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CHESTER COMMUNITY ENVISIONS BRIGHT, BOLD FUTURE

The Chester Community Fund Advisory Committee hosted a "visioning session" last Wednesday, Jan. 23 in the Chester Auditorium. The goal of the meeting was to generate ideas for the future of Chester and form consensus around shared community goals and priorities.

The event was facilitated by Greta Leach and Dena Beck of Nebraska Community Foundation and members of the Chester Community Fund Advisory Committee (FAC). The meeting started with a welcome from FAC Chair Jenilee Harms and continued with Leach and Beck outlining the evening's agenda. A delegation of peer community volunteers from Diller — Beth Roelfs, Tammy Weers and Vonnie Schlichtman — spoke to the group and told of their successes with their own local community fund. This was followed by Richard Walter of the Shickley Community Foundation Fund and Jaye Moeller of the Byron Community Foundation Fund telling of their own communities’ achievements.

Next attendees were invited to call out their favorite "Chester Proud Moments.” The list was long including items ranging from the crowning of the 2017 Miss Nebraska (who hails from Chester) to the annual Christmas Light and Sound Show. Participants were then asked to visualize their hopes and dreams for the Village of Chester in the year 2035. These visions and ideas were written down and placed on a large idea board and grouped by category. This exercise proved to be very inspiring for those in attendance who quickly realized their goals were within reach.

“As the evening unfolded you could see the enthusiasm swell,” said Beth Roelfs, Diller Community Foundation Fund. “I was impressed by the cross representation of the community and cooperation you could see during table conversations.”

After two short videos which showcased the accomplishments of Diller and Shickley, Nebraska Community Foundation’s Greta Leach recapped the evening and laid out the next steps in the visioning process. The Chester FAC will now review the feedback and ideas generated at the meeting and create an action plan to achieve the established goals and make Chester an even better place to live, work and play.

Before the evening concluded, Dallen George, president of the Western National Bank, announced to the group that Western National Bank would provide a challenge grant opportunity to further the Fund’s work which would ask FAC members to raise $XXXX in order to receive a $XXXX match. To help the FAC rise to this challenge, contributions can be made online at <https://www.nebcommfound.org/give/chester-community-fund>.

**About Chester Community Fund**

Formed in 2011, Chester Community Fund is dedicated to progress and long-term prosperity. A volunteer Fund Advisory Committee works actively to increase charitable giving and award grants to local worthy causes and projects that are addressing emerging needs and future opportunities in the Chester community. Chester Community Fund volunteers are actively working to build a community unrestricted endowment to support community improvements and programs long into the future. Chester Community Fund is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.

**About Nebraska Community Foundation**

Nebraska Community Foundation unleashes abundant local assets, inspires charitable giving and connects ambitious people to build stronger communities and a Greater Nebraska.

In the last five years, 41,776 contributions have been made to NCF and its affiliated funds. Since 1994, NCF has reinvested $323 million in Nebraska’s people and places. For information, visit NebraskaHometown.org.