

Foundation funds can be used for community improvement

A group of area volunteers, working with the Fund Advisory Committee of the Boone County Area Community Foundation Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) have their sights set on a number of local community improvements. Petersburg committee members include Radene Temme, Pat Thieman, Cheri Werner, Julie Baumgartner, Ashley Thieman, and Adam Wies. They are asking others to get involved. The group has established a permanent endowment account to benefit Petersburg, and a general account to support and maintain current activities.

According to Radene Temme, the committee has identified a number of community projects that need attention. These include the restoration of the mural on the west side of the town building, remodeling the old part of the fire hall, updates to park and playground equipment, and remodeling the park's snack shack.

Memorial gifts to honor special occasions or achievements are welcome. Tax gifts such as real estate, agricultural commodities, stocks, life insurance and annuities can also be arranged through the Nebraska Community Foundation to benefit the Petersburg area.

"It is amazing what a community can do when everyone pulls together," said Temme. For example, in Shickley (population 376), half of all the households in the school district are donors to the community fund. More than \$100,000 has been reinvested in projects ranging from education to recreation, economic development and more. The fund has nearly a half million dollars in permanently endowed assets. That means that community grants, made from the endowment, will continue year after year.

"Shickley is almost the same size as Petersburg," said Temme. "And, I am sure their folks are no more generous than we are. We just need to think of what our community means to us and give back what we can to make it prosper. There's just a tremendous sense of satisfaction knowing that you are investing in the future of your hometown," she added.

There are 183 communities that currently benefit from charitable gifts made through affiliated funds of the Nebraska Community Foundation. Petersburg area volunteers are encouraging residents to consider making tax-deductible contributions to improve their community, now and in the future. There are a number of ways to contribute. You may become a member of the Founders Club with a \$100 annual cash donation, or people under the age of 40 can become a member of the Starters Club for an annual contribution of \$50.

The Petersburg committee plans to keep the community informed of progress and activities. Contributions may be made payable to the Boone County Area Community Foundation Fund-Petersburg Account, P.O.Box 102, Petersburg, NE 68652, and should be designated to either the general account or the endowment,

For more information, contact Radene Temme at 402-386-5773. Additional information is available at www.nebcommfound.org.