

PERKINS COUNTY

Community Foundation Fund

-Pulling the Hi-Line Together to Protect our Future-

2020 Annual Report



ELSIE

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Perkins County Community Foundation Fund is to bring community values to reality by:

- Providing opportunities to give back through time, talents and/or skills, and financial resources.
- Partnering with organizations and community leaders to maximize wealth and human capital.

OUR VISION

Perkins County is a progressive community promoting socially and economically vibrant activities that enhance a high quality of life in southwest Nebraska.

OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Becky Uehling, Co-Chair, Grant
Dennis Demmel, Co-Chair, Grant
Michelle Ross, Treasurer, Elsie
Janet Lagler, Secretary, Grant
Kim Bishop, Member, Grant
Val Foster, Member, Venango
Angela Gloy, Member, Grant
Rebecca Jones, Member, Grant
Diana Maupin, Member, Venango
Tana Miller, Member, Venango
Barb Tines, Member, Venango
Jeff Wallin, Member, Grant



Perkins County Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee members Janet Lagler and Michelle Ross (right) pose with Perkins County Arts Council member Kristen Chamness (left) and local children who participated in the Missoula Children's Theater's performance of the Snow Queen on March 7, 2020. The PCCFF helped the PC Arts Council put on the performance with a donation of \$2,000.

2020 has been a year of possibilities for PCCFF, despite global challenges

We are fast approaching the year 2021. It would be remiss to say that 2020 has not been a struggle for many in our country because of the COVID pandemic and civil unrest. Despite this, and in some cases because of this, the Perkins County Community Foundation Fund continued to work hard for Perkins County. Your generosity enabled PCCFF to support a number of worthwhile causes in our community during 2020, many of them have been profiled in this newsletter.

Working Towards Intentionality

The year of 2020 was one of working towards intentionality within the Perkins County Community Foundation Fund. With the meeting and exceeding of not only one, but two challenge grants at the end of 2019, the 12-member Fund Advisory Committee (FAC) hired a college intern in 2020 (see article on page 3) to canvas the county in an effort to discover the various needs throughout each community and within each philanthropic group to help us better partner together to move our county forward. This effort continues, and we urge leaders in the county to contact us with ideas for ways of collaboration.

This report is an opportunity for us to keep you updated on our projects and to publicly thank the wonderful individuals, businesses, and organizations that have donated to the Fund.

At this time of year, we naturally reflect on our blessings and give thanks. You inspire all of us on the Fund Advisory Committee. On behalf of everyone on our FAC, I extend our deepest gratitude and our warmest wishes during the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

Sincerely,
Becky Uehling, PCCFF Co-Chair



Perkins County Community Foundation Fund

PCCFF helps address “homework gap” at Perkins County Schools

The Perkins County Community Foundation Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, is proud that it was in a position earlier this year to help the Perkins County Schools system in addressing an issue that it, along with so many schools across the nation, had in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This issue was closing the “homework gap”, or connecting all students to the technology and Internet capabilities they need to accomplish remote, at-home learning.

The Alice DeVoe Donor-Advised Fund, also an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), and another anonymous donor, awarded the PCCFF \$5,000 to help the Perkins County Schools with its students’ Internet and computer needs, narrowing the “homework gap” present at the school.

The “homework gap” funding opportunity was offered exclusively to NCF affiliated funds across the state and required a 1:1 local funding match. The Perkins County Community Foundation Fund donated \$5,000 towards the match. The entire \$10,000 grant was presented to the Perkins County Schools on Monday, May 18 by PCCFF Treasurer Michelle Ross and PCCFF Secretary Janet Lagler.

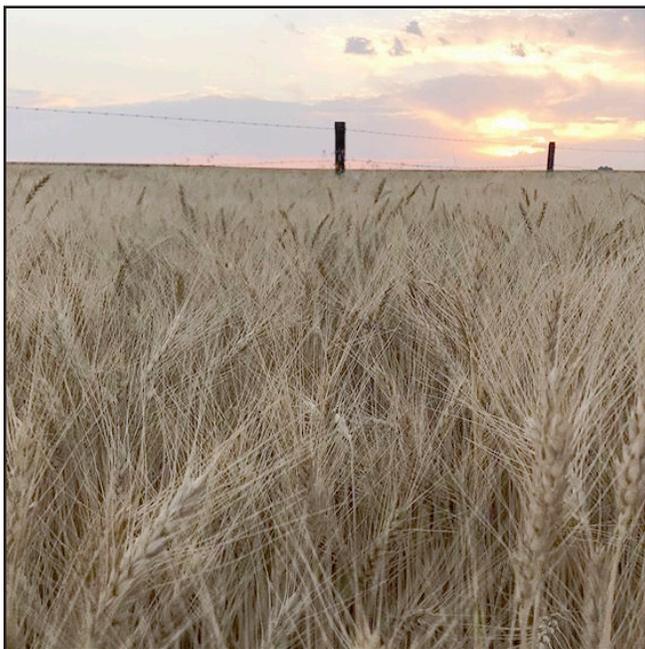
The funding was specifically used by PCS to complete updating hard drives of 200 lap tops for grades 1-5, purchasing new laptops, and purchasing 10 mobile hot-spots to share with families who weren’t able to get high speed Internet where they live. All of these steps were vital so every child at PCS were able to connect with teachers remotely in any situation.

