

Vision for the future — is main focus for Red Cloud

By **HARRIETT ZADE**,
Red Cloud Chief

The fourth annual **Red Cloud Community Foundation (RCCF) Donor Dinner** was held Friday evening, May 27 at the **Red Cloud Opera House**. There were 90 people enjoying the meal which was prepared by the **Palace Restaurant**. The meal and program were held in the upper gallery.

Jay Hall is RCCF's chairperson and he gave the welcome and introductions prior to the meal. Pastor **Marshall Faulkenberry** presented the invocation.

Each year, the foundation administers and presents scholarships to RCHS graduating students. This year's awards were given to **Maggie Jackson, Emma Bohrer, Shelby Peters, Kim Morris and Taylor Neiman**. All of these awards had actually been presented May 12 at RCHS Awards Night. The scholarships total amount was \$7,250.00. Each of these young women will be attending colleges.

As of now, the **Nebraska Community Foundation** is represented in 77 counties and 227 communities in Nebraska.

The program's focus was on **HomeTown Competitiveness (HTC)** and building a system of leaders and positive plans to grow our town and community. A framework is being studied toward goals that need to be

achieved. These goals include pillars which are strategized at reversing rural decline. **Nicole Sedlacek, Director of the Holt County Economic Development**, shared thoughts of how Holt County and its towns were working toward these goals.

Andrea (Olson) Frey of Red Cloud and Ryan Sherwood of Omaha spoke to the audience about HTC and about investing in our hometown through the **Red Cloud Community Foundation**. Both are RCCF Advisory Committee members.

Jeff Yost, President and CEO of the Nebraska Community Foundation reinforced sentiments of the evening's focus and encouraged how giving back to our hometown is providing for economic development and opportunities for future generations. "We need to celebrate what we have done," he noted as he referred to the Red Cloud Opera House renovation. "We have focused on things that are unique to us; more than 41,000 people have done something associated with **Willa Cather and her hometown of Red Cloud**."

Every community has a proud history and things to capitalize on as it rebuilds. Each of us, through vigilance and continuing charitable giving will help build our community toward greater economic opportunity and a solid

future.

The **Nebraska Community Foundation** and its affiliated funds have reinvested \$118.5 million in the state since 1993.



SPREADING THE WORD -- Andrea (Olson) Frey is shown handing out informational material at the Donor Dinner May 27. Photo—Harriett Zade