

The Grant

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Perkins County will reap benefits of meeting Hunt Challenge



Perkins County received the final endowment check from the Hunt family at the most recent Chamber of Commerce meeting. Present were (Front row, l-r): Perkins County Community Foundation chairman Michelle Ross, Becky Uehling, PCCF treasurer Ashley Colglazier, Hunt Challenge and Nebraska Community Foundation representatives Gail Jensen and Jana Jensen. Back row: Chamber members Kevin Poppe, Brandon Wood, Jeff Wallin and Dan Ross. (Courtesy photo)

Its now official. As of Feb. 18, the Perkins County Community Foundation has a \$200,000 endowment to work with, thanks to the generosity of the Perkins County citizens and the Hunt family.

Gail Jensen, representing the Hunt family, owners of Great Plains Communications, was present at the Perkins County Chamber of Commerces meeting on Feb. 18 to present the final \$25,000 installment of a challenge grant that was given to the Perkins County Community Foundation representatives three years ago.

The \$25,000 was just half of the amount given by the Hunt family through a challenge grant that required the Perkins County community to first raise \$150,000.

It is communities like Perkins County and companies like the Hunt Foundation that make things happen in our small towns all across Nebraska, said Jana Jensen, representative of the Nebraska Community Foundation during the presentation.

The Perkins County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

Before presenting the check to PCCF Chairman Michelle Ross, Nelson gave accolades to Perkins County, and reminisced about the time that she and her family lived in Perkins County.

Man, I love this place, Jensen said. With wide open spaces, wheat fields and ability to see for miles. We really enjoyed our time here.

Jensen congratulated the citizens of Perkins County on their efforts to maintain the economic viability of the community.

Things have changed, but that isnt a bad thing. Perkins County has been growing and attracting new people and this endowment through the community foundation will assist in this effort, Jensen said.

Ross spoke briefly about the award, thanking all in the community who continued to believe in the foundation and who stepped up, especially at the end, to donate and meet the challenge grant.

The interest generated by the \$200,000 will be approximately \$10,000. This will be put back into Perkins County every year as grants for economic development projects.

The Perkins County Community Foundation began in December 2003 and continues to grow its potential to assist all communities in the county to remain viable.

According to Ross, a reorganizational time will now occur with the foundation, with talks to be held among other county leaders and organizations to determine the best direction for the foundation.

Those who are interested in helping with the foundation, who would like to serve on the board, or who have any ideas to assist us in making the foundation more viable are asked to call me or any of the board members and get involved, Ross said after the meeting.