Fall 2018

keith county Newsletter foundation fund

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

In this issue...

Page Editorial: The Tie That Binds . 2 Ag Commodities for Giving. 2 KCFF Awards Grants. 3 Scholarship Thank You 3 Ruzanic Memorial 4 KCFF Kickoff Event 5 Funds Statement 5 Legacy Endowment Donors 6 Memorials & Gifts 7

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President's Message

Hello from Keith County!

This summer we had a kickoff event to announce the public phase of a major fundraising campaign. In partnership with Nebraska Community Foundation and the Sherwood Foundation, we have set a goal to raise \$500,000, which will be matched up to \$250,000. We have until December of 2020 to raise the money. The kickoff event was held at Figure 4 Traditions and featured entertainment by Lannie Garrett, who has been Entertainer of the Year in Colorado. The event was attended by 150 people from as far as Denver and Omaha, and was a great success!



I am happy to report that as of this writing in mid-October, we have raised over \$360,000! We are reaching out to the public through personal contacts, social media, and presentations to community service organizations. One thing I am very proud of is that the internal pledges from our own Fund Advisory Committee brought in over \$140,000!

KCFF believes that by working together, we can have a long-term, lasting impact on Keith County. Through visioning sessions open to the public, we have identified several areas to focus on: housing, workforce development, early childhood development, and infrastructure. Our goal is not necessarily to create new groups or programs, but to partner with existing groups and programs who already have expertise in these areas, but may be lacking the necessary funding.

Our goals are ambitious and challenging, but we believe that by working together, there is nothing we can't achieve! Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you to make Keith County even better!

Sincerely,

Eric Duhachek, Chair





kcff
Page 2

Jeff Yost: The Tie That Binds

(REPRINTED FROM SEPTEMBER 5, 2018, NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION)



Over the past several years I have had the honor of working and sharing ideas with John McKnight, a renowned community development pioneer. He recently asked me what Nebraska Community Foundation has learned about how money helps communities to build enduring social capital.

Of course, financial capital is a familiar term to everyone. But "social capital"? We may not often use that term to describe all the truly remarkable, positive developments happening in our Nebraska hometowns. But we know it when we see it.

Simply put, social capital is measured by the number and depth of mutually beneficial, trusting relationships that build shared values and identity. At its best, it reinforces the golden rule. Social capital produces public good for a common good.

Across the Nebraska Community Foundation's network of 221 affiliated funds, over 1,700 community volunteers are marrying financial and social capital to create hometowns that will attract and nurture young families. They are building unrestricted endowments – permanent funds that will continue to grow and generate earnings for community reinvestments, forever. Our volunteers are not hiring professional fund raisers; they are not writing grant proposals to build their unrestricted endowments. Instead, they are asking their friends, families and neighbors to believe in the future of their hometown. And to give back to pay it forward.

One of the best examples of this growing phenomenon can be found in McCook (pop. 7,698).

Seven years ago, McCook Community Foundation Fund's unrestricted endowment totaled about \$181,000. Affiliated fund volunteers were offered a challenge grant and quickly met their two-to-one match 20 months ahead of schedule. This added \$750,000 to their unrestricted endowment. Almost immediately, the Fund accepted another challenge, this one from the Arvene and Neva Myers family. The successful completion of this challenge raised another \$270,000. Within four years, the community had built an unrestricted endowment valued at \$1.3 million.

The growth in assets greatly increased the Fund's capacity to distribute more high-impact grants from the earnings on its endowment – in addition to the nearly 30 separate accounts the Fund holds for designated purposes ranging from youth entrepreneurship to leadership opportunities.

But there are many more community assets – both financial and human – in place and ready to be realized. McCook is a hotspot for arts and culture. For 20 years it has hosted the Buffalo Commons storytelling festival. The Prairie Roots music festival draws hundreds. On a regular basis, people pack the Bieroc Café to enjoy both local and national touring acts.

