all for your continued support. Without leaders like you, we would not be able to have a meaningful impact in Keith County.

Sincerely,

Eric Duhachek, Chair
Keith County Foundation Fund



New Faces in Our Community



Seth & Lisa Heinert

1. Introduce yourself and your family (where you grew up, connections to Keith County or Nebraska, education, employment, hobbies/passions, etc.)

Lisa grew up in Western Nebraska on her parent's farm in Bushnell, and attended Pine Bluffs Elementary and High School in Wyoming. After attending Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Lisa transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for her undergraduate and master's degrees. Lisa worked in community and youth development for several years before moving to Tanzania to volunteer with the Indigenous Education Foundation of Tanzania (www.ieftz.org) at Orkeeswa School in 2010. Lisa now serves as the Director of Operations for IEFT and makes frequent trips back to Tanzania to visit Orkeeswa School. Seth grew up in Northeast Wyoming, attending Hulett Elementary and High School. Seth attended Northwest Community College in Powell, Wyoming, before transferring and completing his bachelor's degree at the University of Wyoming. Seth served as a National Officer for the National FFA Organization, and later completed his Master's degree at UNL and PhD at the University of Florida. Seth taught at North Bend, Nebraska, as an agriculture instructor before moving to Tanzania, and after completing his PhD, began his current position as the agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor at Ogallala High School. Our oldest son, David, just turned four. He loves all things outside, running and telling elaborate stories. Our youngest son, Jonathan, is a year and a half and spends his time trying to keep up with his big brother, playing in the dirt and being sweet.

2. Tell us something unique about yourself (selves).

We lived for three years in Tanzania, volunteering at Orkeeswa School in various capacities. The work of IEFT and Orkeeswa School continue to be something that we are very passionate

about and we feel very fortunate to have had such a unique international experience as young professionals. We hope this experience will help us bring value and additional perspective to Keith County.

3. What brought you to Keith County?

Seth accepted a position as the agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor at Ogallala High School. At the same time, Lisa took on a new position with IEFT as Director of Operations and was able to open an office in Ogallala that now serves as the US base for the international nonprofit, serving the needs of Orkeeswa School in Tanzania.

4. What community assets do you appreciate most about Keith County/Ogallala? (list as many assets as you wish)

The people are the most valuable asset for sure. From the first days we were in town, we were welcomed with genuine warmth and hospitality. Ogallala and Keith County, from our perspective, is full of passionate, involved people that want to see their community thrive and it has been a good experience for us to be part of this community and find ways to get involved. Another great asset is the agricultural roots. Both of us grew up around production agriculture and it continues to be something we are both very passionate about and we really believe in the power and importance of the agriculture industry. Keith County has a strong agricultural community, that from our experience so far is also very engaged in the betterment and wellbeing of the community and surrounding area.

5. What surprises you most about Keith County?

I think we were most surprised about how much we can do locally! We love that we can do all of our Christmas shopping at the great shops downtown, there are a variety of great restaurants to choose from, entertainment and performance arts available to participate in, and a great community of support for young people.

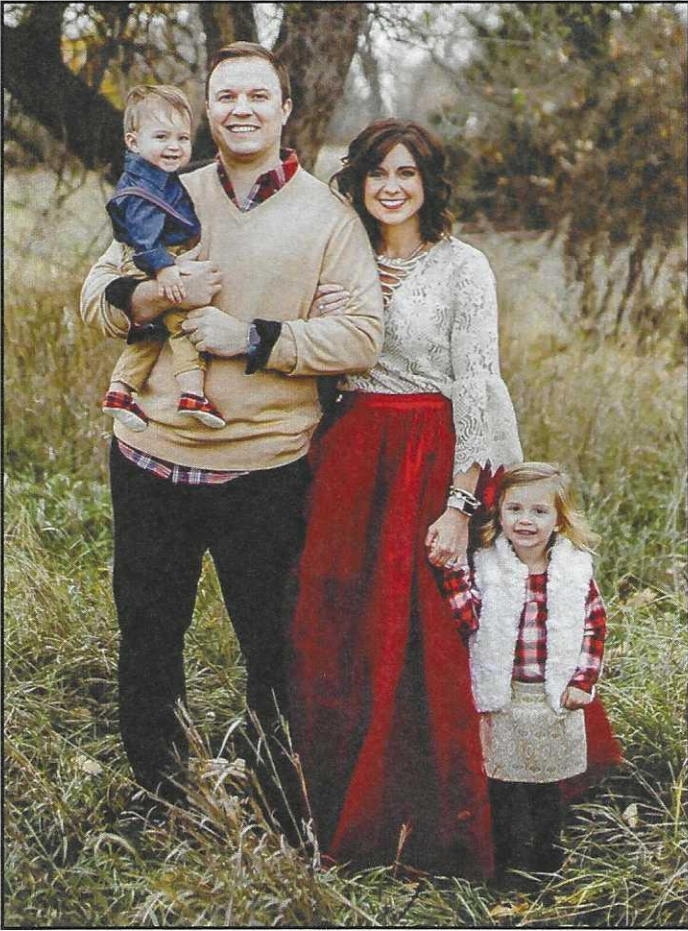
6. What do you dream Keith County/Ogallala to look like in 15 years?

