



# WYMORE-BLUE SPRINGS AREA FUND

*CLIMBing to a brighter tomorrow.*

2019 Annual Newsletter



## PROMOTING OUR MISSION

**Our thanks to Jay Nolte, a 1986 Southern alumni, for designing the Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund logo! Fund Advisory Committee members worked with Carol Hughes, owner and operator of "Sewgood Designs" in Blue Springs, to embroider our new logo on matching shirts.**

## OUR MISSION

We encourage financial generosity and volunteer commitment to ensure we become and remain a thriving place to live, raise families, do business and enjoy the good life.

## A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR



As I reflect on the past three years I am proud of all the Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund has accomplished and the positive impact we have made in our communities. The commitment of people, both near and far, and the collaborative efforts of several organizations have been astounding. This is our first newsletter and showcases what we have been involved in this past year.

Our vision is to be a proud, attractive community that builds on its history, continually works to ensure a thriving economic, educational, and recreational presence for today, and plans to continue its powerful hometown appeal for generations to come. All of our small communities have unique and special attributes and it is our responsibility to make our hometowns something to be proud of. To do that, we must surround ourselves and partner with positive people that want to see a change and have active hope for the future.

I love the saying "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree long time ago." Change does not happen overnight, but it will not happen at all if we do not have committed people to make our journey rewarding. Regardless of your connection to our Southern Gage communities, we hope you will read this newsletter and ask yourself "How can I help?"

Sincerely,  
Janice Cohorst  
Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund Chair

*Janice is pictured above with Nebraska Community Foundation's Assistant Director of Advancement, Janny Crotty.*

## OUR VISION

Our vision is a proud, attractive community that builds on its history, continually works to ensure a thriving economic, educational, and recreational presence for today and plans to continue its powerful hometown appeal for generations to come.

## WBSAF NEWS AND UPDATES



**Sam Wymore Days** This is the third year we participated in Sam Wymore Days with a float. The Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund has entered a float every year since we became organized. In 2018 we built a ship and displayed our message of "Sailing to our Goals."

### **Celebrity Kickball Game Nets \$3,594.70**

New in 2018 for Sam Wymore Days was the celebrity kickball game. Local "celebrities" representing various churches, organizations, schools and volunteer groups were invited to play—the only catch was they had to raise a minimum of \$100. One individual collected over \$600! In total, the two teams raised an impressive \$3,600 to benefit the Park Improvement Account.

If you would like to participate and represent your special organization during the June 8, 2019 Sam Wymore Days celebration, please contact us!



### **Community Coffee at McCandless Park**

The Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund hosted a community coffee in July 2018. McCandless Park provided the perfect location to inform the community of our Fund's future goals for the park and showcase our accomplishments to date. There was a wonderful turnout, and everyone enjoyed the refreshments provided by WBSAF.



**Spooktacular** The third annual Spooktacular was a hit for our communities and the surrounding area! Sam Thompson headed up this event and did a wonderful job. The Spooktacular is a great community event held in McCandless Park. In 2019, we hope to have a new bathroom facility to use during the event. Donations to the Park Improvement Account will help make that goal a reality.

### **Honoring Mary Jane Heusman**

Mary Jane (Shoup) Heusman passed away on June 6, 2018. Mary Jane and her husband, Budge, enjoyed and took pride in their work at all of Wymore's parks. Her son, Matt, elected to designate his mother's memorial of \$1,480 to the Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund with all funds going to the Park Improvement Account. Mary Jane had been a financial investor in the Park Improvement Account since we became an affiliated fund. Thank you, Matt for entrusting WBSAF with your mother's memorial and legacy.



**Tire Amnesty** WBSAF participated in the Gage County Tire Amnesty event for the second time in 2018. In 2016, WBSAF collected 15 tons of tires from Blue Springs and Wymore residents. This year WBSAF partnered with "One Property at a Time" and collected over 10 tons.

This event would not have been possible without the volunteers and it was wonderful to see community members across generations working

together for a common goal. The Southern football team helped on Friday and the employees of Lauby Plumbing, Heating & Air showed up in full force. Many farmers helped by lending their trucks to transport tires to the Gage County Fairgrounds.

The event was proof that it takes willing individuals of all ages and from all walks of life working together to build a strong community.



**Golf FUNdraiser** WBSAF and Southern Gage Kiwanis partnered for the second year for a golfing event, however, instead of having a tournament, we decided to have a FUNdraiser. Each hole had a fun challenge to complete – like driving off a 10-inch-long tee. Another challenge was to draw a card from a bag depicting a sport (other than golf).

Participants then had to use that sport's equipment to tee off!

There were many laughs heard around the course. All proceeds went to the Park Improvement Account. Together WBSAF and Kiwanis netted \$3,450. Please save the date for our next event planned for August 2019!



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY.ORG™  
TAKE A BOOK • RETURN A BOOK

**Little Free Library** A "Little Free Library" has found a home at McCandless Park. Local business Circle D Manufacturing designed and built the library. WBSAF wanted a miniature version of a one-room schoolhouse, just like District 81 School which is currently being restored. We hope the community will embrace the Little Free Library and its invitation to "take a book, share a book."

**Treasure Hunt** If you have roots in Wymore, you remember walking the downtown streets looking for your winning numbers in the storefronts the day after Thanksgiving. This was the second year that WBSAF offered hot chocolate to community members of all ages.

**Football Gate Admissions** In 2017, WBSAF was contacted by Jerry Rempe, Southern Athletic Director, to ask if members of our Fund Advisory Committee would be willing to work the admissions gate at the home football games. We were asked again in 2018 and once again, volunteers stepped up. Monetary donations from the school went into the Park Improvement Account.





Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund  
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## OUR VALUES

### **C**ollaborative

WBSAF reaches out to other organizations in our communities to promote programs and projects to benefit all residents by our efforts and investments.

### **L**oyal

We are good stewards, committed to keeping our promises. We are honest, truthful and fair to all donors, recipients, partners, and community members.

### **I**nvested

WBSAF sets goals to accomplish our mission. We are dedicated to fulfilling our vision for our communities by supporting people, programs, and services.

### **M**otivated

WBSAF is driven to accomplish our mission and fulfill our vision by recognizing the needs of our communities and sustain a quality fund to serve our future generations.

### **B**enevolent

WBSAF has a passion, goodwill, and respect for our communities and its members. We are earnest and approach our work with a positive attitude.

## IMPACT GRANTMAKING

We are thrilled to report that three years after becoming an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation, The Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund was able to provide grant money to two worthy causes: "One Property at a Time" and the "Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project."

One Property at a Time will use their money to purchase a trash receptacle for the Chief Standing Bear Trail, Blue Springs Trailhead. Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project will use their grant money for the purchase of three original antique ceiling lights to be placed at the District 81 rural schoolhouse. We are so proud to be able to support the work of these local nonprofit organizations. Both are working hard to promote the assets of our Southern Gage communities.

Since our inception, the Fund has raised \$31,161 for our community endowment account. Only a portion of the investment earnings from the endowment are used for the grant distribution. This means that the endowment continues to grow in perpetuity, and your gift keeps on giving year after year.

The success of the endowment is determined by the generosity of current and former residents as well as organizations and corporations. We hope you will consider making a donation for the future of the Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund through our endowment account so we can ensure this area continues to be a thriving, economic, educational and recreational presence for today and tomorrow's generations.

***Our thanks to Tiffany Henrichs and the Wymore Arbor State for providing images for this newsletter!***