Not surprisingly, when Susan Stuart of Lincoln honored her parents, Walt and Jean Sehnert, by offering a \$100,000, two-to-one challenge grant earlier this year, the match was quickly met. Ms. Stuart then doubled her challenge, and the Fund accepted. More than two dozen volunteers and donors are now actively inviting their friends and neighbors to pay it forward with pledges and contributions for the "Sehnert Challenge," for arts, culture and community. Over 100 families who consider McCook home have made gifts and pledges to meet this challenge grant.

What an amazing community development story. The process of raising the financial match is simultaneously building social capital. The more community volunteers who are inviting their friends and neighbors to join them, the more connected they are to one another.

The community question in McCook is changing from "What do we need?" to "What can we do together?" This social capital, along with an unrestricted endowment, is helping community leaders create the hometown of their dreams. One that will attract and nurture young families.

Positive change that sticks happens along the lines of relationships at the speed of trust. What is your community doing to build the hometown of your dreams?

Ag Commodities Continue to be a Wise Choice for Giving

GIFTS OF AG COMMODITIES

Nebraska farmers and ranchers can save significant taxes by contributing commodities such as corn or cattle to their community foundation fund instead of making a cash contribution after selling the commodities.

BENEFITS OF A GIFT OF AG COMMODITIES

When an agricultural producer transfers legal ownership of grain or livestock to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization such as the Nebraska Community Foundation or for the benefit of one of NCF's affiliated funds before the commodity is sold, the producer will not realize taxable income from a sale, thus minimizing taxes. The producer is still able to deduct the entire cost of the production of the commodity on the producer's Schedule F. Depending on the producer's specific circumstances, savings may be realized on federal and state income tax and self-employment tax.

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT OF AG COMMODITIES

A producer should consult with his or her tax advisor to determine whether a contribution of commodities is appropriate to their tax situation. The Nebraska Community Foundation can help you make a gift of commodities to benefit your local community and get the desired tax treatment. Most importantly, you must provide written documentation to both NCF and the grain elevator or sale barn of the transfer of title of the commodity. The Nebraska Community Foundation must be in control of the sale of the commodity.

For assistance with a gift of commodities contact Les Long, Controller, 402-323-7346 or llong@nebcommfound.org.

KCFF Awards Grants for 2018

Reprinted from Keith County News, Jeff Headley, Co-publisher

The Keith County Community Foundation Fund will distribute \$31,394 to eight civic projects and organizations during its 15th year of grant giving. With the most recent gifts, KCFF Fund Advisory committees have distributed about \$332,000 to civic projects and organizations.

Sixteen years ago, the foundation established a permanent endowment designed to be used for civic projects in Keith County. Investment earnings from the endowment are used each year to award grants to organizations for special community projects. During its initial year, the foundation awarded \$6,500 in grants and distributed a high of \$37,575 in 2017. Since 2004, the foundation has awarded about

\$331,969 in grants. This year, the foundation received grant requests of about \$94,000.

KCFF Chairman Eric Duhachek said, "This year, grant applications totaled more than \$90,000, which was by far the biggest number we've received as a foundation. Fund Advisory Committee members are pleased to see that we are gaining more recognition and visibility in Keith County. We are excited to partner with increasing numbers of area groups and organizations to lead our area into the future. We continue to grow our unrestricted endowment fund so that we can help meet the needs in our rural communities."

Recipients this year included:

- Court-Appointed Special Advocates, a grant to help with the entity's remodeling for a bonding and restorative center.
- High Plains Royal Family Kids Camp, a grant to help disadvantaged children attend summer camp.
- · Paxton Public Library, a grant to replace carpet that was damaged by flooding.
- Village of Paxton, a grant for a welcome sign.
- Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce, a grant to update the county directory for chamber members.
- Keith County Area Development, a grant to expand its EXCEL tours, which includes on-site tours of businesses for high school juniors and seniors.
- Educational Service Unit 16, a grant for program materials for a parental instruction programs.
- Keith County Historical Society, a grant to remodel a building to house a historical museum.

Duhachek said, "KCFF is excited to partner with several new recipients this year, as well as groups we have worked with previously. We continue to believe that we can make a long-term impact in Keith County by contributing to youth and workforce development programs, as well as recruitment and betterment efforts."