A thriving community, full of all ages of people who are civically engaged and passionate about their community. Keith County should be a place where people look as an example of youth engagement, leadership, civic involvement, and business opportunities.

7. In your opinion, what change agents would be instrumental in making that vision a reality?

Getting more young professionals engaged in public service and/or civic organizations; expanding housing and childcare options to attract young families; valuing culture, tradition and history while also pushing to be innovative and creative; engaging young people so they know Keith County is a place to come back to after they have had some outside experience they know Keith County is a place they will be supported and valued and that there are career and business opportunities for them to make a good living in the place they love.

New Faces in Our Community



Jacob & Meagan Hovendick

1. Introduce yourself and your family (where you grew up, connections to Keith County or Nebraska, education, employment, hobbies/passions, etc.).

We have two children, Henley 3.5 and Huxton 1.5. We have lived in Ogallala for almost 5 years coming from Hickman, Nebraska, originally. Meagan and I are high school sweethearts, following each other to UNL before getting married in 2010. We both earned our masters' degrees from Nebraska. Meagan earned hers from UNMC in Medical Nutrition and I earned mine from UNL in Public Accounting. Meagan works for Banner Hospital as the resident dietitian and I work for Adams Bank & Trust, managing the banks investment and financial planning department (Raymond James). Neither Meagan or I grew up in Ogallala, but I spent many summers at the lake and holidays with family as a child. We both enjoy spending time with our family and friends, cheering on Nebraska athletics and outdoor adventures.

2. Tell us something unique about yourself (selves).

Meagan and I have know each other since seventh grade and are high school sweethearts. Otherwise, we are pretty boring.

3. What brought you to Keith County?

We came to Keith County because of the opportunity that I had to work for Adams Bank & Trust. We were looking at several small towns in Nebraska to put down some roots and start a family. We were approached at the right time about coming to work for the bank. After many discussions and lots of prayers, we decided that moving to Keith County was the best decision for our future family.

4. What community assets do you appreciate most about Keith County/Ogallala? (list as many assets as you wish)

We appreciate our high quality daycare provider, our jobs with the bank and the hospital. Being in a small town, we feel that we have more opportunities to become involved in our community and have a larger impact because of the roles that we play. We appreciate the small town values that Keith County offers and the friendliness of the community members.

5. What surprises you most about Keith County?

We are the most surprised by the involvement of its community members in making Keith County a great place to live. We did not realize the diversity of career opportunities in Keith County until we participated in the Keith County Leadership Development class. Now living in Western Nebraska, we have a greater appreciation for what this part of the state does for Nebraska's economy. We haven't had many opportunities, but want to explore the many historical sites in Western Nebraska because of the role they have played in the development of our area.

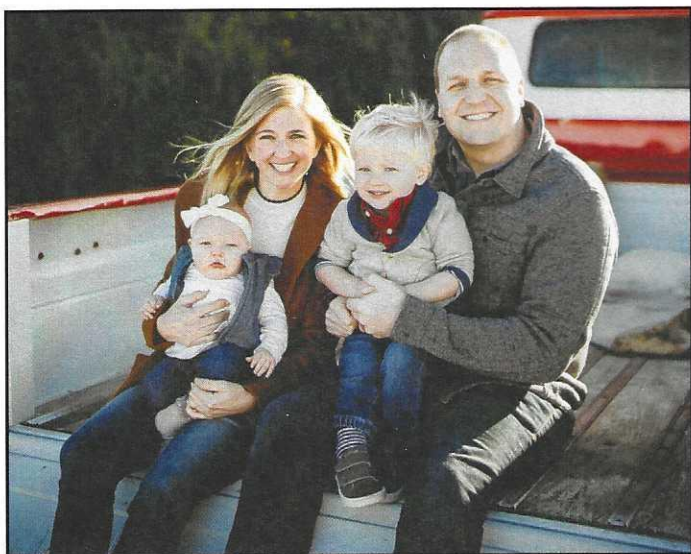
6. What do you dream Keith County/Ogallala to look like in 15 years?