PCCFF was excited and thrilled to be able to partner with the Alice DeVoe Donor-Advised Fund and the other generous anonymous donors to strengthen one of the most important assets that we have here in Perkins County—our school. This partnership is why the PCCFF was created and why we exist—to strengthen Perkins County and its assets.

As President & CEO of the Nebraska Community Foundation Jeff Yost stated, community foundations are here to respond to the challenges that life throws at our communities, and together we are meeting and solving complex and complicated challenges head-on.



Perkins County Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee members Michelle Ross and Janet Lagler (Center) present a check to Perkins County School’s Superintendent Philip Picquet (left) and Perkins County Schools board member Jayson Bishop (right) in the amount of \$10,000 to assist the school in meeting its students’ Internet and computer needs, especially during the COVID pandemic.



Wheat field and July sunset in Perkins County.

PCCFF, KCCFF, NCF collaborate to educate advisors at workshops

In collaboration with the Nebraska Community Foundation and the Keith County Community Foundation Fund, the PCCFF hosted a Professional Advisors Workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 6th. The meeting featured Emily Sulzle, NCF’s assistant director of gift planning. Sulzle offered to help any professional advisor with questions, regardless of a charitable gift being designated to PCCFF.

Discussion covered current topics related to gift planning and helpful tips for advisors to pass onto their clients.

The meeting held in Grant, and a similar one in Ogallala, were open to area professional advisors, including accountants, bankers, estate planning attorneys, financial advisors, financial planners, insurance agents, realtors and trust officers. Those who did not get to attend the workshops, but who would like more information on estate planning, please email your request for information to esulzle@nebcommfound.org.



Emily Sulzle, assistant director of gift planning for the Nebraska Community Foundation, presented at the PCCFF’s Professional Advisors Workshop in Grant in October.

Perkins County Community Foundation Fund

PCCFF takes part in NCF Hometown Internship pilot program

The Perkins County Community Foundation Fund was pleased to have Grant native Katie Patrick work with us as an intern for the summer of 2020. Katie had just completed her freshman year at the University of Lincoln and is the daughter of Miguel and Alicia Patrick and is the granddaughter of Ron and Gloria Patrick and Larry and Diana Pankonin, all of Grant.

The internship was part of the Nebraska Community Foundation's Hometown Internship program, which was a challenge grant with only 10 offered to NCF affiliated funds across the state in the spring of 2020. As an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, the Perkins County Community Foundation applied for and was awarded a spot in the Hometown Internship Program. The grant offered up to \$3,000 for the program, to be matched on a one-on-one basis with local funds from the PCCFF. Although the PCCFF served as Patrick's supervisor, NCF served as the employer for all 10 interns hired across the state this summer.

Katie enjoyed her time with PCCFF, and stated that she learned a lot through the internship, both about the non-profit world and about her hometown.

Katie said, "through this internship I have gained so much knowledge and experience that will be extremely helpful to me as I continue my college career. I was able to learn so much not only from my supervisors Becky Uehling and Dennis Demmel, but also from the PCCFF board and the various individuals that I had the chance to talk to. I also got the opportunity to meet and form relationships with the other 13 interns throughout Nebraska and the staff at the Nebraska Community Foundation in Lincoln.

"This summer I was able to assist the PCCFF in building relationships with and assessing the needs of each nonprofit entity in Perkins County. Through doing this, I was able to see a different side of Perkins County. I was born and raised here and I think that after going to college for a while and returning, it opens your eyes. I have seen Perkins County behind the scenes. I have come to realize there is so much more going on here than what meets the eye. During this time of uncertainty, the generosity and selflessness of the people in this community continues to shine through and I am eternally grateful to call Perkins County my home and everyone in this community my family."

