



2023 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1

OUR VISION

Enhance Keith County's ability to grow as a community where people want to live, work, learn, have fun and prosper.

OUR MISSION

Provide leadership

that promotes collaboration, cooperation and partnerships within the Keith County community

Encourage charitable giving

to build endowments and other community-focused funds

Provide stewardship

in partnership with Nebraska Community Foundation that provides guardianship and investment of funds

Make impactful grants

addressing community needs and opportunities through high-impact, sustainable grant-making

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Message From Our CHAIRWOMAN



While it is interesting to learn about our history, it is also exciting to think about how we can continue to ensure positive development in Keith County! As the school year is coming to an end, honors and awards events highlight the success of our area students. We have outstanding scholars in Keith County, and it is fascinating to hear of all the achievements garnered throughout the year. Our youth are instrumental in our county's continued growth, and we will profit by engaging and assuring them that they play an important role in community development. These young people are some of our future community leaders and we will benefit from listening to their dreams and ideas.

What is needed to retain the next generation and to attract them to return? Let's ask them! The Keith County Foundation Fund has partnered with the Nebraska Community Foundation and the University of Nebraska-Omaha to conduct a youth survey of Ogallala and Paxton high school students. This study will help us realize the students' interests, engagement within the community and their plans following graduation. We are hoping to learn of factors that may influence their decisions to stay, or eventually return home. The results might tell us what the youth envision Keith County looking like in ten years and may help us invest in youth priorities, utilize their thoughts for our communities, and perhaps provide potential entrepreneurial opportunities.

Stay tuned, we are anxiously awaiting the youth survey results to share with the students, school administrators and our Keith County communities! ■

Angie Kolste | KCFF Chair



The Keith County Family Block Party April 22, 2023, was a huge success. The funding for the event came from Keith County Big Give.

Keith County Big GIVE 2023

The 2023 Big GIVE event is fast approaching. This year's fund drive runs June 1 through June 15 and will offer participating organizations the chance to reach out to previous and potential donors, promote their mission and project(s), and maximize donations with the assistance of KCFF's matching funds enhancements.

Behind the scenes, members of the Big Give Committee started working as soon as the 2022 event ended. In order to build on last year's success, volunteer members have been meeting monthly throughout the year to organize, recruit, train, and create a fundraising event where each participant organization is empowered to raise the funds necessary to complete their goal and the residents of Keith County will reap the benefits.

Participating organizations have been registered and are working to promote their projects. Providing these organizations with tools such as the use of a Big Give website, participant training, and a focused media campaign can make the difference in a project coming to life or languishing in the idea stage.

In 2022 thirty organizations benefitted from contributions exceeding \$200,000. We are excited to see what 2023 will bring. Each year we are awed and inspired by the generosity of Keith County's residents. We have been and continue to be amazed by the giving spirit of our local charitable organizations. With the 2023 campaign we are excited to see all the ways our community will be enriched and our sense of community deepened.

To find information on which groups are participating this year and what projects need funding assistance go to keithcountybiggive.org/ or keithcountyfoundation.org/biggive ■



Guest speakers Kendra Caskey and Rachel Ervin from Nebraska Volleyball West, a participating Big Give project from 2021, share their success story at the Big Give Business After Hours Event, April 12, 2023.

Seeking a Shift in Rural Economic Development

A gathering of Nebraskans leading the way toward building sustainable local economies met in Keith County April 27th and 28th to learn from each other, share progress, and tour local businesses as part of an ongoing peer learning program.

This was the fourth peer learning session of Energizing Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (E3), an initiative designed by Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), NetWork Kansas and e2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems to help communities build a culture that supports and encourages local business growth. KCFF is a financial supporter of the Keith County E3 Group.

"Today in Nebraska, economic opportunities are created by local entrepreneurs as opposed to the traditional model of recruiting a 'home run' employer from somewhere else," said K.C. Belitz, NCF's COO. "That's why NCF is proud to have begun this E3 initiative to build more successful ecosystems to grow entrepreneurs across Greater Nebraska."

