

# Keith County Community Foundation Fund

[www.nebraskahometown.org/fund/keith-county](http://www.nebraskahometown.org/fund/keith-county)

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P.O. Box 104, Ogallala, NE 69153

Nov. 2, 2016

## Foundation awards \$20,500 in grants

The Keith County Community Foundation Fund recently distributed \$20,500 to seven civic projects and organizations during its 13<sup>th</sup> year of grant giving.

With the most recent gifts, KCCFF Fund Advisory committees have distributed more than a quarter million dollars to civic projects and organizations.

Fourteen years ago, the foundation established a permanent endowment designed to be used for civic projects in Keith County.

Investment earnings from the endowment are used each year to award grants to organizations for special community projects.

During its initial year, the foundation awarded \$6,500 in grants and distributed a high of \$31,000 in 2007. Since 2004, the foundation

has awarded about \$263,000 in grants.

This year, the largest grant went to Keith County Area Development, \$6,000 of a \$12,000 request for a tuition reimbursement program for students attending higher education institutions who committed to coming back to work within the community.

Three county fire departments received grants from the foundation.

The Keystone-Lemoyne Volunteer Fire Department received \$4,000, all of its request, for a truck-mounted LED light system.

The Brule Volunteer Fire Department received a \$3,500 grant, about one-half of its nearly \$7,130 request for a truck and tank size enhancement project.

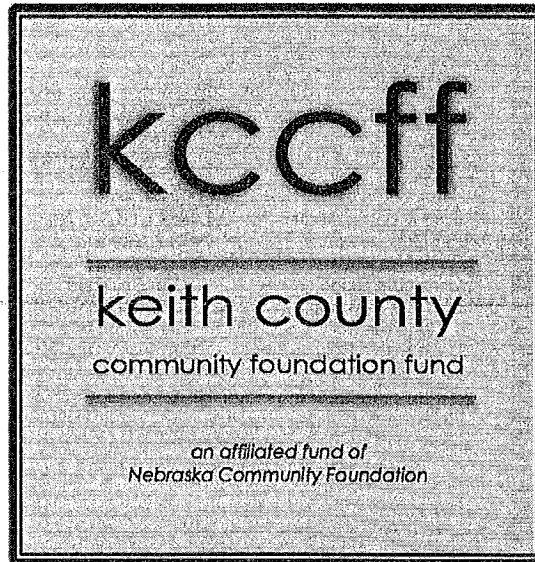
The Ogallala Volunteer

Fire Department received a \$2,500 grant, more than half of it nearly \$4,673 request, for new air quality monitors.

The Keith County and Lemoyne Senior centers both received grants. The Keith County Senior Center received \$2,500, all of its request, for chairs with arm supports, while the Lemoyne Senior Center received \$2,000, all of its request, to purchase a treadmill for physical fitness.

Although the FAC had more than \$28,300 available to be granted to organizations, the committee decided to hold back some money in hopes of funding some larger, more-problematic-to-the-community projects.

With the grants that were made, the FAC decided to



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## Reiselman honors wife, community with gift

Even though Ruth Reiselman passed away more than a decade ago, her husband has gone above and beyond to honor the memory of her and, at the same time, benefit the local community in which they both lived for more than half a century.

Bernard "BJ" Reiselman of Ogallala recently donated \$10,000 to the Keith County Community Foundation Fund as a memorial to Ruth, who passed away in 2003. Although he had made donations to

the foundation in the past, they had never been as large as the one he recently donated in Ruth's honor.

"I just wanted to give a little money back to the community, and I thought that would be the best way to do it," Reiselman said. "I noticed that they're doing a lot of good things."

The Keith County Community Foundation Fund accepts financial donations and then distributes the interest earnings from the endowment fund to various organizations

around the county, such as to fire departments, senior centers and schools, among others.

Ruth, originally from Orchard, moved to Ogallala to begin a job as a teacher in 1944. During her career of more than 40 years, Ruth had taught kindergarten, and first and fourth grades at both Ogallala and Brule.

Unlike Ruth, BJ had grown up in the area since shortly after he was born. After being discharged from the Navy, with which he served dur-

ing World War II, he returned to Ogallala. He eventually began his own business, called the Reiselman Sign Co., which he ran for 40 years before selling the business.

Not long after Ruth moved to town, her path crossed with BJ's, which would eventually lead to a lifetime spent together.

According to Jane, the couple's daughter, Ruth got the first glance of the man who would be her hus-

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The foundation has given more than \$263,000 in local grants since 2004.

