



WYMORE-BLUE SPRINGS AREA FUND

CLIMBing to a brighter tomorrow.

2020 Annual Newsletter



Big Give Gage Big Give Gage is a 24-hour time of giving where Gage County area supporters are invited to give back to their favorite local charities and help them earn valuable matching funds. The event was a collaborative effort with the Gage County Foundation and the Beatrice Community Hospital Foundation. The Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund was one of the 47 nonprofit organizations that participated. WBSAF raised \$23,612.43 and had a sponsor match of \$2,011.69 to total \$25,624.12. All money will benefit the McCandless Park Project. We were the top nonprofit for amount raised and also for the number of donors. That is incredible! Thank you to everyone who gave to this event. We look forward to next year.

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



What an exciting year! As you will see, 2019 has been busy with fundraisers. We are very close to meeting our goal for the new restroom/concession stand for McCandless Park. Hopefully this year the community will see this desired amenity being built.

In November I attended Nebraska Community Foundation's annual training where we celebrated their 25th anniversary. NCF works with 235 affiliated funds, including Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund, serving 258 Greater Nebraska communities in 82 counties. Attending these annual trainings is so inspiring. I had the opportunity to connect with visionary people from all across the state and hear how they are working toward reaching their own communities' goals. I left the day energized and ready to meet the challenges our southeast hometowns face.

The communities of southeast Gage County have several nonprofit groups that share our dream of improving the area we call home. Working together, we can build the thriving economy, educational opportunities, and dynamic community we all envision. I would like to thank everyone for sharing our vision and your personal time, talents and treasure this past year. I am excited to see what 2020 brings—your support is critical to our success!

Sincerely,
Janice Cohorst
Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund Chair

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

McCandless Park Project Enters Phase Three

We hope you've noticed the improvements at McCandless Park in Wymore. We are within just a few thousand dollars needed to replace the restroom in the park with a modern bathroom facility that will include a concession stand and covered picnic area.

In 2016, Phase One was completed with a new playground set for small children ages two to five thanks to funding received from Exmark's Big Rock grant.

Phase Two included the addition of park benches and new picnic tables,

sidewalks, a covered picnic shelter with electrical outlet, new park lighting, a little library, and a security camera. The Southern Gage Kiwanis Club has been an integral partner with the park project. Additionally, individual giving to numerous fundraising events and grants from the Gage County Foundation and Norris Public Power Goodwill Fund have made these improvements possible.

For the new bathroom/concession facility, we are planning to use funds in hand or granted from the Big Give Gage event, Gage County Foundation, Southern Gage Kiwanis, Recycling Program Funds

(a grant based on the amount spent on the rubber mat for the playground), an estate gift from Lance Johnson, and a grant from the Gage County Visitor's Improvement Fund. We nearly have the funding needed for Phase Three and are looking to generous community members to help close the gap.

Phase Four will be the addition of an ADA compliant-inclusive playground set for ages 5–12. Any individual donations along with memorial gifts and planned gifts are welcomed to be designated for the park project or the WBSAF endowment account.



Celebrity Kickball The second annual Celebrity Kickball Fundraising Games were a success. This year all the area businesses in Wymore and Blue Springs were asked to participate. There were two teams totaling 23 players. Money raised will go toward the building of a new restroom/concession stand in McCandless Park. One participant raised \$790 and in all, we raised \$3,585 bringing us that much closer to our goal.



Golf Fundraiser Laughter was heard all over the Wymore Country Club again this year when 43 golfers came to have fun! Hole challenges including teeing off blindfolded, wearing gloves, wearing a hat with a glass of water on top, or a combination of all three. The financial support of many area businesses was greatly appreciated to provide hole sponsorships and prizes. Collaboration between the Southern Gage Kiwanis and WBSAF raised \$3,400. Each fundraiser puts us closer to the new restroom/concession stand that is much needed at McCandless Park. Mark your calendar for August 2020 when we will hold our next golf fundraiser.



Sam Wymore Days This year's theme for the annual community celebration was "To the Moon and Back," celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing. We entered our float the "Space Capsule" and what a fun time we had building this aeronautics machine using an old satellite dish, chicken wire, and papier-mâché! Our slogan was "One Small Step by Our Members—One Giant Leap for Our Community." Spencer Cohorst was our Neil Armstrong. Although we did not win a trophy, we loved being involved in our community and pushing our members' imaginations.



Spooktacular The Fourth Annual McCandless Spooktacular was held on October 26, 2019. The event, once again, brought over 150 families to the park for a fun day of trunk-or-treating. Approximately \$4,000 was raised for the McCandless Park Project. Prior to

the Spooktacular event, the Inaugural Jordan Murphy Memorial Run was held at the Wymore Country Club, and proceeds were also donated to the McCandless Park Project. It was a wonderful family-centered day of celebration in our community.



Football Gate Admissions The 2019 Southern School Football season was symbolic of our WBSAF. Just as the Southern Raiders “keep on keeping on” and giving their best effort, we were honored to be invited for the third year to accept admissions at the home football games. Like the players, we would like to come out winning in every endeavor and like the team we experienced some triumphs. And because the team earned a post-season playoff spot, we were able to earn extra income at the first-round playoff game

which was held at Arbor State Park in Wymore. The activity was another good example of committee and non-committee community members coming together to support the WBSAF mission. The activity again gave us occasion to be friendly and welcoming to both local and visiting spectators, and to let all know that southern Gage County is a thriving place to live, raise families, do business and enjoy the good life. The monetary donation from the school district increased the Park Improvement Account.



In Memory of Glen Bence Glen Bence of Blue Springs passed away on March 31, 2019. His family designated his memorial to be divided between Three’s Pieces for Autism Awareness and the Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund Park Improvement Account. WBSAF will be eternally grateful for entrusting your loved one’s memorial to us.

Community Coffee The Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund hosted two community coffee gatherings this summer and had a wonderful turnout both days. We took this opportunity to inform the public about WBSAF’s work and mission. Hosting the coffee in McCandless Park was the perfect way to showcase what we have accomplished and what our future goals are for the park.

Treasure Hunt This year’s Treasure Hunt was hosted by the Southern School District/Arbor State Track Project. Hot chocolate was a big hit for everyone walking the streets and searching for their lucky number.





Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund
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OUR VALUES

Collaborative

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

Loyal

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

Invested

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

Motivated

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.

Benevolent

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

This is the second year we have been able to grant out funds from our Unrestricted Endowment Account which has grown to nearly \$38,000! Only a portion of the investment earnings are used for grant distribution. This means that the endowment continues to grow in perpetuity, and your gift keeps on giving year after year.

Our 2019 grant recipients were:

- Wymore Volunteer Fire and Rescue was awarded \$500 for training equipment to provide "Stop the Bleed" training.
- Southern School District/Arbor State Track Project received \$250 for project planning purposes.
- For the second year the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project applied for a WBSAF grant. This year they



were awarded \$215 for a female mannequin for use at the one-room school and a "Wave Flag" to be displayed along Highway 77 to attract visitors.

The success of the endowment depends on the generosity of current and former residents. We hope you will consider making a donation for the future of the Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund. If you would like more information on how to make a planned gift to support the community we love, contact us.

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