

# Donations

## IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

Melvina Dinklage Barta  
 Angeline Vanek  
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 Jerry Heard  
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Richard & Jacqueline Stouffer  
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Terry & Carol Welke  
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 Anita Hart  
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 Justin & Christi Mastny  
 Randy & Doris Ortmeier  
 Bob & Cathy Fiala  
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 Marjorie Wiese  
 Bryon & Meagan Janata  
 Gayle Wragge  
 Gene & Marge Brabec  
 Greg Barta  
 Dave & Juli Fiala  
 Larry & Pat Jakubowski  
 Margaret Hoult  
 Gary & Lynn Svitak  
 Jim & Marla Prusa  
 Dan & Beth Fiala  
 Theresa Belina  
 Marvin Kolih  
 Francis & Rose Ann Sindelar  
 Ken & Arden Peitzmeier

## DECEMBER 2020

Glen Dlouhy  
 Wes & Terri Heerboth  
 Bill & Linda Grovijohn  
 Jared & Rachel Sindelar  
 Brian Baumert  
 \*B. Barta  
 \*C. Ernesti  
 Shawn & Melissa Grovijohn  
 Todd Jedlicka  
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 Janis Kasik  
 Marvin Kolih  
 Margaret Hoult  
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 Ryan & Mary Baumert  
 Homestead Plumbing, Heating,  
 & Air Conditioning, Inc.  
 Frank & Sharon Bohaboj  
 Martin & Laurie Schlautman  
 Larry & Pat Jakubowski  
 James Pickhinke  
 Village of Howells  
 Marcheta Molacek  
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Mable Pekarek  
 Lumir & Elberta Spulak  
 Carol Bayer  
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 Cindy Kratochvil  
 Keith & Kerri Janata  
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 Gene & Marilyn Spence  
 Dan & Laurie Bazata  
 Alan & Carol Dostal  
 Lori Semerad  
 Pat Muhsman

## JANUARY 2021

Gene & Judy Wolff  
 Linda Lindgren  
 Clarkson Bank  
 Kent & Mary Smith  
 Cheryl Sudbeck  
 Billie Wisnieski  
 Randy Baumert  
 Austin Coufal

## FEBRUARY 2021

Dennis & Monica Tomka  
 Robin & Cathy Groene  
 Glen & Sue Nemeč  
 Anna Mae Sindelar  
 Robert & Rosalyn Ritzdorf  
 Ted & Janet Brabec  
 Ron & Janice Baumert  
 Marjorie Wiese

## MARCH 2021

Russell & Lisa Bayer  
 Randy Baumert  
 Lori Semerad

## APRIL 2021

Marc & Judy Taylor  
 Estate of Delvin Hegemann  
 Francis & Rose Ann Sindelar  
 Bernard & Vera Wieman  
 Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek

## MAY 2021

Marilyn & Gene Spence  
 Arlene Hegemann Family  
 Glen & Eileen Semerad  
 Carol Bayer  
 \*G. Mlnarik

## JUNE 2021

Frank & Sharon Bohaboj  
 Bill & Pat Sindelar  
 Carolyn Kulhanek  
 Clarkson Bank  
 Glen & Sue Nemeč  
 Gary & Deb Brester  
 Stacy Jakubowski-Longacre  
 Kathleen Bradley  
 Duane Cakl

John & Marlene Konsel  
 Galen Renner  
 Russell & Lisa Bayer  
 Harry & Susie Pokorny  
 Carol Bayer  
 Allen Dvorak  
 Joe & Marilyn Sindelar  
 Martin & Laurie Schlautman  
 Roger Blum  
 \*K. Lerch

## JULY 2021

Alan Dostal  
 Larry & Pat Jakubowski  
 John & Sue Sindelar  
 Harry & Susie Pokorny  
 Ed & Adrian Hilz  
 Ann Brester  
 Roger Blum  
 Tom & Beverly Mann  
 Terry & Carol Welke  
 Glenn Sears  
 HJ & Sedy Tejkl  
 Gene Uher  
 \*P. Uher  
 Norbert Harms Farms  
 Richard Coufal  
 Ed Anibal