# Join these people and businesses in 'Helping Make a Difference'

## KCCFF Supporters

### LEVEL I

**\$25,000 or more**

Larry & Mary Lynn Callen,  
Legacy Challengers

Adams Bank & Trust  
Clark & Eileen Anderson  
Jerry & Barb Draucker  
Ralph & Beverly Holzfaster  
Terry & Gwen Johnson

Keith County News  
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Jim and Peg Thalken  
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Jack Pollock Memorial

Bernard J. Reiselman  
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Jason Zoellner Ford  
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### LEVEL II

**\$5,001 - \$24,999**

### LEVEL III - \$1,001-\$5,000

Richard & Ruth Beckler  
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John Roeser  
Gary & Cherry Schreiner  
Jerry & Candice Snow

Jerry & Joan Speck  
Berl Spencer Memorial  
Mark & Pam Spurgin  
T&C Service Center  
Dr. Charles Thalken  
Randall & Ellen Ward  
Scott & Mary Weber  
Milke & Karen Welsh  
Neil & Julie Williams

### LEVEL IV - \$1,000 or less

Michael & Pam Abbott  
Buck & Jacque Bassett  
Allen Bellinger Memorial  
Randy Blessing Memorial  
Lou and Barb Bonner  
Lucille Brunswig  
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Center for Rural  
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Marcia Edgar Butler  
Bob Edgar Memorial

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Zada Jensen  
Zada Jensen Memorial  
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Keith County Ag Society  
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Bruce McNeff Memorial  
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Nebraska PrintWorks,  
Lance and Carlene Larington  
Bonnie Nemecek  
Jean Nielsen  
Bill & Allie O'Connor  
Billy O'Connor Memorial  
Ogallala Tour & Travel  
Rita Paulus Memorial  
Pat Pelster  
Bobby & Marilee Perlinger  
Mark & Debbie Perlinger Family  
Pete & Wanda Peters Family  
Jason Peterson  
Philip & Teresa Pierce  
Allison Pollock Welch  
Jerry & Jane Raether  
Roger & Shirley Rankin  
Darlan & Jeanne Rezac  
Sharon Samp  
Ken & Deb Schilz  
Sue Schilz  
Korey Schow Memorial  
James Seacrest  
Robert & Kim Sestak

Ron & Evelyn Siffring  
Glenn Silvius  
Mark Smith  
Norm & Betty Lou Smith  
Kenneth & Christine Snyder  
Margaret Stevenson Memorial  
Jerry & Ginny Steinke  
T&A Alignment  
Robert and  
Kathleen Thompson  
Valley Bank & Trust  
Gayle & Barbara Verbeck  
Dr. Barbara Welsh-Osga  
Rod & Barb Wolf  
Lisa Goertz Yanchunis  
John & Diana Younker  
Steve & Rosa Zimmerman  
Anonymous Supporter

# Reiselman honors wife, community with gift...

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band for 56 years during a local football game when BJ and some of his friends grabbed the football and ran for the end zone. Their efforts, however, were not received as well as they may have hoped.

"They weren't supposed to be playing," Jane said with a laugh.

Sometime after that, Ruth caught BJ's attention, too. He was riding down the street in his car with a friend and saw Ruth walking by. Smitten with Ruth, BJ pointed her out, and his friend decided to see whether or not BJ would be up for the challenge of asking her out.

"I dare you to get a date with her," his friend said.

Almost 70 years later, an entire lifetime for some, it was a dare well spent. The couple went on to get married in June 1947.

They had two children, Jane and Jim, and would stay at Ogallala for the rest of their lives together.

At 91, BJ still lives at his hometown and has lived to



RUTH AND BJ REISELMAN



AN EARLY PHOTO OF RUTH AND BJ REISELMAN

see his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even multiple great-great-grandchildren.

During their lifetimes, both Ruth and BJ were active in their community and beyond.

Ruth was a Cub Scout den mother, taught a Red Cross home nursing course, was involved with the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and was a part of both the Nebraska and national education associations.

BJ was an officer with the Elks Club, the Lions Club, and was a member of the Jaycees.

He also was a member of the Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Like Ruth, BJ also was involved with the Episcopal Church.

With BJ's recent donation to the foundation, given in Ruth's memory, it is one more way which both have impacted their community.

## Building a Legacy

The Keith County Community Foundation Fund invites you, your business or organization to join the Legacy!

By contributing \$100 a year for individuals or families, or \$250 a year for businesses or organizations you will become a member of the Legacy.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up to be part of the Legacy through the Keith County Community Foundation Fund

- I am sending \$100 now
- I will make a \$10 a month bank deduction
- I am sending \$250 now
- I will make a \$21 a month bank deduction

I am sending a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like more information on planned giving.

Send to:  
**Keith County Community Foundation Fund**  
 P.O. Box 104, Ogallala, NE 69153  
 Website: [www.nebraskahometown.org/fund/keith-county](http://www.nebraskahometown.org/fund/keith-county)

## Make a difference!

### Memorial and Special Occasion Gifts

A memorial or tribute gift is an ideal way to contribute to the Keith County Community Foundation Fund. An acknowledgment card of your gift will be sent to the person(s) you indicate.

Enclosed is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 in Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Send acknowledgment to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your gifts will enrich the quality of life in Keith County. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to further enrich the purposes of the Keith County Community Foundation Fund, Inc. (All gifts are tax deductible)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Keith County Community Foundation Fund  
 P.O. Box 104, Ogallala, NE 69153

# More than 94 groups and projects have benefited

More than 94 civic projects at Brule, Paxton, Keystone-Lemoyne and Ogallala, as well as county organizations, have been awarded grants by the Keith County Community Foundation Fund since its establishment. This year, \$20,500 in grants were awarded to six organizations.

