

Spring 2019

keith county foundation fund

Newsletter

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

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 Ron Hollman
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kcff

keith county
foundation fund

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

info@keithcountyfoundation.org

President's Message

Hello from Keith County!

We were fortunate here in Keith County, but record flooding in March across the eastern part of the state has caused significant damage. Our hearts go out to those affected. We are confident that communities across the state will come together like we always do, and rebuild from the damage. The Community Foundation funds in many of the affected areas will no doubt play a vital role in the rebuilding process.



The 2019 year is off to a good start for our Fund. Our Sherwood challenge fundraising campaign has raised \$420,000 of our \$500,000 goal, which will be matched with a \$250,000 grant from the Sherwood Foundation. We have until December of 2020 to finish the campaign.

A major goal of our fundraising campaign is to establish partnerships and develop a shared vision for our future. We have had conversations with many people who want to help our communities grow. They understand that if we want to thrive in rural America, we must help ourselves.

The challenge campaign, along with a large unrelated gift we recently received, will significantly increase our grant making capacity, and our partnerships going forward. We are both thrilled and humbled by the generosity, faith, and confidence that people have in our Fund as we visit with them about the future of Keith County.

Our Fund Advisory Committee's role in Keith County continues to evolve and strengthen. We believe in bringing people together to facilitate discussions around common goals. By reaching out to community members with vested interests in various projects and programs, our ability to effectively direct grant funding to make the biggest impact is significantly improved.

Together we are working to create our own future!

Sincerely,

Eric Duhachek, Chair
Keith County Foundation Fund



Jeff Yost: Weaving Our Way To A Greater Nebraska



“Everybody says rural America is collapsing,” wrote New York Times columnist David Brooks on March 21, “But I keep going to places with more moral coherence and social commitment than we have in booming urban areas. These visits prompt the same question: How can we spread the civic mind-set they have in abundance?”

It’s worth noting that these observations were published just days after Brooks and a team from the Aspen Institute embarked on a tour of Greater Nebraska. Over the course of 72 hours, they visited Nebraska City, Grand Island, McCook and North Platte and met with dozens of passionate community builders – they call them “weavers” – from places like Albion, Bertrand, Byron, Columbus, David City, Grant, Imperial, Ogallala, Ord, Paxton, Red Cloud, and Taylor.

This was all in furtherance of Weave: The Social Fabric Project, an initiative aimed at better understanding our society and highlighting the good in America today. Brooks is convinced we must build and sustain democracy from the community level up. I agree.

During his time in Nebraska, Brooks says he was struck by a discernible moral coherence and Nebraskans’ enthusiastic willingness to step up for the good of their hometown. At Nebraska Community Foundation, we’ve grown accustomed to this kind of generosity. We see it happening in over 250 communities across our expansive statewide network every day.

It’s the same generosity that is prompting folks to donate their hard-earned savings to better their community. To embrace their abundance and homegrown assets. It’s motivating them to dream bigger about the future and tackle projects that they didn’t think were possible.

And it’s the same generosity that we are seeing in full force following the catastrophic flooding and weather that has devastated hometowns across our beloved state. I am overwhelmed by the incredible acts of neighborly kindness and altruism. While disasters are never welcome, they do have the potential to bring out the best in people. Nebraska has become a case study for that phenomenon. I have to remind myself that this kind of thing doesn’t happen everywhere.

Having David Brooks and the Weave team here was exactly that – a beautiful reminder of why we are so lucky to call this place home. Nebraska and Nebraskans are truly extraordinary. They step up when a neighbor is in need. They give freely and unconditionally of their time, talent and treasure. They are willing to roll up their sleeves, both metaphorically and literally. Sometimes, it takes an outsider to point out the special things you miss from the inside.

I hope readers of this column will take a moment to read David Brooks’ reflections on his recent visit to Greater Nebraska and “What Rural America Has to Teach Us.” I hope his words make you feel as proud as they did me.

KCFF Committee Members Invited to Visit with David Brooks

KCFF members Pam Abbott, Ron Hollmann, and Ken Snyder, along with other regional affiliated fund members recently visited with David Brooks, Republican opinion columnist for the New York Times, during his visit to Nebraska. Brooks came to Nebraska in March to visit a few of our hometowns. He is spearheading Weave: The Social Fabric Project, to better understand our society.