## AUGUST 2021

Diane Truss & Family  
 Pat Leavell  
 Larry & Marlene Svoboda  
 Darryl & Joan Schlautman  
 Wilma Kalisek & Family  
 Harry & Susie Pokorny  
 Jim & Marla Prusa  
 Mike Rocheford  
 Marge Schlautman  
 Ken Karel  
 Brian Prusa  
 Randy & Doris Ortmeier  
 Mike & Kim Semerad

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Rolland & Magdaline Svec  
 Harry & Susie Pokorny

*\*Online donation, no record of first name.*

## Thank You

...for caring and donating to the Howells Community Fund. You are helping to make Howells a great place to live, work and enjoy.

Some donations are not listed on this page due to anonymous donations. The HCF respects your private donations and anonymity and will never post those contributions. Our apologies if any names were inadvertently overlooked. Please let us know if we missed you.

# Fun time in Howells on July 10, Grant and Gratitude Event

By **KC BELITZ**  
 COO of Nebraska Community Foundation

What a wonderful celebration in Howells Saturday night, July 10! The Howells Community Fund hosted the "Grant and Gratitude" celebration, marking their successful completion of the challenge to raise \$500,000 in order to receive \$250,000 from The Sherwood Foundation.



Howells Community Fund members spoke at the "Grant and Gratitude" event held at the Howells Ballroom on July 10. Board Chairperson Kathy Heard presented information about the Fund and their plans.

The team in Howells joined the Columbus Area Future Fund, as well as Funds in Stuart, Keith County and Imperial in this cohort of the challenge grants through their affiliation with Nebraska Community Foundation. They've spent several years together on the journey and it's awesome to see all five successfully reach the goal.

The Howells Fund drew a wonderful crowd to the ballroom Saturday night to celebrate with them. It was a great indication of the influence the Community Fund has in their community (and, in fact, their region). On a summer Saturday night with plenty of other entertainment options, lots of people wanted to be there to celebrate this milestone in their hometown.



All tables were full at the Howells Ballroom during the "Grant and Gratitude" dinner.

Call it "hometown pride," "community spirit," or whatever else you like, but whatever "it" is...you could absolutely feel it in the Howells ballroom on Saturday night. And that is what will drive continued progress toward the HCF vision of Howells as a "caring, thriving community with a place for all to call home."

The Howells Fund has now achieved their 10-year goal of a \$1-million unrestricted endowment and there seems little doubt that their 20-year goal of a \$2-million endowment is firmly within their reach. While the Fund has already invested the amazing total of more than \$60,000 in their history, they will soon reach close to that amount every year in endowment payout.

More important than the dollars, the Howells Fund has established the partnerships and relationships that will turn that increasing capacity into increased impact. On their committee they have personal or organizational contact with virtually every other community organization in Howells. It's that ability to connect the dots and bring together assets that really leverages dollars into way more impact than just writing a check.

One specific new avenue the committee has opened up is the addition of two youth members to the HCF Fund Advisory Committee. Adding the voices of Landon Dobbins and Brooklyn Macholan to the committee will create more ideas and avenues to maximize impact. I applaud the Howells FAC for recognizing the importance of this generation to our hometowns and taking this step to incorporate their vision of the future into the mission of the HCF.

Again, hats off to Howells for reaching this fundraising milestone and for hosting such a great community-building celebration this weekend!

Contact me at [kbelitz@nebcommfound.org](mailto:kbelitz@nebcommfound.org) to learn more.

Howells Community Fund new website is up and running:  
[www.helpinghowells.org](http://www.helpinghowells.org)

# Howells Community Fund

P.O. Box 63 – Howells, NE 68641 [www.helpinghowells.org](http://www.helpinghowells.org)



"Roots to Grow"

An Affiliated Fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation

November 2021

## Howells Community Fund Members

Kathy Heard, President  
 Gary Brester, Vice President  
 Austin Coufal, Secretary  
 Billie Wisnieski, Treasurer  
 Joan Mastny  
 Marilyn Sindelar  
 Laura Mejstrik  
 Marti Brichacek  
 Donna Brester  
 Bernie Hegemann  
 Mike Rocheford  
 Sue Pokorny  
 Landon Dobbins, Student  
 Brooklyn Macholan, Student

## Our Vision

Howells is a caring, thriving community with a place for all to call home.

