

Nemaha County Development Foundation Fund Touted Benefits at March 1 Gathering

On March 1, approximately 35 county residents attended a wine and cheese gathering at Arbor Manor in Auburn hosted by the Nemaha County Development Foundation Fund. The informal event was an opportunity for citizens to learn more about the Fund and its goals. More than \$5,000 was raised for the Fund endowment as the result of the event.

Event participants were informed about the Fund's newly formed Cornerstone and Founders Clubs. The Founders Club includes any person who makes a one-time donation of at least \$25. The Cornerstone Club is for those individuals who have pledged to donate \$100 annually. To date the Cornerstone Club has 32 members. It is hoped that this number will grow dramatically over the next few months so that the Fund endowment will have a method for systematic growth through the years.

Former Nemaha County resident Ruth McMaster spoke to the gathering. Now a resident of Nebraska City, she is active in that community's affiliated fund. McMaster discussed the numerous ways in which community funds such as these can support worthwhile non-profit causes. She explained how it was a grant from the Nebraska City Foundation Fund that saved that community's financially strapped Legion baseball program.

Grants from the fund she established in honor of her late husband, Dr. Skip McMaster, have been used to benefit the Auburn Library and Optimist Lake. She concluded her remarks by presenting the Nemaha

County Foundation Fund Advisory Committee a check for \$100 to join the Cornerstone Club. As she said, I want to belong!

It was explained to those in attendance that community foundations can offer a wide range of services. An endowment is designed to give grants of approximately five percent of its total value each year. This represents an average annual investment growth in the fund. As the endowment grows in value, so do the grants given to recipients. Accounts can also be established within the foundation to benefit designated projects or activities.

The Nemaha County Development Foundation Fund is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, through which it gains its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Therefore, all contributions are tax-deductible. The Nebraska Community Foundation provides financial management, strategic development and education services to 200 affiliated funds throughout Nebraska.

The Nemaha County Development Foundation Fund is an all-volunteer organization. It meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Auburn Senior Center. The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about the foundation. Anyone interested in more information or wishing to make a contribution should contact a Fund Advisory Committee member. Current members are Mary Kruger, Sharon Hessler, Nancy Eggers, Stephen Kennedy, David Pease, Kellie Kennedy, Denice Rathbone, Janice Boden, T.O. Davison and Pat Castle.