KCFF board members will schedule and make personal presentations to the grant recipients in the coming weeks, and the Keith County News will detail each of the grant recipients' projects or additions as they are finished or become available.



The Keith County Senior Center is so grateful to the Keith County Community Foundation for the monies provided to purchase a new steam table. The old table lasted more than 35 years.

Approximately 100 meals are prepared in the kitchen of the Keith County Senior Center, Monday through Friday, year around. This number includes congregate meals served at the Center, home delivered meals to homebound elderly in the Ogallala city limits and meals sent to the meal site and home deliveries in Brule.

The new steam table assures that the correct temperature of the meals at serving time is maintained. Staff monitors the temperatures of the meals at least three times each day. It is more than a convenience to have the steam table that we can rely on to keep the foods at the proper temperature.

Dear Keith County Foundation Fund,

First, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the support from the Berryman Scholarship and the Keith County Foundation Fund. As an Ogallala native, it is so humbling to have the backing of the community that raised myself and is now helping me to raise my own family. This scholarship helps my family to defray some of the costs associated with pursuing a graduate level degree in the midst of raising our two-year-old daughter. My hope is also that my daughter can see how important education is and pursuing one's passion is worth all of the hard work.

I feel very blessed to have grown up in a small community where close relationships and family is around every corner. I believe this has largely shaped the way I hope to practice medicine in the very near future. I value trust and compassion as a means to treating ailments and taking care of patients, and I attribute this mentality to the roots from which I was raised. I am passionate about taking care of the community that has taken such good care of my family and returning to Ogallala to provide healthcare. My family and I are deeply invested in the community of Ogallala and whole-heartedly believe it is the best place to raise a family. With the monetary and social support that Ogallala and Keith County has provided to me, I am anxious to return and give back with the skills I have obtained and service I can soon provide. As a Physician Assistant, I will have the capability to have a positive impact on our community and continue to help the people grow and thrive. I feel as though I offer a unique opportunity to provide health care through the lifelong relationships that I have established in this area. Again, I would like to say "Thank you," for the kindness and support that has been poured out to me from the Keith County community and I so look forward to giving back soon.



Mara Peters Sincerely,

John and Eleanor Ruzanic – The Beginning





(On behalf of Rod's parents, Rod has chosen to memorialize his parent's life-long community-mindedness with an on-going pledge each month and this memoir. John and Eleanor were active Ogallala community supporters in scouts, Women's Professional Organization, church, dance, theater, and sporting events their entire married lives.)

She was on the trip of a lifetime. She just didn't know it. It was September in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Union Station was bustling with men in all sorts of military uniforms. Eleanor had heard of Union Station, but it was in the Nation's capital, her destination. The coach door opened as a conductor announced five minutes till departure from Penn Station. She looked up.

Already two days on a crowded train, the girls had seen mobilized men in uniform since leaving Grand Island, Nebraska, for jobs in D.C. as "government girls." She had met Sarah at St. Paul Business College, 1940. Both had paid the \$300 tuition and started classes and bakery shop side jobs the summer of their high school graduation. Office management and secretarial skills polished, the young women were answering their country's call as the war was engulfing much of the world.

He was laughing with his right arm over the shorter soldier's duffle bag. Wavy black hair came alive as he noticed the girls in the cabin and removed his traveling uniform's headgear. Casually names were exchanged while duffels stowed, then the train blew it's whistle and steam released as their car lurched into motion. The future was only one day ahead. Waiting to start her life's next chapter, she noticed his smile and dark eyes, but just for a moment. Paper-wrapped sandwiches shared with "coffee light" served in paper cups made dinner in their coach seem like a picnic on wheels. The two soldiers had been home on leave from Fort Lee in Virginia. Both from East Pittsburgh, it seemed. The men had been stationed at Panama City, and had exciting tales for the girls about the Canal and standing guard while German warships, Nazi flags snapping in the wind, moved from Atlantic to Pacific. "North to South," he said. She was more confused. Surely that couldn't be. Huge spiders, swarms of mosquitos, Nazi's going the wrong direction; she had to use the ladies. He stood first and held the cabin door for her. That smile, again. "No time for this; the job starts in three days!"