His recent column calls those who build community relationships ‘social weavers’. He is convinced that the only way we’re going to mend hyper-individualistic mentality is to highlight the good that’s happening in America today. Mr. Brooks is interested in what makes Nebraska leaders in volunteerism, (Nebraska is 6th in the nation), and what makes us leaders in community building, and he is convinced we have to build and sustain democracy beginning with our community level and rise from there.

The Nebraska Community Foundation is recognized nationwide for its accomplishment, and Keith County Foundation has become one of the funds that NCF is very proud of. Many answers are related to tradition. “That’s just what Nebraskans do.” “That’s just what we do in Keith County.” “That’s the way my parents raised me.” “The Golden Rule is alive and well in rural areas.” Those attending came away realizing how important that tradition has been to us and that we need to work hard to continue what was modeled when growing up.

When KCFF started the Sherwood Matching Fund Drive, we set three goals: Raise \$500,000, invite 200 people to join our effort, and create a sense of cooperation and collaboration among the many civic groups that work for the betterment of our community. We agreed that if we achieved only one goal, it should be to foster cooperation and collaboration.

We strive to be social weavers.

For more information about Weave:

The Social Fabric Project, visit www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/weave-the-social-fabric-initiative.

Abbott, Bauer Named to Nebraska Community Foundation Board of Directors



PAM ABBOTT of Ogallala grew up in central Nebraska and graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a degree in education. Her life and career have involved a variety of education positions, including teaching in public schools, preschool, management at an educational and employment testing corporation in Illinois, and treasurer of a school board. Abbott is currently a member and vice chair of the Keith County Foundation Fund in Ogallala, a member of the Board of Governors for Mid-Plains Community College, a member of both the Administrative and Planned Giving and Future Needs committees at the First United Methodist Church, Ogallala, and member of the Keith/Perkins Counties Early Childhood Development steering committee.

Abbott and her husband, Mike Abbott, are cow/calf ranchers and appreciate the quality of life and experiences that Ogallala provides. Abbott looks forward to contributing her efforts to Nebraska Community Foundation and admires the Foundation's impact across Nebraska, the nation and internationally.

BRAD BAUER is the regional president for Pinnacle Bank of Nebraska based out of Grand Island. Prior to that, he and his family spent 17 years in Ogallala, where he was involved as a volunteer with the Keith County Foundation Fund.

Originally from the Scottsbluff/Gering area, Bauer's father was a school superintendent. His family moved several times and he attended various schools before graduating from Newman Grove High School where he met his wife, Bonnie. Bauer received a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Bauer says living in locations across the state has enhanced his community banking career. As regional president of Pinnacle Bank, Bauer has had numerous opportunities to become familiar and work with many Nebraska communities and has seen firsthand

the positive impact NCF affiliated funds are having in communities across the state. He believes that experience will enhance his service to NCF.

YESENIA PECK is originally from Lima, Peru, where she worked as an attorney for the Supreme and Superior Courts. Peck holds a master's degree in Leadership from Bellevue University and is certified in workforce diversity management by Cornell University and Bellevue University. Peck is a diversity manager for Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) at their Columbus general office. She is appreciative of NPPD's concerted efforts in advancing community cohesiveness and for the opportunity she has been given in her chosen field of professional practice.

Peck has volunteered for over 13 years with the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and is the current president. She was recently appointed by Governor Ricketts to the Nebraska Latino American Commission. Peck has been actively promoting inclusiveness in Nebraska communities by creating and developing projects and programs based on common attributes of various diverse groups statewide. She defines herself as a servant immigrant for the community of Nebraska. She and her husband, Scott Peck, live in Omaha.

KIEL VANDERVEEN of Nebraska City is a Certified Financial Planner™ professional, helping individuals and families plan for and transition to work optional lifestyles by focusing on tax mitigation, income planning, and charitable planning. VanderVeen began his career as a tax preparer, which provided a strong foundation for his pursuit of a career in financial planning.