We dream that Keith County will be a growing community, thriving on new and existing businesses helping to progress the community forward. We want Keith County to be a place that encourages young people to grow into adults that do great things and want to come back to Ogallala because there are great opportunities for work and fun. We would like to see Keith County continue to look at ways to address current and future needs through collaboration and looking at outside the box ways to address those needs.

7. In your opinion, what change agents would be instrumental in making that vision a reality?

We believe the change agent for Keith County will be the community collaborating and looking at outside the box ways to address the needs of Keith County, current and future. One of the ways that this will happen is through the County having a larger unrestricted endowment fund that can be used to address the constantly changing needs of our community. We believe that organizations across Keith County will need to explore new and creative ways to engage and communicate with younger generations with the goal of getting them more involved in what's happening in Keith County and taking on roles to play a part in our future community.

New Faces in Our Community



Justin & Amy Weber

1. Introduce yourself and your family (where you grew up, connections to Keith County or Nebraska, education, employment, hobbies/passions, etc.)

We have two wonderful children; Samuel (2 ½ years old) and Shay (9 months old). Justin grew up in Ogallala. After graduating from Ogallala High School, he attended college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he received a Bachelor of Science. He continued his education at University of Nebraska Medical Center, where he received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 2012. After graduation, Justin completed a year long residency program in general dentistry at UNMC then moved to Chicago and worked as a family practice dentist.

Amy grew up the majority of her life in Cincinnati, Ohio. After graduating high school, she received a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University. After graduation, Amy moved to Chicago, Illinois, and started a job in advertising sales with News America Marketing. After two years with News America, she switched her focus to retail management. The following 7 years were spent with Crate & Barrel as a general manager.

We currently work together at the family dental practice. Working side by side with Justin's parents (Scott & Mary Weber) has been a blessing. They have given us much wisdom, love and support since we arrived and we couldn't be more grateful.

Our individual hobbies and passions have evolved quite a bit since having two little children. We have tried to introduce and include our children to our hobbies of traveling, cooking and music/art. Often it is our love for the arts that leads us to new destinations where we can experience all of our passions. Connection through art and music is how we continue to discover new passions for ourselves.

2. Tell us something unique about yourself (selves).

Amy loves music. She has a fairly large record collection (some of it passed down from her father) and she continues to buy new re-

cords that inspire her. It is something that she believes she can pass down to her children one day. She also loves to run and do yoga in her spare time.

Justin enjoys watching all sports, especially baseball and is a devout Chicago Cubs fan. He tries to listen or watch every game (even if he is working.)

3. What brought you to Keith County?

Family. It was truly that simple. After living in Chicago, we had both decided that if we wanted to have time for each other and our children, we needed to work in a place that would be conducive for that. The idea of long work commutes while starting a family didn't make sense to us. Justin's family opened their doors and allowed us to join them in their dental practice. The best aspect of Keith County is how community and family oriented it has been since we arrived. The relationships and friendships we have developed is unique to Keith County and weren't remotely possible in a large city.

4. What community assets do you appreciate most about Keith County/Ogallala? (list as many assets as you wish)

We believe the biggest asset that Keith County provides is connection. This is a town that truly cares about the individual, despite age. When we lived in Chicago, commerce and corporations provide the connection for the individual. We felt that although connection through a job is important, as you grow older you need more time to truly connect with people outside of your job; whether it be with your family or friends. Often we found that the daily schedules in a city were too demanding for that.

When you live in Keith County; not only do you have a connection through your job, but more importantly you can connect with people in many other ways. The daily schedule in Keith County allows for time with family and friends. We love how many businesses are closed on Sundays and over important holidays. The senior center is another venue that provides connection over lunch, activities or even a game of bridge. Also, the longevity of families that stay in Keith County helps build and sustain connections. And that is a truly special asset here in Keith County.

5. What surprises you most about Keith County?

We find it so interesting on how many people retire in Keith County. Often we hear stories of how people have moved to Keith County to retire or maintain a home here for the summers. We often attribute it to the connection and support that this community provides to individuals.

6. What do you dream Keith County/Ogallala to look like in 15 years?

We just hope that we can continue to do what we love. We love that we can run a small business and raise a family without having to compromise time on either aspect.

