



WYMORE-BLUE SPRINGS AREA FUND

CLIMBing to a brighter tomorrow.

2021 Annual Newsletter

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.

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



This past year can only be described as unique and challenging due to the impact of COVID-19. My heart goes out to so many who have lost loved ones, wrestled with their own health, and have struggled financially. As I look back on this past year, I try to focus on our blessings. One of those blessings is that all of you have given either time, talent, or treasure to the Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund.

We will continue in our mission to 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. I hope you will continue to join us, support us, and discover new ways to contribute your time, talent and treasure to the community we all love.

The words "thank you" seem so small given the support everyone has provided since we became an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation in November 2015. Enjoy our third newsletter showcasing what WBSAF has accomplished in 2020 because of you!

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

Bridging the Learning Gap

Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund is part of a nearly \$1.2 million statewide effort to bridge the learning gap in the face of COVID-19. Through a funding opportunity available exclusively to affiliated funds of Nebraska Community Foundation, WBSAF received \$4,094.28 in funding from an anonymous donor and the Alice DeVoe Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation, to benefit Southern Elementary School. When combined with the 1:1 local match made possible by elementary student fundraising, the school was able to



purchase 12 classroom projectors, 12 Apple TVs, and two charging stations to enhance their technology-based curriculum.

Due to the pandemic, the district had already purchased additional laptops

and iPads so they could transition to the scenario where each student was assigned to their own device for the school year. The hope was to reduce the transmission of the virus. With the increased need to charge iPads and computers, charging stations for each classroom were needed.

Kindergarten teacher Taylor Landenberger said, "The charging stations are small and compact and allow the students to have easy access to the iPads. Each class has their own station, and with COVID-19 this has been very helpful, so we are not sharing equipment, and we can keep the iPads fully charged."

McCandles Park Project The common theme for 2020 was COVID-19. Despite all the funds raised to complete the new restroom/concession stand at McCandles Park, we experienced many delays to the construction progress.

We are happy to report the old restroom has been demolished and the new foundation and walls are up. Currently the roof is in process. We are expecting completion Spring 2021. Thank you



for all your generous support and contributions toward this much needed addition to our city park.

Golf Fundraiser This year with COVID-19, golfing was a popular outdoor activity for many. In August we partnered for the third time with Southern Gage Kiwanis for a fun day of golfing challenges. Forty golfers had fun trying to get that little white ball in the hole. We offered masks and made sure everyone had hand sanitizer in order to be "germ-free before placing your tee." Continued financial support of area businesses is greatly appreciated as they provide hole sponsorships and prizes. This ongoing collaboration between the Southern Gage Kiwanis and WBSAF raised \$3,500. Each fundraiser puts us closer to the inclusive playground for the 5 to 12-year-olds at McCandles Park. Mark your calendar for August 2021 for another nine holes of fun and laughter!



Classic Car Cruise Night COVID-19 caused WBSAF to cancel our annual kickball tournament that is held during Sam Wymore Days. To boost community morale, WBSAF sponsored a Classic Car Cruise Night on July 25, 2020. Music was provided by KWBE. Hotdog meals and popcorn were provided for a free will donation towards the McCandles Park project. The Boy Scouts provided drinks and a live hotdog character to promote our meal.

There were plenty of classic cars that came from as far as Auburn and Lincoln. Even though this was not promoted as a fundraiser, the WBSAF collected \$626 that was applied towards the McCandles Park Project.





Spooktacular The COVID-19 pandemic only put a slight damper on the Spooktacular event sponsored by the Southern Kiwanis Group. All the WBSAF proceeds from this event are donated to the McCandless Park Project. We help out with the event in many ways —this year we had a free-will donation

hot dog meal and set up decorations. It was a drive-thru only event with over 60 kids and their parents dressing up and staying in their cars to receive a bag of candy. The numbers were down, but the area businesses and organizations still showed their support and over \$2,500 was raised from the event.



Making an Impact The Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund made \$1,300 in grants in 2020 to benefit three very worthy local nonprofit organizations. A \$500 grant to the Johnson Cabin Museum will be used to help complete the chinking of logs on the 165-year-old cabin in the Blue Springs Park. The Wymore Emergency Medical Services will utilize their \$400 grant to keep lifesaving AED (Automated External Defibrillator) pads around town current. The \$400 grant awarded to Improving Blue Springs One Property at a Time will be used to purchase a specially designed trash container from Circle D Manufacturing to be placed in Blue Springs at Feit Park.



Big Give Gage The second annual Big Give Gage was a huge success. The collaborative effort of the Gage County Foundation and the Beatrice Community Hospital Foundation proved that even in a pandemic, people are willing and able to support their favorite charities. More than \$220,000 was raised from 2,160 donations. This 24-hour time of giving event invites Gage County area supporters to give to their favorite local charities and help them earn valuable matching funds. Last year was a huge success for all non-profits in Gage

County. The Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund was one of 57 non-profit organizations that participated again. We had 126 donors from 11 different states. We are proud to report that again this year we were among the top three highest monetary donations. WBSAF raised \$24,999 and earned a sponsor match of \$1,290.53 to total \$26,289.53. All funds received will be used for the McCandless Park Project. We would like to thank everyone who gave to this event and we look forward to next year!



Community Improvements WBSAF members spent numerous hours painting and reorganizing the BNSF Railroad Depot Museum. A fresh coat of paint on the walls, trim, and floors along with many other improvements were made. A big thank you to Kirby and Janice Cohorst for their dedication to the city of Wymore.

WBSAF Advisory Committee members also joined forces to plant flowers around the downtown and city offices. Volunteers made sure that all planters were watered throughout the summer.



Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund
P.O. Box 212
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IN MEMORY



Doris Mick



Elayne Sullivan

The Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund would like to recognize the families of the following individuals for their generosity in memorial contribution to our fund: Elayne Sullivan, Doris Mick, and Della Goeden. These families have continued their loved ones' legacy of commitment to the betterment of their community. These memorial gifts totaled \$1,465. We are extremely grateful for their generosity.

WBSAF NEWS AND UPDATES



WBSAF Football Gate Admission

"We cannot become what we want to be by remaining what we are," states Max De Pree. Does that not say what Southern Raiders Football is about? We want to be something better. WBSAF was again, for the fourth year, invited to manage the gate admissions to the Southern School Home Football games. We supported the community, connected with people from outside the local area, and teamed with folks who are not officially on the

Fund Advisory Committee, yet are supporters of making our community an even better place to live and raise families. Game spectators were able to enjoy the new bleachers this year. Again, both athletes and community members become better when we face and overcome adversity. The season was shortened from original plans but served as a reminder to improve today and not postpone for an opportunity that may or may not come tomorrow.