VanderVeen holds a bachelor's degree in business administration in accounting from the University of Nebraska and holds the Series 7 and 66 securities licenses.

VanderVeen has been involved with Nebraska Community Foundation, both locally and statewide, since 2005. More recently, he was honored to be member of the Leadership Nebraska Class X and is involved with EDGE Nebraska City, Nebraska City Growth Fund, and the Nebraska City Board of Public Works. VanderVeen and his wife, Mimi, are involved in the Arbor Shrine Club of the Tangier Shrine and support local groups that address poverty.

UPDATE! Library Groundbreaking

A groundbreaking for Ogallala's new public library was held March 25, 2019, at the corner of West 7th and B Streets. Fundraising continues toward the \$2.5 million goal. \$2.1 has been raised so far. What an exciting partnership between community supporters, Ogallala and Keith County!

Left to right: Bruce Smith (Ogallala City Manager), Kim Elder (Keith County Commissioner), L.D. Walker, Kevin Block & Darryl Weddington (Ogallala City Council Members), Mike Tuttle (Library Board of Trustees President), and Kendra Caskey (Library Director).



New Faces in Our Community

David & Lorena Beckius



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

My name is Lorena Beckius, I am originally from Ambato Ecuador, a city of 200,000 people in the highlands of Ecuador. I was a youth exchange student in Ogallala, Nebraska, 2002-2003. I have a bachelor degree in Business Administration with a minor

in Marketing from the UDLA University in Quito-Ecuador.

During my second year in college I came back to Kearney for a friend's wedding and that's when I reconnected with David Beckius, a Ogallala native, and we started a long distance relationship. When I graduated, he brought me to Omaha, where we lived for 5 years.

Finding my first job in the States was a struggle. Even though I had a college degree and able to speak 2 languages, it was hard to find a job due to no work experience. Verizon Wireless was the company who believed in me and I started as a customer service representative, after a few years in I was able to grow to management. At Verizon I won awards for sales and I won the district Home Town Hero award. My husband was offered a job opportunity to move back to Ogallala and it was the best decision we have made because the quality of life we have here. I have more time to help and serve my community. I joined the Rotary Club who hosted me when I was a exchange student and have currently served in different boards and councils: Rotary Club, KCFF, Blueprint Nebraska –Leadership, Diversity & Inclusion Council, Community 4Kids Co-chair, USGLC Nebraska Advisory Committee. I currently work for Wolf Auto as the Internet/ Marketing Manager and community outreach. My hobbies are singing, swimming and currently doing Zumba.

David Beckius was born and raised in Ogallala. He loves wrestling, fishing, weight lifting and spending time out at Lake Mac. After he graduated he worked at Jason Zoellner Ford and then he went to school and moved to Omaha where he was a Dietary Manager at Maple Crest Facility. But his passion for the car industry was in his blood and one day David received a phone call to come back to work in Ogallala and be the service manager at Jason Zoellner Ford. We decided to come back because it was going to be the best

place to raise a family. David has been at the dealership for 5 years and now he is transitioning to GM.

We now have 3 year old twins Luke and Landon who are our blessings; David and I have been married for 11 years this July.

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

Back in Ecuador, I won awards for singing and sang at different organizations, businesses and schools, also represented the state swim team and won bronze in nationals for butterfly style. We work at the same place and we work well together as a team.

3. What brought you to Keith County?

David is from Ogallala, we wanted to start a family and we always thought Keith County was the best place to raise our kids. Safety, quality of life and the people make this community a unique place to live.

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

The people, we love to see how the community gets together to support a cause. We live in a community where we care about each other and we want the community to succeed. Other assets are our service organizations, our local businesses that are working together to educate the community about buying local to support the local economy, the library, YES that provides activities for kids and youth. We are in a thriving community and every day we are creating more partnerships to help the prosperity of Keith County.

5. What surprises you most about Keith County?

The generosity of the people. Working in the community and constantly being asked for different community needs is fascinating to see local businesses and members of the community collaborate to address the issue.