The Blue Plate special at the diner cost 79 cents most days. A mug of Katie's brew she called coffee was a nickel. She could afford that on her War Department pay. A good job. The girls were friendly. Mr. Stein treated them all with respect. She could handle the office with twice the workload. Keeping track of the Nation's metals was critical to the War Production Board's task. Her little 10-person crew had found all the platinum and aluminum supplies throughout the country, and she filed a daily accounting with Mr. Stein by 10 a.m. Besides, John had called last night. He was coming up to see her again in early December. She wrapped half her turkey sandwich in the napkin and left Katie's girl a nickel tip, feeling flush. Hadn't she managed well? Only two months into her flat off DuPont Circle with five roomies, and she's already sent Granma enough money

to put in the plumbing for the indoor bathroom! And now John was coming.

He was just over six feet tall. A trim 180. Since enlisting out of the CCC's with Abe, he'd added some muscle to the back and arms, but considered himself average. Building trails and planting trees all day was harder than anything the Quarter Master Corps had tossed at them. He figured he could check out cots and blankets to the new recruits in his sleep. Abe kept complaining that they would soon be decorated with potato-peals instead of commendations.

Panama at least earned a Canal Zone ribbon for their jackets. Fort Lee bored Abe to tears. Hitching north with Jay was always fun, and potatoes weren't going to peal themselves. Getting busted back to private twice had upset the folks back in Turtle Creek, but Jay's girl had four roomies he was still anxious to meet. Guess he'd save up and go next weekend.

She looked good. The coat fit right off the rack. Mostly wool, the real fur trim really made it a swell addition to her winter wardrobe. And, it was paid off! Johnny was due at Union Station. She and Dori had finished up their dishes at the sink and were out the door as two of the new girls from across the hall were getting home from their day shift. The girls exchanged puffs of half-frozen breath on the steps, and they hurried to catch the streetcar for the station.

He was glad to have Abe along. El was always bringing one of her roommates on their dates, and Abe was happy to meet them all. This time he'd planned to show her the National Aquarium. Abe was taking this new girl to the pictures. They could finally be alone for a few hours looking at the fish, or just talking. She looked great!

Wow. The smile. The kiss was a pleasant surprise. He looked kind of tired but said he was fine. Dori had grabbed Abe by the arm and called back to meet them after the pictures.

The Treasury was a stop from the Aquarium. The streetcars were full of uniforms. He had his arm around her as they huddled against the early winter chill. He could be busted back to buck private again, just to spend a few hours with this girl. She was kind; didn't pry about the medical issues she noticed. He was tired most of the time. Maybe later, after the fish, he'd take her to supper by the Willard. The diner had a turkey hot plate with the works. He'd tell her there.

The MP looked young. Nervous. Didn't ask Johnny for his papers. Just said it and kept walking. The whole Aquarium was moving. Fish and feet – voices hushed and someone crying in another alcove. He held her hand. They went into a gusty side street and hailed a cab to Union Station. "All leaves canceled." And then the blow. "The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor." She would remember those fish forever.

His three-day coma in Panama City was a postcard to his mother. The medical discharge came after it seemed everyone else was either already in uniform or just joining up. She was promoted at the ever-growing War Department. Eight new typists since December. Phone calls. Letters – finally a chance to see one another. He was going home. Could she get away for a few days? Meet the family? So much to do and plan. Her mother needed her back in Nebraska. He would understand – such kind eyes.

The spells keep coming. Tired. Off-balance. No more KP. Card from Abe last week of May. Lines blacked out but seems he's finally shipping out. Another letter from Eleanor. Gave notice after eleven months at the War Board of Production. That was last year. She'll be in Pittsburgh soon. She really is coming. She said yes.

They married September 17, 1943, in his parent's living room. Two of his three brothers were present with their wives. His sister and her husband stood up with Johnny and his Nebraska girl, Eleanor Roe from Ogallala.

They were in love for more than 50 years.

KCFF Kickoff Event

Sheila Mitchell and Sue Schilz, co-chaired our Kickoff Event that took place on June 20th at Haythorn's Event Center. Dinner was provided by Haythorn's Figure Four Catering and was scrumptious.