## Our Mission

Creating a lasting impact by inspiring the generosity of our community to support educational, social, recreational, economic opportunities, and services.

## Our Values

The Howells Community Fund is a hardworking team supporting our community's future and progressive goals. We are dedicated, positive, compassionate and always work with integrity.



P.O. Box 83107 • Lincoln, NE 68501  
 Ph: (402) 323-7330  
[info@nebcommfound.org](mailto:info@nebcommfound.org)

Find us on Facebook at  
 Howells Community Fund

# Challenge Grant helps Five Communities dream bigger

The "Building Community Capacity" challenge grant opportunity is delivering a huge sum of money to unrestricted endowment funds in five Nebraska communities.

A grant opportunity was available to Nebraska Community Foundation affiliated funds, where towns were challenged to raise \$500,000 dollars over a certain period of time. People in Stuart, Imperial, Howells, Columbus and Keith County met the goal, and then received another \$250,000 in match. It means these communities increased their unrestricted endowments by \$750,000. "As a fund advisory committee, we went from granting about \$1,500 a year, to more than \$40,000 this next year," Stuart Community Foundation Fund advisory committee member Jay Wallinger said. "Our account now, with the help of the challenge grant and other things we've raised, is about \$1.1 Million. That's a game changer for a small town."

It's the same feeling in Howells. "We are going to be able to grant roughly \$30,000 to \$40,000 with the \$750,000," Howells Community Fund advisory committee member Austin Coufal said. "If we use what had in there previously, we'll be able to grant \$40,000 plus." The new money has changed conversations in these communities. There is plenty of dreaming going on in Imperial. "We love to partner with local organizations to make sure the senior center has a new dishwasher, or the soccer program has the goals they need," Imperial Community Foundation Fund member Tanna Hanna said. "But how this is changing those conversations is, we are able to start thinking for the future. What is the community of Imperial need in 5 years, 10 years, 15 years?"

"It really turned up our 'dream switch'," Wallinger said. "That's a Nebraska Community Foundation term, but it really turned up our dream switch as to what was possible in a small town. Conversations led to a lot of things that were never dreamed of before." Already, these communities have been using their unrestricted endowments, which some local leaders describe as a community savings account, in many ways. "During the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to work with Chase County schools to purchase a swivel system, and I-pads," Hanna said. "So, this helped students learn remotely, while being a part of the classroom." This additional money is helping local leaders develop potential new plans. "An example would be our existing Catholic school, that is now being used for a public pre-school," Wallinger said. "We are envisioning that to be the future home of an early childhood development center."

For many communities, the challenge grant was about more than just the money. It helped them develop new community leaders. "What it did is allow us to have a reason to re-engage with all of the past donors and new donors," Hanna said. "We needed donations from a one-time \$50 donor, to \$100 a month from another donor. We even received a \$50,000 donation. It required all of those in order to hit our \$500,000 goal."

Now, the new money in these local unrestricted endowments is quickly becoming a powerful tool to make small towns a great place to live, and to help get more people interested in coming back. "I honestly think an endowment for any kind of small community in Nebraska is necessary for their survival," Coufal said. "Throughout our conversations, we brought people together towards a unified goal, and helped everyone realize that if we put our resources together, we will be able to do a lot bigger things for our community."



## From simple beginnings...

When this community completed our wonderful Q125 celebration back in 2012, we thought the job was done! And we knew we could look back with pride on Howells teamwork to make that event a positive memory!

After giving back to the organizations that helped make that event successful, the Q125 Board had \$50,000 left and a decision to make! We discussed buying a lighted sign for the community and calling it good! Then we found out about the Nebraska Community Foundation and how they could help grow that \$50,000 into a legacy to last for generations.