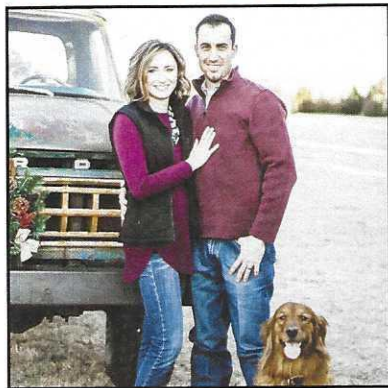
6. What do you dream Keith County/Ogallala to look like in 15 years?

We dream of a community who works together for the wellbeing of every citizen in town, an inclusive place for diversity where there are more jobs, housing and opportunities to bring more people to town. We need to focus in early child development, youth and our seniors, we believe in a collaborative work between all different sectors to help our community to succeed.

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

We need more people who care and want to work hard for our community, we need to start a pilot program in schools and businesses to make sure we bring diversity and inclusion awareness. Learning is the key and the start of something. We need to work on businesses mentality, we need them to be fully committed to their community and believe that the foundation of any successful business is community service.

Nick & Jessica Lemmel



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

Jessica grew up in north-eastern Colorado near Paoli. She attended Colorado State University, where she competed on the livestock judging team and was a member of the Seedstock Merchandising Team, helping to market the University's purebred Angus and Hereford bulls, and

where she met her future husband Nick. She completed her dual Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science and upon graduation began working as the Director of Communications at the Colorado Livestock Association, a membership organization that represents cattle feeders, dairy farmers, hog producers and ranchers on legislative and regulatory issues. In May of 2018 she received her Master of Business Administration from Chadron State College.

Nick was raised in Littleton, Colorado. During his formative years he spent as much time as he could playing club ice hockey and visiting his grandparents' farm in Ellis, Kansas. He worked as an assistant to the veterinarians at the National Western Stock Show for nearly 10 years. He attended Colorado State University and received his Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. Upon graduation and the economic downturn, Nick decided to begin his prerequisite coursework to apply to vet school. He was accepted to Colorado State University's School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences where he focused on large animal medicine. Nick is an

New Faces in Our Community

Associate Veterinarian focusing on beef production medicine at the Animal Clinic and Pharmacy in Ogallala.

As a couple, Nick and Jessica enjoy spending time with friends, playing with their Golden Retriever "Gus" and remodeling their home.

2. Tell us something unique about yourself (selves)

When he isn't preg checking or helping to deliver calves for producers, Nick enjoys fishing and pheasant hunting and relaxing on the back patio during his time-off. He serves as a Lieutenant in the Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department and Jessica participates in the activities of the OVFD Auxiliary. Jessica enjoys long-distance running, training their Golden Retriever and planning their next home remodel project.

3. What brought you to Keith County?

It is required that veterinary students participate in "externships" before graduation. After his first trip to Ogallala, Nick spent an additional month and all of his school breaks visiting the Animal Clinic and Pharmacy and learning more about the area. When the Animal Clinic offered him a position as an Associate Veterinarian it was an easy decision to move somewhere with a progressive veterinary clinic and a great group of beef producers. The access to outdoor activities was an added bonus for the couple who, with their Golden Retriever, enjoy fishing and paddle boarding. They have always envisioned raising their family in a rural area surrounded by agriculture production and with a strong set of small-town values.

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

We feel the people within the community of Keith County is one of its greatest assets. Upon moving to Ogallala, we were overwhelmed with the genuine sincerity of the community members who welcomed us and helped to make Ogallala our home. We have found numerous ways to become in-

involved through the many different activities and community events. Keith County has a great recreation center, and we enjoy participating in the activities on Rendezvous Square. When we find free time, we find ourselves utilizing the many outdoor recreational activities Keith County has to offer. One hidden gem that we often enjoy is the walking path on the northwest side of town.

5. What surprises you most about Keith County?

We are constantly surprised at the diversity of things to do throughout the year. There is never a dull moment and there is always something going on for people of all ages and interests! The number of new businesses that we have seen begin in our short time living here is a promising sign for the future. We were surprised by the number of people who are not originally from Ogallala who have relocated to the area and the number of young families that we have met in the community.

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

In 15 years, our vision for Keith County is that it will be thriving with new businesses, a growing population and more opportunities for its citizens. The community will continue to attract and retain young people and growing families. The community will offer opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers and will continue to support the existing agriculture industry.