Our entertainer was Lannie Garrett from Denver, performing a comedy spoof called the Patsy Decline Show. We had a wonderful response to the show which featured hilarious comedy with lots of audience interaction, in addition to some wonderful music and singing. We were able to pack the hall by selling 200 tickets.

The evening was a a great gathering full of fun with friends and neighbors from Keith County, along with guests from out of town to support our efforts. Jacob Hovendick from our board, along with Tyler Pribbeno from Imperial's Foundation Fund, were our emcees and showcased a video of our vision for Keith County.

It was amazing to see the response and enthusiasm for the future of Keith County from so many people. Thank you to those who attended and participated.



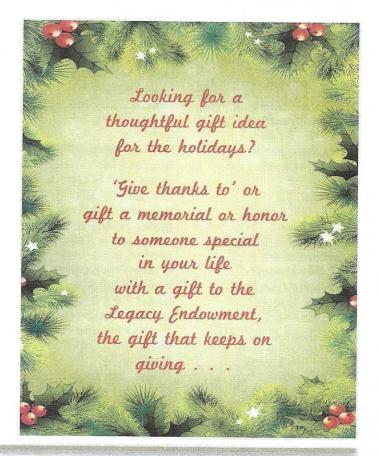
Back: Chris Snyder & Angela Svoboda, Front: Louise McGreer, Mary Bieber & Konni Sauder

Haythorn's Figure Four Event Center

Keith County Foundation Fund

Funds Statement - June 30, 2018

General Fund
Scholarships
Ogallala Library Fund\$437,143
Goodall Recreational Center \$20,889
Paxton Library Fund\$12,377
Brule Cemetery Fund\$7,324
Ogallala Arts Endowment \$8,871
Legacy Account
Holzfaster Board Endowment \$38,720
Berryman Education Account\$207,492
Wendt Account
Total\$2,019,541



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.

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Memorials & Gifts To Our Legacy

Contributions & Memorials received April 1, 2018 through October 23, 2018

Legacy Endowment

Callen, Larry & Mary Lynn, Windsor, CO. Dowson, Steve & Trudy, Ogallala Gill, Heather, Ogallala Harrington, W.H. & Sally, Ogallala Hovendick, Kirk & Laurie, Hickman, NE Jensen, Jerry & Colleen, Boise, ID Knispel, Cliff & Shirlee, Ogallala Johnson, Bergmeier, Wolf & Cipperly CPA's, PC, Johnson, Richard & Constance, Ogallala

Knudsen, Herbert & Karen, Ogallala Pinnacle Bank, Ogallala branch Schreiner, Gary & Cherry, Ogallala Shimmin, Rita, Ogallala

In Memory of

In Memory of Donald & Evelyn Wiest George & Patricia Wiest, Lake Oswego, OR (Legacy Endowment Fund)

In Memory of Patsy Colling Terry & Gwen Johnson, Ogallala (Legacy Endowment Fund)

In Memory of (continued)

In Memory of Dr. Jim Plate Terry & Gwen Johnson, Ogallala (Legacy Endowment Fund)

In Memory of "Doc" Rezac Bill Franken & Kay Gamet (Library Building Fund)

John & Kay Gamet (Library Building Fund)

In Memory of Walt & Letha Stewart Marcia Stewart, Lincoln, NE (Library Building Fund)

New Library Campaign

Michael & Barbara Hartzog, Orleans, NE (Library Building Fund)

Larry & Mary Lynn Callen, Windsor, CO (Library Building Fund)



Keith County Foundation Fund

P.O. Box 104 • Ogallala, NE 69153

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The year 2018 is drawing toward its close. On behalf of our Fund Advisory Committee, we give thanks for the many blessings our donors have bestowed to our Legacy Endowment and various funds both this year and past years. These blessings along with future leaders who follow in our footsteps will help to ensure that Keith County thrives for years to come. We especially give thanks to our Emeritus members, whose vision and efforts over the years have lent strong shoulders upon which we stand.

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas

Pam Abbott Vice Chair for the KCFF Advisory Committee





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

KCFF Donation Form

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