The three-year endeavor, which began in 2021, aims to empower local leaders to further business, community and economic development in Valley County, Holt County, Keith County, Sidney and Red Cloud through extensive training, education, and peer learning opportunities. So far, the cohort has held three other sessions in Valley County, Holt County and Sidney.

The Keith County session began in Paxton, where participants dined at Ole's Big Game Steakhouse and toured two local businesses, Hehnke's grocery store and Pronto Pit Stop. The session continued in downtown Ogallala, where the group learned from owners of The Tin Cactus Boutique, Makenzi's Boutique, U-Save Pharmacy, Buenz Gifts and Adams Bank & Trust.



E3 Group members at the Kenfield Petrified Wood Gallery in Ogallala, NE.

Participants presented community updates at the Kenfield Gallery, sharing successes and challenges with each other. The conversations sparked inspiration and new ideas.

Boxcar hosted the E3 cohort for dinner, which featured a talk by Valley County E3 member and business coach Caleb Pollard, who also co-owns Scratchtown Brewing Company in Ord. The day ended at Second Chapter Brewing, Ogallala's new brewery housed in the former public library building.

The following morning the group toured Front Street then returned to the Kenfield Gallery to delve deeper into their plans for the few months before their next peer learning session.

"The momentum we heard in all five E3 communities was impactful," Belitz said. "Through presentations and conversation, their energy, momentum, activity and growing confidence was readily felt. And what was particularly interesting was how each of the five is finding their unique path, which is just what entrepreneurs do." ■

Communities Connecting in Meaningful Ways

Members of Keith County Foundation Fund and other community residents hosted North Omaha residents as part of a tour of Southwest Nebraska that aimed to highlight the commonalities between urban and rural Nebraska.

A collaboration between Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) and Preston Love Jr.'s North Omaha Legacy Tours brought a group of 15 North Omaha and Lincoln residents west to build relationships and share a taste of life in Greater Nebraska. The tour included stops in McCook, Imperial and Ogallala.



Members of the Urban Rural Tour enjoyed a mock livestock auction

"At Nebraska Community Foundation we believe 'change happens along the lines of relationships at the speed of trust,'" said NCF CEO and President Jeff Yost. "That's what we're doing with this exchange. We're building relationships between Nebraskans to identify commonalities, build trust and find opportunities that are mutually beneficial."

The tour's final leg, organized by Keith County Community Foundation Fund, began at Ogallala Livestock Auction Market where participants witnessed a mock auction and learned about the livestock market from co-owner Jay Nordhausen. The travelers then went on a bus tour of Ogallala landmarks such as Boot Hill, the Mansion on the Hill and Lake McCaughy. The day in Ogallala concluded with a lunch at United Methodist Church, which featured presentations by Cowboy Capital Consultants and students involved in youth-inspired philanthropy efforts. Small group conversations followed lunch with attendees and hosts sharing reflections and next steps.



Jay Nordhausen

Tour organizers in southwest Nebraska took inspiration from Love's hosting NCF volunteers on a tour of North Omaha in November 2022. That tour was the result of conversations between Love and NCF leadership that identified numerous commonalities between urban and rural Nebraska and investigated opportunities to unleash each community's abundant local assets.



Preston Love, Jr. and Pam Abbott speak at lunch.

"These new relationships have the potential of going beyond the learning process and possibly extend to mutual initiatives," Love said. "Together our communities can benefit and assist each other toward mutual growth and enrichment."

The groups plan on maintaining and growing the relationships and friendships they developed through this unique and enriching experience. ■

Youth Inspired Philanthropy 2023

Making a Difference

The Youth Inspired Philanthropy Contest is an exciting opportunity for youth and young adults to use their creativity, compassion, and love of their community to make a difference. Inspiring and supporting area youth is the goal of KCFF's YIP project. In its third year, this exciting endeavor continues to grow and attract young Keith County philanthropists.