Many other communities just our size or smaller had built endowments to feed their communities in earnings and interest and make future projects doable!

It was a leap of faith! It was a belief that if Howells could put together a successful and massive celebration, this community could do anything!

That \$50,000 investment has grown to well over \$1 million in less than 10 years! And now the earnings have returned over \$60,000 in grants for projects in all areas of Howells! The list below is just a part of what we have done across this community.

But we could not have done it alone! Without the community and alumni donations and support, we would not be as successful!

The Nebraska Community Foundation Affiliation led to opportunities like the Sherwood Foundation Challenge Grant, and has been a BLESSING for our Hometown Howells!

### HOWELLS COMMUNITY FUND LIST OF PROJECTS PARTIALLY OR FULLY FUNDED JANUARY 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 2021

2015	2018 continued	2020 continued
Senior Mailboxes .....\$622.62	Senior Mailboxes .....\$575.80	Little Angels Daycare .....
East Shelter .....\$4030.50	Playground equipment .....	.....\$10,000.00
Fire House Lockers .....	.....\$5000.00	Family game night board games .....
.....\$2750.00	Library-Omaha Street percussion .....	.....\$1348.00
<b>2016</b>	Ballroom chairs.....\$2000.00	Fire Department Jaws of Life.....
Howells Sign.....\$1172.50	<b>2019</b>	.....\$10,000.00
Archery Startup .....\$250.00	Horse Arena Fencing .....	<b>2021</b>
Journal subscription for seniors .....	.....\$700.00	Senior Mailboxes .....
.....\$418.00	Senior Mailboxes .....	.....\$1001.73
<b>2017</b>	American Legion Doors .....	.....\$2821.00
Basketball court .....	.....\$3000.00	AED's ... (grant in progress) Museum .....
.....\$13,017.70	<b>2020</b>	..... (grant in progress) Scoreboard .....
Park Bench .....	KC Fish Fry .....	.....\$1500.00
.....\$319.00	.....\$920.18	<b>Total Donations through September 2021</b>
Senior Mailboxes .....	Senior mailboxes .....	.....\$66,419.39
.....\$705.94	Picnic tables and trash receptacles.....	
<b>2018</b>	.....\$2000.00	
Howells Public School Foundation .....		
.....\$500.00		

## Automated External Defibrillators

Four local churches will be installing AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) thanks to grants from the Howells Community Fund.

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Trinity Lutheran and Saint John Nepomucene Catholic Church all in Howells and Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Heun were recipients of the grants which will pay for half the cost of each device. The churches will provide the remaining half.

Kent Smith represented the churches in writing the grant request and said the AEDs will be installed as soon as they arrive.



Marilyn Sindelar, Trinity Lutheran secretary  
Becky Lerch and Kathy Heard.



Father Stan Schmidt with HCF members  
Marilyn Sindelar and Joan Mastny.

## New Projects!

Many ideas for projects are in discussion and in the planning phase at this time. We are excited to be able to be moving forward and working towards these goals. Suggestions include:

- New bleachers around the football field
- Replacing the white posts around the parking lot in the park
- Replacing the west park shelter (near horseshoe pits) with a new multi-use shelter & storage building
- Handicapped driveway and parking near the Ballroom
- Updates to Memorial Park
- Splash Pad
- Decorative "antique" lampposts

These ideas and many others are being researched for possible future grant funds. Unfortunately, many of the costs have doubled or tripled since the pandemic has led to limited construction supplies.

The HCF will continue to move forward, working with other community groups and volunteers, to find ways to use our grant funds to benefit all ages and interests in Howells.

We welcome fresh ideas and different viewpoints! Don't hesitate to visit with any of our volunteer members to share yours! Please respect their work hours.

