Foundation awards $20,500 in grants

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

With the most recent gifts, KCCFF Fund Advisory committee members 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 in 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 $4,973 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 $38,500 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

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 during 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-

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**

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- $25,000 or more
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  - Adams Bank & Trust
  - Clark & Eileen Anderson
  - Jerry & Barb Draucker
  - Ralph & Beverly Holzfaeder
  - Terry &wen Johnson
  - Keith County News
  - Kevin & Elise Lockhart
  - Pinnacle Bank, Ogallala
  - Jack & Bay Pollock
  - Prophet Systems Innovations
  - Rita Shimmin
  - Jim and Peg Thalken
  - Western Prairie Hospice

### LEVEL II

- $5,001 - $24,999
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  - John & Pam Marquis
  - Ogallala Rotary Club
  - Clarke & Pam Morrow
  - Warren & Meg Morrow
  - John & Juli Paloucek
  - Dan Radcliff
  - Stan & Lynn Roberts
  - John Roeber
  - Gary & Cherry Schrainer
  - Ron & Sally Snider

### LEVEL IV – $1,000 or less

- Michael & Pam Abbott
  - Buck & Jacque Bassett
  - Allen Belling Memorial
  - Randy Blessing Memorial
  - Lou and Barb Bomer
  - Lucille Brunewald
  - Milly & Marsha Buttenbecker
  - August R. Buerz
  - Mel Butler Memorial
  - Center for Rural Entrepreneurship
  - Charles & Vicki Callen
  - Betty Cheeks Memorial
  - Cobb Realty, Inc.
  - Diane England
  - Larry & Mary Cumming
  - Robert Curry
  - Chet Dazell
  - Julie Firman-Jones
  - Days Inn, Ron & Sue Kolton
  - M.E. & Dorothy Dobesh
  - Bob Edgar & Marcia Edgar Butler
  - Bob Edgar Memorial
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  - Scott & Tracy Evensland
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  - Paul & Mary Kay Foy
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  - Steve & Shannon Goertcz
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  - Vicil Hill
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  - Joe Hubbard
  - Carl Jensen Memorial
  - Mary & Bruce Jensen
  - Zadie Jensen
  - Zadie Jensen Memorial
  - Calab Johnson
  - Melvin & Ruth Johnson
  - Keith County Ag Society
  - Kildare Lumber
  - Kay Kimberly
  - Michelle L. Kimberly
  - Michael J. Knott, D.D.S.
  - Herb & Karen Knudsen
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  - Lake Morgan Group
  - Saundra Lane
  - Linley Family
  - Tucker Lills
  - John Lund Insurance
  - George Marquette Memorial
  - Bradley Marsh
  - Kays & Alex McInerney
  - Bruce McNeff Memorial
  - Wendell & Jerry Mears
  - Gerald & Barbara Molenom
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  - Francois Moree
  - Bud & Kim Morell
  - Mckay & Devanne Moul
  - Nebraska PrintWorks
  - Lance and Carlin Angeles
  - Bonnie Namboeck
  - Joan Nielsen
  - Bill & Allie O'Connor
  - Billy O'Connor Memorial
  - Ogallala Tourism and Travel
  - Rita Paulus Memorial
  - Pat Paletz
  - Bobby & Malbee Perlinger
  - Mark & Debbie Perlinger Family
  - Pete & Wanda Peters Family
  - Jason Peterson
  - Philip & Tessa Pierce
  - Allison Pollock Welch
  - Jerry & Dana Raether
  - Roger & Shirley Rankin
  - Darla & Jeanne Rezac
  - Sharon Samp
  - Ken & Deb Schiltz
  - Sue Schiltz
  - Korey Schow Memorial
  - James Sestak
  - Robert & Kim Sestak
  - Ron & Evelyn Sillings
  - Glenn Silver
  - Mark Smith
  - Norm & Betty Lou Smith
  - Kenneth & Christine Snyder
  - Margaret Steverson Memorial
  - Jerry & Ginny Stelhke
  - T&A Alignment
  - Robert and Kathleen Thompson
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  - Rod & Barb Wolf
  - Lisa Goertz Yanchunis
  - John & Olana Younker
  - Steve & Rose Zimmerman
  - Anonymous Supporter
(Continued from page 1)

hand 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.

Some time 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 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 Girl 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.

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**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

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

- 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 $25 a month bank deduction

- I am sending a donation of $__________
- I would like more information on planned giving.

---

**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 ____________________________
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 ____________________________
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-Lemoynes 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, P A K S, 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 Musco Boosters.

Keystone-Lemoynes grantees include the Keystone-Lemoynes Volunteer Fire Department, Lemoynes 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...

(Continued from page 1)

hold back $5,334 from this year's investment earnings for other projects.

KCCF 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 solutions 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 Department, $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-Lemoynes Volunteer Fire Department, $4,000, truck-mounted LED light system.
- Lemoynes Senior Center, $2,000, treadmill.
- Keith County Senior Center, $2,500, chairs with arm supports.

Officers and advisory board members

Current KCCF advisory board members – Chairwoman Mary Weber, Ogallala; Vice Chairman Eric Duhachek, Ogallala; Treasurer Teri Elmerhauser, Ogallala; Secretary Joanne Robinette, Ogallala; Pam Abbott, Ogallala; Jo Brown, Brule; Craig Draucker, Ogallala; Ron Holman, Ogallala; Jacob Hovendick, Ogallala; F. Jon Holzfauster, Paxton; Sheila Mitchell, Ogallala; Mark Pehringer, Paxton; Sue Schilz, Lemoynes; 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 Hailigan, Jeff Headley, Jan Johnson, Eille Lockhart, F. E. "Pete" Peterson, Phil and Teresa Pierce, Beverly Pollock, the late Jack Pollock, Ken Schilz, Robert Sestak, Rita Shinnam, Aaron Smith, Jerry Speck, Barbara Spencer, Pam Spurink, Doug Teaford, the late Jim Thalken, and Chad Vogt.

Keith County Community Foundation Fund

Funds Statement – June 30, 2016

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