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

The change agents that we believe will push the community forward are the members working together as a whole to develop creative solutions to the needs of Keith County now and in the future. Stakeholders in Keith County's future are the ones who need to be engaged in groups and organizations that are integral to moving the community forward.

Matt & Jamie Wieseler



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

We are Matt and Jamie Wieseler, and we have two rambunctious little boys, Abel (3) and Will (1). I grew up just right down the road in Hershey, Nebraska, and Matt grew up in Northeast Nebraska in Wynot. I

went to North Platte Community College for two years and played volleyball and then went on to the University of Nebraska at Kearney where I graduated with a Business Management degree. Matt attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney and received a Natural Resources degree. Matt began working for Game & Parks right out of college, which eventually led to him working at Clear Creek WMA in Lewellen. Once we got married, I moved out to Lewellen, and we lived there for 2 years while I worked at Banner Health in Human Resources and ran Jamie Wieseler Photography on the side. While residing in Lewellen, we had our oldest son, Abel. Abel was born deaf, though eventually he got cochlear implants, so we made the decision to move to Norfolk, Nebraska, for a couple of years to be closer to his doctors and Matt's family. Matt recently accepted a job as a Wildlife Biologist in Lewellen, and we were excited to make Ogallala our home again. I am now a full-time photographer at Jamie Wieseler Photography and absolutely love what I do. Ogallala's community support helped shape my business into what it is today, and I am

forever grateful for that!

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

I would say a unique thing about us would be Abel's story. We found out that Matt and I both carry a recessive gene that causes profound deafness and all our children will have a 25% chance of being born deaf. The fact that he can now hear and communicate with us and others is a blessing from God. It has allowed us to learn sign language and has educated all of us in areas I never thought would happen in our lives.

3. What brought you to Keith County?

Matt's Game & Parks job is what brought us back to the area. We also always wanted to raise our kids in a small community after both being raised in small towns, so this was a perfect opportunity.

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

We loved seeing the business advancement of Ogallala since moving back. Cute boutiques, new restaurants, coffee shops, etc. make the area a place to be desired. We also enjoy the lake and visited with our boys many times this last summer and plan to again as soon as it gets nice enough. Matt has always enjoyed hunting and fishing, and this area has a tremendous opportunity in that field. Both his job and his hobby have allowed him to meet outdoor sportsmen and women from all over the nation that makes Lake Mac and the surrounding area a favored destination. As a photographer, I love the diversity of scenery in such a short drive. I have had hundreds of sessions, and many weddings all over Keith County, and Nebraska fields and sunsets are always breathtaking. Most of all though, we love this community. Everyone has been so welcoming and accepting to our family. It's very evident how much everyone cares about one another.

(Continued on Page 6)

New Faces in Our Community

Wieseler continued

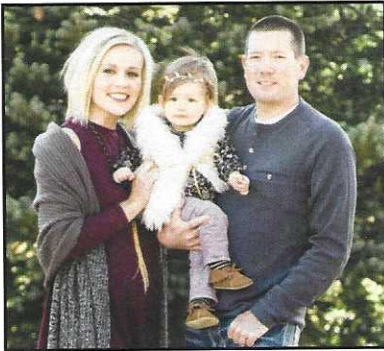
5. What surprises you most about Keith County?

I think we were most surprised by how many new businesses were in the area since leaving just two short years ago.

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

I would love to see the downtown area established with thriving local businesses, generations of families staying within the community, and to effectively utilize areas around Lake McConaughy.

Brian & Mary Wilson



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

We have a beautiful daughter, Andersyn, who is 3 ½ and will be a big sister in early September! Brian grew up just outside of Culbertson, Nebraska, participating in sports year-round and is now an avid sports enthusiast, especially a Cornhusker fan. After

completing undergraduate school at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Brian received both his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree and Masters in Business Administration from Creighton University. He then moved to Denver and worked for Walgreens for nearly 8 years as a district pharmacy manager.