- Gary Brester ... (402) 833-8061  
 \*Austin Coufal ... (402) 380-4862  
 Bernie Hegemann ... (402) 750-7512  
 Mike Rocheford ... (402) 615-0234  
 Marti Brichacek ... (605) 323-9197  
 \*Laura Mejstrik ... (402) 631-7322  
 Donna Brester ... (402) 649-7947  
 \*Joan Mastny ... (402) 750-7639  
 \*Marilyn Sindelar ... (402) 750-7401  
 \*Billie Wisnieski ... (402) 380-7635  
 Susie Pokorny ... (402) 615-3838  
 \*Kathy Heard ... (402) 380-8290

**Howells Community Fund**  
 PO Box 63, Howells, NE 68641

*\*Denotes Legacy Donors who have made planned gifts to the Howells Community Fund in their wills.*

## Please update Alumni information

The HCF has been working to create a database of addresses and contact information for all alumni and "friends of Howells," including former teachers and residents of the area.

We are gathering class lists and would really appreciate e-mail and address updates. These addresses will be used for community newsletters and updates. The addition of e-mail addresses will help to cut postage costs.

Alumni class lists or any address updates can be sent to Marilyn Sindelar at marilysindelar@gmail.com. Thank you for your help!

## Class of 1981 Wins "Challenge Contest"

The Class of 1981 wins Howells Community Fund Class Challenge Contest.

- 1981: \$580.00
- 1961: \$400.00
- 1965: \$125.00
- 1975: \$100.00
- 1991: \$10.00
- Total: \$1,215.00

We cannot thank our honored classes enough for their generous donations. This year you raised \$1,215.00. The challenge began with the class of 1961 leading early but soon the class of 81 came in with some large donations. 1961 rallied back but not enough to overtake the class of 81! Last year's honored class of 1965 came in to take third. It was a fun way to challenge the classes and raise funding for our community! Howells Community Fund appreciates all who donated and participated!



Back from left: Tom Kulhanek, Jerome Baumert, Gary Svitak, Kathleen Lodl, Stacy Jakubowski, Mark Brester, Roger Cech, Joe Kampschneider, Mark Hunke, Gary Brester, Ronald Heiman. Front: LaDonna (Renner) Konsel, Bev (Brabec) Prince, Deb (Molacek) Hegemann, Annette (Koliha) Sayers, Rose (Coufal) Petersen, Juli (Konsel) Fiala.

## Howells Community Fund Annual Events

### HCF Alumni Golf Tournament



During the Howells Community Fund hosted Alumni Golf Outing, they also sponsored a scavenger hunt. Winners of the hunt were, from left: Chris Dostal, Erin Dostal, Sierra Pieper and Jake Pieper.

### "Soup for Seniors" deliveries made

This year the Fund group delivered to just under 100 people! That is more meals than ever before!!



Jim Baumert received his Soup for Seniors meal from Laura Mejstrik.



Donna Brester is shown delivering John Brester his meal.

### Mailboxes for graduating seniors at H-D



## Teacher Appreciation

Fund members believed strongly that we needed to appreciate those in our community who have done so much for the children and their futures.

During the trying times of the pandemic, they did everything they could to keep the children in school! Appreciation gifts were distributed to the teachers and all staff at the Howells Community Catholic and the Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools.



Marla Prusa, Howells-Dodge Consolidated School.



Howells Community Catholic School staff.

As the Endowment grows, the grant possibilities grow!

## Thanks to our Donors & Volunteers

We want to thank all of our donors and volunteers who always come through for us when we call for help! Whether it be for working at our events or attending community meetings. Sometimes, these simple things mean the most.

For all those little and big ways you have pitched in to help, we thank you! Being affiliated with The Nebraska Community Foundation has taught us so much. One of the very first things we learned is that donations can come in the form of Time, Talent and/or Treasure. Each is a valued piece of the "teamwork" and each is needed to make the dream work.

You have no idea how much your help and support has meant to us. We want you to know that you are all greatly appreciated. Thank you for believing in Howells and its future.

## Howells family's legacy sets an example for young Nebraskans



Kelsey and Austin Coufal with sons Grayson and Jameson.

