

# Working together makes an impact

*Nebraska Community Foundation having success in building for future*

“Building vibrant communities of hope and opportunity.”

Those are the words emblazoned across the cover of the 2010 annual report of the Nebraska Community Foundation. It would be difficult to find more appropriate ones.

Many Norfolkans and residents of several area communities are well aware

of the community foundation’s role and importance because they are what’s known as affiliated fund communities. But many more should know.

The foundation’s mission is to work with community leaders across Nebraska to inspire charitable giving, prudently manage financial resources and make strategic investments that will help ensure prosperity for Nebraskans and the communities where they live.

It’s no surprise to us that the foundation is being well-received. In the past year, the foundation and affiliated community funds received 7,794 gifts, and 77 percent of those were from repeat donors.

The foundation has reinvested \$118 million in Nebraska and its communities since 1993. It has \$56 million in total assets and \$32 million in endowed assets. There are 205 affiliated funds serving 227 communities in 77 counties.

Those are impressive numbers. But they need to be if the wealth that has been accumu-

lated through hard work and diligent service by Nebraskans across the state is to best benefit their hometowns and other charitable causes.

Jon Schmaderer, president of the Tri-County Bank in Stuart, said, “This is a marathon, not a sprint. This is not for our generation. It’s for the next. We need to let the next

generation know there is opportunity close to home.”

The individual community affiliated funds help any number of local causes in any number of ways. In Albion, for example, grants helped to re-

furbish the dining room at Good Samaritan Society-Wolf Memorial Hospital. In Holt County, the local fund provides a personalized mailbox to every high school graduate in the county as a way to remind them that they are always welcome home.

And those are just two examples.

“All this is a remarkable testament of faith in the future of rural Nebraska. People are witnessing positive change. Today, our young people no longer need to leave town for good to find a better life,” said Jeff Yost, president of the community foundation.

This is a success story because it’s a success for individual Nebraskans and individual communities that share a vision for a better and brighter future for the state.

## TALK BACK

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