Mary grew up just 12 miles north of Brian on her family's farm in Hayes County, graduating from Hayes Center, Nebraska. She attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney and received her Bachelor of Science in Vocational Business Education with a 7-12 teaching endorsement. Mary spent two years as the business education coordinator for Dawson Area Development in Cozad, Nebraska and then moved to Denver and was a Support Representative at AmFirst Bank for 2 years.

In 2013, we decided to make the move to Ogallala and purchase the local USave Pharmacy. Brian manages the business and works as a pharmacist and Mary is the Executive Director for Keith County Area Development, the economic development organization in Keith County. We feel very fortunate that we are able to raise our family in a small town, close to our families in the great state of Nebraska.

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

Brian is an avid fly fisherman, taking as many fly fishing trips as time will allow. He enjoys tying his own flies and creating his own patterns. We actually got engaged in the middle of the Platte River near Casper, Wyoming, if you can believe it.

Mary is a farm girl through and through. She grew up fixing fence, driving tractor, raising cattle and helping with corn and wheat harvest. We enjoy spending many weekends on the family farm, which has been in our family for over 120 years.

3. What brought you to Keith County?

We decided to take advantage of an opportunity to fulfill the dream of entrepreneurship and raise our family in a small town while being closer to

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

I think it is important to stay innovative and unique and to listen to the members of the community. Housing developments and additional childcare opportunities would be a great benefit to the area. Another change agent would be valuing and engaging our youth and young professionals, so they desire to return to the area after receiving their education. The lake is also such a great asset to Keith county, and it would be encouraging to see more activities, trails, and businesses available for both locals and tourists to enjoy.

family.

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

We appreciate the relationships built and the small-town values we get to experience every day. The amount of support residents provide for one another and the passion shown for the community is overwhelming and we are so proud to be a part of it.

We also greatly appreciate the excellent daycare that our daughter is blessed to attend and the outstanding schools she will be a part of in the future. The young people in this community have so many great resources available to help them learn and develop in to wonderful community stewards.

Keith County is also very fortunate to have many successful community service organizations, such as Optimists, Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Club, just to name a few. We are happy to have a variety of opportunities to contribute to the community in which we live. Each organization gives back in their own unique way and that selflessness is such an asset to the growth and sustainability to Keith County.

5. What surprises you most about Keith County?

We both grew up in very small communities so we are impressed with everything that is available locally in Keith County. Initially some things can be difficult to find and the convenience of online shopping seems to be the way to go, but knowing that shopping local has a bigger benefit to the community in which we live, we are happy to take the time to search out exactly what we need.

The variety of careers that are available in Keith County is also something that was an initial surprise to both of us. There is a diverse selection of professional and entry-level positions to accommodate anyone interested in relocating to Keith County.

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

We dream that Keith County will continue to thrive and be an attractive place for people of all ages to live, work and play. Our community will be one that can be looked at as being progressive and creative, supporting existing business with growth and new businesses that complement the local economic climate.

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

Community betterment projects need to continue in order to sustain a quality place for decades to come. We are able to enjoy this great community because others decided to live here and make it a great place to be. We need to continue these efforts across generations and not be afraid to make investments to see a return for our current and future residents. Great relationships and community partnerships will ensure betterment projects continue for generations to come.

The Value of an Education – The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Cliff and Ruth Hermance and their children are a great example of active hope when it comes to our future. Through the Hermance Scholarship, they are demonstrating their belief that an investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

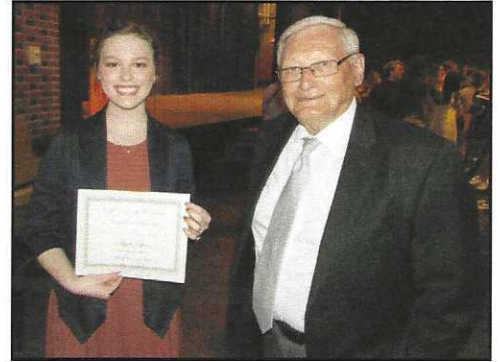
The Hermance Scholarship was initially funded in October 2002, with a gift from Cliff and Ruth's children. The \$3,000 per year scholarship is awarded to a student wishing to pursue a teaching career or related education field.