It takes gifts of all sizes to create community success, but when young adults see million-dollar gifts in the news, they may feel like any amount they can give pales in comparison. Austin Coufal of Howells knows that's not the case.

"Anyone can be a philanthropist," he said, referencing a quote often shared in NCF circles. "The amount of money does not

determine who is a philanthropist. A philanthropist is anybody who cares about a cause and wants to give—whether now or into the future."

Existing Howells Community Fund volunteers recruited Coufal in January of 2018. As the youngest member at the time, he brought a valuable perspective to the group. The fund remains committed to including members from all backgrounds represented in the community.

"If you have individuals from all aspects of life and spread out that knowledge, you can narrow down what you need most," he said.

The fund's mission to create long-term change by inspiring community generosity appealed to Coufal and his wife, Kelsey.

"If there's any organization out there I believe in, it's this one," he said. "We don't help out just one cause. This helps out everything in the community."

There are ample reasons for his continued involvement with the fund, but it all comes down to making life better for his neighbors. He was raised in Howells, where he works now as an insurance agent, taking pride in his work, just like his involvement on the advisory committee. He also volunteers for the local fire and rescue department. Coufal's generosity is indicative of the entire community.

## Howells Community Fund Endowment & General Fund Balance Sheets

### 2020

Beginning balance, January 1, 2020.....	\$425,504.29
Donations/Income.....	\$138,761.20
Expenditures (includes grant payouts).....	<u>[\$48,323.87]</u>
Ending balance, December 31, 2020.....	\$515,941.62

### 2021

Beginning balance, January 1, 2021.....	\$515,941.62
Donations/Income as of September 30, 2021..	.\$657,846.49*
Expenditures (includes grant payouts).....	<u>[\$22,104.38]</u>
Ending balance as of September 30, 2021.....	\$1,151,683.73

\*Includes matching grant funds and market value changes gained throughout the challenge period.

"The people here are some of the most selfless people out there," Coufal said. "Anytime something needs to be done, everyone steps up. My friends are here, my family's here. I always know we have each other's backs through good times and bad."

During the process of setting up their wills and trusts, the Coufals were inspired by their work with the fund to make a bequest in their will to benefit Howells Community Fund. The young couple doesn't yet have the donating capacity of more established residents, but a planned gift is an avenue to ensure they still leave a lasting impact.

"We're young and we don't have a lot of money to give," Coufal said. "This is our way of always giving back to the community and knowing that this community is going to be taken care of in the future."

Only about four of every 10 American adults have a will or living trust. For many, the task may appear daunting or difficult to broach. But 68% percent of respondents in Giving USA's 2019 Special Report described their estate planning process as very easy or somewhat easy. Coufal concurs.

"It was the simplest thing we've ever done," he said. "My wife and I put it off for a while, but it was one of those things that we just needed to get done."

A bequest is generally a revocable gift, which means it can be changed or modified at any time. Bequests can be used for a general or specific purpose so you have the peace of mind knowing that your gift will be used as intended.

It's never too early to get your estate planning in order, Coufal said. It's simple, quick, and he recommends it to all Nebraskans.

"Even though you're young doesn't mean you can't give," he said. "You can give into the future by setting up a bequest. You don't have to give right now. You can always make sure your community is taken care of."

**Reach out to your professional advisor to learn how you can give and consult Nebraska Community Foundation's Planned Giving resources for more information. You can also contact NCF's Office of Gift Planning by calling 402-323-7330 or sending an email to info@nebcommfound.org**

### Howells Community Fund

Yes, I would like to support my community and invest in our future!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Gifts of any size are needed and appreciated!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my contribution for the:

General Fund

Endowment Fund

Memorial — In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

(How you would like the name shown)

Gift of Grain

To donate ag products or livestock to the Howells Community Fund please contact Les Long, Controller, Nebraska Community Foundation, 402-323-7330

Please make checks payable to:  
 NCF-FBO Howells Community Fund • PO Box 63 • Howells, NE 68641

For more information or to make a donation visit:  
[www.helpinghowells.org](http://www.helpinghowells.org)