To date, projects at Paxton receiving funds include the Paxton swimming pool improvement project, Paxton Volunteer Fire Department, Paxton Public Library, Paxton Consolidated Schools, the Den Fund, Park Fund and Paxton Community Center.

Brule projects and groups include playground equipment, the Brule Volunteer Fire Department, the Brule walking path, the village of Brule concession stand, Brule Ambulance Squad, the Brule Community Center, Brule Park and Brule Lions Club.

Ogallala grantees include Habitat for Humanity, the Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department, New Horizons Non-Traditional Scholarship, PAKS, Ogallala's Petrified Wood Gallery, Keith County Senior Center, Ogallala Youth Committee, Ogallala Public Schools Project Adventure, Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack, Goodall City Library, U.S. Recycling, Ogallala Community Hospital Commitment to Caring Campaign, Arm in Arm campaign, Ogallala High School Key Club, Interact, Goodall Recreation Center, Ogallala Women's Resource Center, Ogallala Baseball Association, The Litter Box, Ogallala Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the Ogallala Music Boosters.

Keystone-Lemoyne grantees include the Keystone-Lemoyne Volunteer Fire Department, Lemoyne Senior Center and the Little Church at Keystone.

County-wide projects receiving funds include the Keith County Historical Society, SAFE Kids, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), the Lake McConaughy Dive and Rescue Team, the Nebraska Home Health Mom & Me Program and Western Prairie Hospice, Sandhills District Health Department and Clinic, Keith-Arthur Counties Food Pantry, Keith County Agricultural Society, Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program, Child Identification Program, Keith County Area Development and local programs for Mid-Plains Community College.

Other projects include the Phelps Hotel Historical Preservation Association. Funds for county-wide projects, which have been established within the foundation or for which the foundation served as a pass-through (depository) organization, include the Ogallala Library Foundation, Lake McConaughy Visitor Center, Brule Cemetery, Ogallala Main Street and the Ogallala Regional Arts Council piano replacement project.

# Foundation awards \$20,500...

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hold back \$8,334 from this year's investment earnings for other projects.

KCCFF Vice Chairman Eric Duhachek said, "The Keith County Community Foundation Fund recognizes the long-term needs of our rural communities. Housing, workforce development and infrastructure needs are some of the important issues that our community visioning meetings have identified, and we are eager to help with some of these long-term so-

lutions to our common problems.

"Starting this year, the fund will set aside part of its grant distributions from the unrestricted endowment to be used for larger community development projects. By setting aside part of our grant distributions for long-term goals, we will be able to make a lasting impact on Keith County," Duhachek said.

The following is a list of Endowment Fund grant recipients.

They include:

- Brule Volunteer Fire De-

partment, \$3,500, truck and tank size enhancement project.

- Keith County Area Development, \$6,000, tuition reimbursement program.

- Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department, \$2,500, air quality monitors.

- Keystone-Lemoyne Volunteer Fire Department, \$4,000, truck-mounted LED light system.

- Lemoyne Senior Center, \$2,000, treadmill.

- Keith County Senior Center, \$2,500, chairs with arm supports.

## Officers and advisory board members

Current KCCFF advisory board members – Chairwoman Mary Weber, Ogallala; Vice Chairman Eric Duhachek, Ogallala; Treasurer Teri Elmshouser, Ogallala; Secretary Jolene Robinette, Ogallala; Pam Abbott, Ogallala; Jo Brown, Brule; Craig Draucker, Ogallala; Ron Hollmann, Ogallala; Jacob Hovendick, Ogallala; F. Jon Holzfaster, Paxton; Sheila Mitchell, Ogallala; Mark Perlinger, Paxton; Sue Schilz, Lemoyne; Ken Snyder, Paxton; Chris Vail, Brule.

Emeritus members – Larry and Mary Lynn Callen, Brad Bauer, Janell Beveridge, Jerri Cole, the late Jerry Draucker, Linda Fuller, Dan Gilg, Liz Haines, Jean Havermann, Joanie Halligan, Jeff Headley, Jan Johnson, Elise Lockhart, F. E. "Pete" Peterson, Phil and Teresa Pierce, Beverly Pollock, the late Jack Pollock, Ken Schilz, Robert Sestak, Rita Shimmin, Aaron Smith, Jerry Speck, Barbara Spencer, Pam Spurgin, Doug Teaford, the late Jim Thalken, and Chad Vogl.

## Keith County Community Foundation Fund

Funds Statement – June 30, 2016

General Fund .....	\$18,935
Scholarships .....	\$96,019
Ogallala Library .....	\$392,245
Goodall Rec Center .....	\$21,009
Paxton Library Fund .....	\$10,905
Brule Cemetery Fund .....	\$6,644
Ogallala Arts Endowment .....	\$8,635
Legacy Account .....	\$833,630
Holzfaster Board Endowment .....	\$36,195
Berryman Education Account .....	\$192,503
Wendt Account .....	\$12,228
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,628,947</b>