This year's winners include nine groups or individuals who are bringing their philanthropic ideas to life. In order to participate applicants had to submit a well-thought-out proposal, present their idea to the public, and receive approval from YIP Coordinators, Mary Jensen and Barb Jeffres.

Participants receive up to \$1,000 to fund their project and must show how these funds will be spent. If a project will cost more than \$1000 the applicant must show where the additional funds will come from. In addition, all projects must be completed by November 1, 2023 ■

2023 Projects

- Wreck'em Racks
- Younger Kids are Greater Than You Think
- Peace, Love, and Rocks
- OG Swim Team
- READ
- Don't Sweat It, Pet It!
- Furever Friends
- Welcome Bags
- York Cable Attachments & Rack



2023 YIP Showcase February 16, 2023

Ways to GIVE

When asked to make a gift to support the causes near to our hearts, most of us wouldn't hesitate to reach for our wallets. When it comes to making a larger gift, however, thinking beyond cash can help us make an even greater impact on the communities and causes we care about . . . not to mention provide tax benefits. Here are some ideas for outright charitable giving (that don't involve writing a check):



CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER If you are over the age of 70 1/2, you may make a qualified charitable distribution up to \$100,000 from an IRA to a charity without paying taxes on the distribution. The gift may also qualify as your required minimum distribution. This is like receiving a 100% tax deduction.



APPRECIATED STOCKS OR MUTUAL FUNDS Making gifts of appreciated stocks or mutual funds has several benefits. First, if you have owned the property for more than one year, it can be deducted at its current market value. Second, a sale of appreciated stocks or mutual funds would generate a taxable capital gain. When you make a charitable gift of the stocks or mutual funds you pay no capital gains tax.



GRAIN/LIVESTOCK A gift of commodities allows a farmer or rancher to avoid claiming the sale price of the commodity as income and deduct the cost of production as a business expense. In other words, the gift can be made completely tax-free.



REAL ESTATE A gift of real estate that has increased in value since you have owned it has several benefits. First, if you have owned the property for more than one year, the gift of real estate can be deducted at its current market value. Second, a sale of appreciated real estate would generate a taxable capital gain. However, when you

make a charitable gift of the real estate, you pay no capital gains tax when it is sold by the charity.



CLOSELY HELD STOCK Transferring business ownership, either at retirement or as an inheritance, offers unique opportunities and benefits of charitable giving. Not only does transferring your stock bypass capital gains and provide a charitable deduction, it also allows the corporation to buy back the stock.



ANNUITY The current value of an annuity is fully tax deductible when gifted to charity. The growth in the value of the annuity will be taxed as ordinary income and may be offset by the charitable income tax deduction.



PAID-UP LIFE INSURANCE POLICY By naming a charity the owner and beneficiary of a paid-up life insurance policy, you will be able to receive a current income tax deduction. The income tax deduction is approximately equal to the policy's cash value or, if less, the premiums paid. Or, name a favorite charitable organization or community fund as the beneficiary of a policy.

Reach out to Nebraska Community Foundation at **402.323.7330** or **info@nebcommfound.org** to learn more about tax-wise charitable giving to benefit the community you love.

BERRYMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Berryman Scholarship, administered through the Keith County Foundation Fund, will be accepted until June 1, 2023.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the student must be a Keith County resident pursuing a post-secondary education following a break in education, a current college/university student, or a traditional student continuing directly from high school to post-secondary education.

* **Preference given to a non-traditional student pursuing a post-secondary education.**

Applications must be postmarked by June 1, 2023, and mailed to:

Keith County Foundation Fund, Scholarship Committee
PO Box 104, Ogallala, NE 69153.

For further information, email Mary Pierce at piercem@mpcc.edu or go to keithcountyfoundation.org/berrymanscholarship

JUNE 1-15, 2023

Keith County
THE BIG GIVE

Building a better community, together.



Our work depends on **YOUR SUPPORT**
Contribute to our mission at **www.keithcountyfoundation.org**

Keith County Foundation Fund is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.