Because the Perkins County Community Foundation Fund just added \$190,000 to its endowment through a challenge grant completed in December 2019, we are now seeking intentionality as we prepare to enter 2021. This is where the work that Patrick did this past summer will become very important. This past summer Katie's duties were to canvas the county to discover the various needs throughout each community. Katie connected with non-profit and governmental groups and their various representatives to help understand them better, and how our groups can work together to meet the needs of the county.

Some of Katie's specific duties were: document all 501(c)3 and governmental entities in the county, record contact and other important information for these entities, list various needs for each group, discover community assets and social capital for these entities, and educate groups and individuals about the PCCFF.

The Perkins County Community Foundation Fund thanks Katie Patrick for all she did to help us this summer!



PCCFF assists 4-H and Senior Center

(Left) PCCFF Treasurer Michelle Ross presents a check in the amount of \$800 to Ashley Colglazier, leader of the Sparkly Clovers 4-H Club to help purchase shelving units and carts to organize craft supplies at their meeting location.

(Right) PCCFF Treasurer Michelle Ross presents a check in the amount of \$2,000 to Perkins County Senior Services Coordinator Trish Jimenez to purchase a new refrigerator for the center.



Perkins County Community Foundation Fund

Endowment payout increases with recent campaign; future plans

The Perkins County Community Foundation Fund has endowment funds of some \$520,000, increased recently by the 2019 campaign raising over \$190,000. The PCCFF endowments are managed by the Nebraska Community Foundation, which also manages some \$50 million in “unrestricted” endowed assets for 78 other “community based affiliated funds” in Nebraska. Currently the PCCFF is receiving a “pay-out” of over \$17,000 in the current fiscal year ending July 1, 2021.

A three year “rolling average” is used to determine payout, which provides stability through variations in annual economics, as has been the case recently. Since the 2019 endowment campaign, ending in December, is recent, the annual payout will likely increase in the coming several years to perhaps \$25,000, depending on the economy and investment returns. New contributions to the endowment would also potentially increase payout. Earnings on the endowment investments presently provide 4.5 percent annual payout with additional earnings providing growth to the endowment assets. Total “annualized returns” for the past three years have been near 7 percent.

The payout from the endowment is used to fund grants for local community projects within Perkins County, like those projects described in this annual report. Grants for community projects by PCCFF are available by applying with Michelle Ross, treasurer. Government entities and 501(c)3, non profit organizations are eligible.

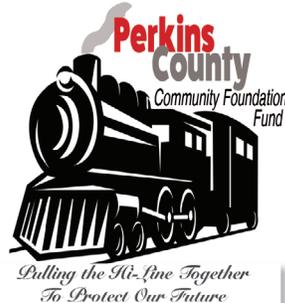
Future Plans

Your Fund Advisory Committee of the Perkins County Community Foundation Fund has several activities planned for 2021. In January, the Committee will update its vision, mission and value statements, as part of “Action Planning”.

“Planned Giving” will also be on the agenda for the coming year. Formalizing an updated “Articles of Operation” for the local foundation is also being considered.

The local Fund Advisory Committee looks forward to funding grants in 2021 for local community projects.

Contact Treasurer Michelle Ross at 308-882-8469 or michelle.ross@pinnbank.com for details.



PCCFF partners with Venango to continue cleanup

PCCFF Treasurer Michelle Ross presents a check in the amount of \$2,000 to Village of Venango Board Chairman Tom Tines. (Top Photo)

Venango used the funds to continue cleanup and beautification of the village by providing a roll-off dumpster to community members. The roll-off dumpster (Middle Photo) will specifically help with the cleanup and home repairs needed because of extreme weather and damages experienced in the community in September 2019. PCCFF partnered with the Village of Venango last year with a donation of \$3,000, which helped the village take down their old dilapidated school football lights. (Bottom Photo)



Recent Projects Funded by PCCFF....

PCCFF has invested nearly \$69,700 in community projects since its inception. Some of these projects include:

- Village of Elsie town cleanup 2019
- Village of Madrid town cleanup 2019
- Village of Venango town cleanup/football light removal 2019
- Hastings Memorial Library mobile tech lab 2019
- Cultivate Rural Leaders Program 2019
- Perkins County Ambulance Dept. 2019
- Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment smoke detector program 2019
- Perkins County Schools TeamMates 2020
- Perkins County Youth Council Arts Program 2020
- City of Grant Cemetery Kiosk 2020
- Eagle Scout Project—Ethan Sihm 2020
- Perkins County Senior Services 2020
- Perkins County Schools Bridging the Homework Gap 2020
- Village of Venango town cleanup 2020
- Sparkly Clover 4-H Club 2020