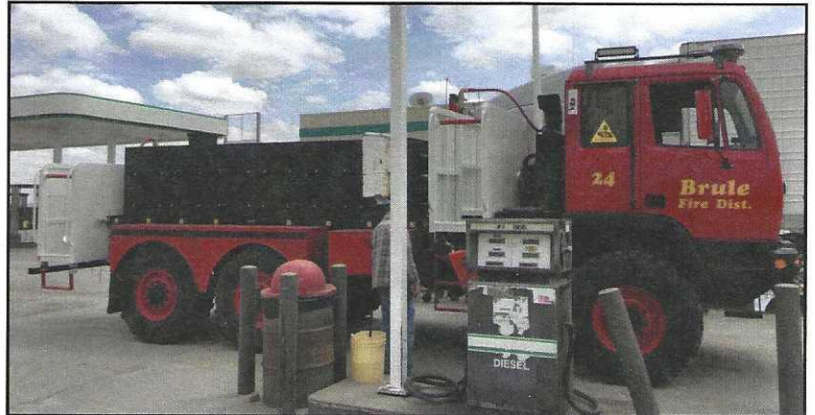
7. In your opinion, what change agents would be instrumental in making that vision a reality?

We can live in Keith County because young families continue to move back here. It is the grandparents, parents and children who allow us to live our dream. We need to continue to provide jobs, services and educational opportunities. Things like the new community library, updated schools and renovated rec center help project a progressive community to the outside public and potential new residents.

Your Donations at Work

Lonnie Olson has transformed a former military vehicle from the Nebraska Forest Service into a firefighting grass rig, Brule #24, for the Brule Volunteer Fire Department. The initial purchase was in the fall of 2016 and the rig was put into service in May of 2017. Olson built the tank frame and work stations and plumbed it with simplicity in mind.

KCFF donated, in part, to the Brule Volunteer Fire Department for this. Olson donated the labor for the project.



KCFF Kickoff Celebration

KCFF has the opportunity of a lifetime to significantly increase the dollars in our endowment fund for the future of Keith County. We are so excited about the opportunity that we decided to throw a fabulous party and share the news with all of Keith County residents past and present and bring in an entertainer that will “knock your socks off”.

Lannie Garrett, entertainer and singer from Denver, has many accolades to her credit. She has headlined at Boettcher Concert Hall and Red Rocks Amphitheater, in addition to owning and entertaining at her nightclub at the landmark Clocktower in Denver. Miss Garrett has that rare combination of popular and critical appeal. In addition to being named Favorite Female Vocalist several years in a row by the Denver Post readers, she has also garnered top spot as Denver’s favorite singer/entertainer with the readers of 5280 magazine.

This dynamic redhead changes her feathers from glamorous to her hilarious spoof, the Patsy DeCline Show, for our event. (She is currently in talks to produce a Patsy DeCline movie) Check out her website at: www.Lannie.com.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20th, at Haythorn Event Center. Tickets are \$50.00 per person, which includes dinner and the best entertainer you’ll see in these parts.

This is your chance to get out and have an evening full of fun with friends, neighbors and guests. Join us and see how you can contribute to the future of Keith County.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20TH

6:00 P.M. – HAYTHORN RANCH – \$50.00/per person

For tickets to this event send check and the enclosed form to: Sheila Mitchell, 138 South Hillcrest, Ogallala, NE 69153

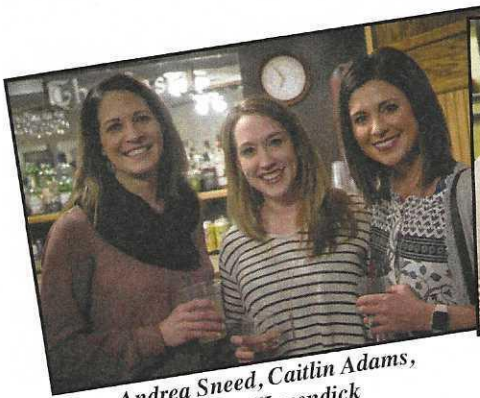
Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Nights on the Town

Crandall Creek Golf Club – February 22



*Andrea Sneed, Caitlin Adams,
Megan Hovendick*



*Black & White alumni/creators: Deb Jasnoch,
Linda Fuller, Maria Eichner, Davanne Moul*



*Woodwind Quintet: Karen Flaming,
Nikki Holthusen, Kristin Parrish,
Sheila Johnson, Karla Lawlor*