Brothers Jeff and Doug Hermance had conversations about how appreciative they are for all the abundant opportunities they had growing up in Keith County. "The quality of life we experienced goes much deeper than what's on the surface of a small Nebraska town – Ogallala is a great place to grow up," Jeff stated, "we made great friendships there and had opportunities we might not have had elsewhere, and we just felt it was really important to acknowledge how much we appreciate those things as we get older." Father Cliff was both a teacher and a coach and mother Ruth wrote for the Keith County News and both had deep connections within the community as a result. Many of those connections became an extended family to the children that added to their enriched years growing up. Jeff stated they asked each other "How can we show this appreciation to Mom and Dad and the area?" And so, the legacy began.

"We didn't know where to start," Jeff continued. "We reached out to Todd Adams at Adams Bank & Trust, and he led us to KCCF led us to Jana (Jensen) at NCF. The process became much easier as NCF helped us navigate through our choices."

The Hermance Scholarship is an endowed fund that affords long term sustainability. The Hermance children are able to continue increasing the fund and take advantage of available matching grants from employers like Microsoft and United Health Care. Friends, business associates, and others have contributed to help the scholarship invest in the community.

For the Hermance children, the best part, by far, is that Cliff gets to award a gift that helps students take the steps to a productive, meaningful life in education each year.



2018 Hermance Scholarship Recipient
Abigail Tschetter and Cliff Hermance

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.

Memorials & Gifts To Our Legacy

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

Contributions & Memorials received October 24, 2018 through April 3, 2019

Legacy Endowment

Hansmeier, Scott and Karie, Ogallala
Callen, Larry and Mary Lynn, Windsor, CO
Roberts, Stan and Lynn, Ogallala
Peterson, Pete and Jonnie, Ogallala
Hansmeier, Tom and Mary Ann, Ogallala
Snow, Jerry and Candice, Littleton, CO
Faesser, Al and Mary, Ogallala
Kolste, Maxine, Ogallala
Dudden, Dick and Joan, Sun City, AZ
Anderson, Lane and Kerri, Ogallala
Hagge, Ken and Dot, Ogallala
Dalzell, Chester G., New York, NY
Clark, Christopher and Anne, Tampa, FL
Sestak, Robert and Kimberly, Brule, NE
Beal, Greg, Ogallala
Bauer, Brad and Bonnie, Grand Island, NE
Teaford, Doug and Jo, Ogallala
Cumming, Larry and Mary, Lincoln, NE

Ruzanic, Rod, Ogallala
Johnson, Richard and Constance, Ogallala
Anderson, Clark, Lincoln, NE
Morrow, Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Los Angeles, CA
Todd Neill Insurance, Ogallala
Eveland, Scott, Ogallala
Best in the West Scholarship Fund, Ogallala
Brown, Daryl and Jo Etta, Brule, NE
Sagehorn, Elliott and Ruth, Ogallala

Library Building Fund

Most, Mr. and Mrs. Donal, Ogallala
Callen, Larry and Mary Lynn, Windsor, CO
Shimmin, Rita, Ogallala
Stanosheck, Patrick and Synthia, Lincoln, NE
Rutt, Dale and Mary Jo, Lakewood, CO
Smith, Charles and Patricia, Ft. Collins, CO
Wolvin, Ron and Lucille, McCook, NE
Hermance, Cliff and Ruth, Ogallala
Kociemba, Roy, York, NE

Moore, Barbara Ann, Ogallala
Elles, Mark and Eileen, Lone Tree, CO
Havermann, Doug and Jean, Ogallala
Philipsen, Todd, Chadron, NE

In Memory of

In Memory of Patsy Colling

Terry and Gwen Johnson, Ogallala
(Legacy Endowment Fund)

In Memory of Bill Franken

Beverly Pollock, Ogallala
(Legacy Endowment Fund)

In Memory of Lester and Patricia Rhodes

Kenny Rhodes, Big Springs, NE
(Legacy Endowment Fund)


In Memory of Donald & Evelyn Wiest

Gregory and Patricia Wiest, Oswego, OR
(Legacy Endowment Fund)



Keith County Foundation Fund
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Night on the Town: Greek Wedding Theme – March 30



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