Urban Farmer – April 12



Duke Huffman and Sarah Bazan



*Steve and Trudy Dowson, Lisa Krause,
Richard Gibson*



*Bill and Cheryl Statler,
Rhonda and Norman Duba*



Robin and Dennis Thompson



*Gary Lewis and Kristy Davison,
Jonnie and Pete Peterson,
Joan and Jerry Speck*



*Entrée:
Beef Medallions*

Charitable giving does not require great wealth

*It requires generosity of spirit - the desire to share what you have for the benefit of others.
So many of us have a desire to help in other ways - the challenge is how to best realize it.*

To Make Your Legacy Contribution!
Make check payable to:
KCFF
PO Box 104
Ogallala, NE 69153

Memorials & Gifts To Our Legacy

Contributions & Memorials received November 15, 2017 through March 31, 2018

Legacy Endowment

Mike and Pam Abbott, Ogallala
Lou and Barb Bonner, Ogallala
Chrome River, LLC
Michael Tuttle, Ogallala
Dick and Joan Dudden, Venango
Eric Duhachek, Ogallala
Scott and Tracy Eveland, Ogallala
Al and Mary Faesser, Ogallala
Mari Gewecke, Lincoln, NE
Ken Hagge, Ogallala
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hilderbrand, Ogallala
Jon Holzfaster, Paxton
Jacob and Meagan Hovendick, Ogallala
Terry and Gwen Johnson, Ogallala
Bart, M.D., and Angela Kolste, Ogallala
Maxine Kolste, Ogallala
Kathy Lute, Ogallala
Don Macke and Jennifer Carver, Lincoln, NE
Arlin and Sheila Mitchell, Ogallala
Clarke and Pam Morrow, Los Angeles, CA
21st Century Equipment, Ogallala
Mark Perlinger, Paxton
Beverly Pollock, Ogallala
Jim and Deb Prange, Ogallala
Dennis and Susan Schilz, Lemoyne
Rita Shimmin, Ogallala
Jerry and Candice Snow, Colorado Springs, CO
Ken and Chris Snyder, Paxton
Scott and Mary Weber, Ogallala
Rod and Barb Wolf, Ogallala

In Memory of

In Memory of Bernice Bellows

Diane Heinbegner, Englewood, CO
(Brule Cemetery Fund)

In Memory of Roger C. and Mildred M. Smith

Charles and Patricia A. Smith, Fort Collins, CO
(Ogallala Children's Library Fund)

In Memory of (continued)

In Memory of Billy O'Connor

Beverly Pollock, Ogallala
(Legacy Endowment Fund)

In Honor of

Cliff and Ruth Hermance

Jeff and Catherine Hermance, Suwanee, GA
(Cliff and Ruth Hermance Scholarship)

Patti Garsha, Keizer, OR

(Cliff and Ruth Hermance Scholarship)

United Health Group (Matching Gifts Program)
(Cliff and Ruth Hermance Scholarship)

Microsoft (Matching Gifts Program)
(Cliff and Ruth Hermance Scholarship)

Evelyn Ott (Christmas Tribute)

Brady and Kendra Caskey, Ogallala
(Ogallala Library Building Fund)

New Library Campaign

Holstein Family LLC dba Valentinos, Ogallala
(Ogallala Library Building Fund)

Rita Shimmin, Ogallala
(Ogallala Library Building Fund)

Avignon Ventures LLC, dba Dairy Queen
(Ogallala Library Building Fund)

Michael Falciglia and Joanne Maloney, Ogallala
(Ogallala Library Building Fund)


Jim Callen, Nebraska City
(Ogallala Library Building Fund)

Kay McKleroy, El Sobrante, CA
(Ogallala Library Building Fund)



Keith County Foundation Fund
P.O. Box 104 • Ogallala, NE 69153

PRSR MT
POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 10
PRINTWORKS

 Like us on Facebook!
Or visit us on the web at keithcountyfoundation.org

Keith County Foundation Fund is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, a Section 501(c)(3) organization.



Visit us at our new website: www.keithcountyfoundation.org or www.facebook.com/KeithCounty/

KCFF Donation Form



Business/Organization/Group: _____

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I would like to make this donation anonymously.

Optional: This gift is made: _____ In memory of _____ In honor of _____
(Name) _____

The Keith County Community Foundation Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

All monetary gifts are tax deductible.

Mail to: KCFF
P.O. Box 104, Ogallala, NE 69153